

12. **Keep your compost on board and take it home.** Food scraps dumped in the Bay are unsightly and add to excess nutrient loads. It is illegal to dispose of fish waste in the intertidal area.
13. **Fish responsibly.** Be aware of all regulations and closures. Ensure you have a valid license.
14. **Reduce engine noise.** Consider getting solar panels or a wind generator. If you must run a genset, make sure it is as quiet as possible.
15. **Use an anchor light.** A small solar powered garden light does an excellent job of letting night-time navigators know you are there, without drawing down your battery.
16. **Prepare your boat properly when leaving it.** Close all seacocks. Ensure the bilge is clean and nothing will jam the automatic bilge pump float switch. Use bilge pads or bilge socks to make sure no hydrocarbons get pumped overboard. Use anti-chafing gear on all dock, mooring and anchor lines.

*We all thank you.*

For more information consult Georgia Strait Alliance's **Guide to Green Boating** at [www.GeorgiaStrait.org](http://www.GeorgiaStrait.org) or call (250) 753-3459.

This guide is brought to you by **Friends of Silva Bay**, an actively concerned citizens' group whose mission is **"to cooperatively promote clean waters, healthy habitat and sustainable activities in and around Silva Bay and its watershed"**. Our membership includes many local boaters, residents and businesses. For more information contact Mike Richards at [mike@georgiastrait.org](mailto:mike@georgiastrait.org).

## **Silva Bay Boater's Guide**

Welcome to Silva Bay—the only fully protected bay on the east coast of the Gulf Islands chain, sheltered from prevailing winds by the surrounding Flat Top Islands. It is a place of great natural beauty and ecological richness, with significant eelgrass and shellfish beds, and close to two provincial parks. Many species of waterbirds are found here as well as eagles, otters and seals. During the Second World War the Bay was the site of a busy shipyard, a heritage which has been restored through the Silva Bay Shipyard School which teaches traditional wooden boat building.

Most visiting boaters' needs can be met in Silva Bay, with the services of a restaurant, pub, liquor store, laundry, showers, accommodation, groceries, fuel docks, marine ways, books & art, phone, internet, floatplane, etc. These attributes, combined with the ever-increasing human population around Georgia Strait, means that Silva Bay is getting busier every year, which in turn is putting more pressure on the natural environment. We need to protect this beautiful area, and boaters can lead the way!



*Tad Roberts photo*

Here are some tips to help you know what is expected when you're here. With your help, we can keep Silva Bay and its surrounds clean and healthy for generations to come.

1. **Hold all your sewage.**

Dump nothing in the Bay. People swim and snorkel here and there are many shellfish beds. New regulations coming into force prohibit the discharge of raw sewage within three miles of shore.

2. **Keep your grey-water to a minimum.**

Use less detergent and only truly non-toxic products (check products' "green" claims). Never use chlorine bleach or any other product containing chlorine, and avoid products with chemical *surfactants* (substances used to make suds), as they can suffocate fish and other marine species. Use the same philosophy when using onshore laundry and shower facilities.

3. **Keep ALL oil and fuel out of the water.** Hydrocarbons kill. Use absorbent pads for engine maintenance, fuelling and in your bilge. Recycle your used oil and dispose of containers properly. Any oily discharge into the Bay is illegal. Report all spills to 1 800 OILS-911 (6457) or 1 800 889-8852

4. **When anchoring, choose an area that does not have eelgrass.**

Set your anchor cautiously so that it does the least damage possible to the bottom (or call ahead to reserve overnight space at the dock instead).



5. **Take your garbage and recycling home with you.** Better yet, reduce garbage and recycling by making smart purchasing choices and removing excess packaging before you leave home.

6. **Keep everything onboard.** Use a mask or underwater viewing device to see what has already been dumped in our beautiful Bay!

7. **Pick up after your pet and stow your cigarette butts.** These items are among the most frequent pollutants onshore and often end up in the water.

8. **If using a vehicle, make sure it does not leak oil.** All fluids flow downhill, which means parking lot run-off empties into the Bay.

9. **Think about rowing instead of using your tender's motor.** It's good for your health and for the Bay. If you must use your motor, *please go slow and make sure you leave no wake!*

10. **Be aware of the sensitive ecosystems and marine life around the Flat Top Islands.** Especially stay away from seal haul-outs and oyster catcher nesting areas.

11. **Do your boat maintenance on land in an environmentally responsible yard whenever possible.** If you really have to work on your boat at the dock or at anchor, contain all your sandings and scrapings then dispose of them responsibly. All bottom paint and residues are toxic to marine life and it is illegal to let them enter the water or intertidal areas.