



DESOLATION SOUND CRUISE-IN-COMPANY
2012

INFORMATION PACKET



"The mountains grew higher and higher, and gossiped together across our heads. And somewhere down at their feet, on that narrow ribbon of water, our boat with the white sails flew swiftly along, completely dwarfed by its surroundings"

Muriel Wylie Blanchet, The Curve of Time

CRUISE OVERVIEW

By John and Brookie McCulloch

The NYYC Cruising Committee is pleased to announce a joint Cruise-in-Company to Desolation Sound with the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club (RVYC) and the Seattle Yacht Club (SYC) to take place in the first two weeks of September 2012. During the cruise, RVYC and SYC have graciously offered the fleet the use of a number of their outstations along British Columbia's beautiful Sunshine Coast and in Desolation Sound.

About 100 nm northwest of Vancouver, B.C. , Desolation Sound, named by a disheartened Captain George Vancouver in 1792, is a place of calm clear water, lush scenery and abundant wildlife such as bald eagles, seals and killer whales. It contains some of the Pacific Northwest's warmest coastal waters, ideal for swimming and kayaking. Oysters and clams can be found in some sheltered bays and lagoons.

Desolation Sound proper is a relatively small area centered on Desolation Sound Marine Park, British Columbia's largest. For purposes of our cruise, the term "Desolation Sound" will also include the nearby waterways, islands and inlets of the Discovery Archipelago. While collectively this encompasses an area of some 675 square miles, it can be traversed in an easy morning's cruise at displacement speeds, offering cruisers boundless opportunities to stop, explore and anchor overnight in small secluded coves.

The cruise will begin with a reception, skipper's meeting and dinner at RVYC's Jericho Station in Vancouver, approximately 75 nm north of the Washington State charter bases. Leaving Vancouver, we will cruise up British Columbia's Sunshine Coast (a destination in its own right) to Pender Harbour, where there will be a "Greenbox" party at the RVYC/SYC outstations in Garden Bay. A Greenbox is an SYC tradition (think no-host cocktails and potluck hors d'oeuvres) to which NYYC members were first treated during the SYC/NYYC Pacific Northwest Cruise in 2009.

At both the Vancouver and Garden Bay stops there will be briefings on navigation, currents, etc. and our hosts will share their thoughts on favorite places to visit in Desolation Sound.

Once in Desolation Sound, many of the more beautiful stops are not large enough to accommodate our combined fleet and only a few offer marinas or much in the way of shore-side amenities (think bird watching and hiking, not shopping). Planned activities at Stuart Island's Big Bay and neighboring Dent Island Resort, and a Greenbox/dinner at the RVYC/SYC outstations in Cortes Bay will alternate with independent exploration.

We hope that cruisers from all three clubs will get together in small groups for *al fresco* lunch stops and unplanned evenings at anchor. To this end, we plan to provide each yacht with a small flag, featuring the cruise logo, to encourage such impromptu gatherings.

After the final Greenbox and dinner at Cortes Bay, cruisers may linger in Desolation Sound on their own boats, or charter boats if contracts allow, but most NYYC cruisers will begin the return to charter bases.

Southbound, NYYC cruisers will have an option to visit world-famous Princess Louisa Inlet, www.princesslouisa.bc.ca, which is situated about 45 nm by boat into the British Columbia Coast Mountains from Pender Harbour. Princess Louisa is easily accessible, with proper planning, through the entrance at Malibu Rapids, after a scenic passage up Jervis Inlet. On entering the fjord one is met with an absolutely calm inlet, three-quarters of a mile wide and stretching about four miles to its head at Chatterbox Falls and the Princess Louisa Marine Park. The inlet has depths to 1,000 feet and is surrounded by walls that rise 7,000 feet from the water's surface. Harbour seals are known to raise their pups in the relatively warm waters of the inlet, safe from hungry orcas who won't pass through the rapids. Princess Louisa is a special place and a unique cruising destination. A NYYC couple, visiting there for the first time in late summer 2011, described the experience as "absolutely not to be missed."

Having visited Princess Louisa or not, NYYC cruisers will proceed south from Pender Harbour or Secret Cove through the Malaspina Strait and across the Strait of Georgia to the beautiful Canadian Gulf Islands and Roche Harbor/Friday harbor in the U.S. San Juan Islands, where they will need to clear U.S. Customs prior to returning to Bellingham and Anacortes.

We expect this to be a special cruise, particularly because of the ability to meet and cruise with members of the Royal Vancouver and Seattle Yacht Clubs. We thank Sarah Howard (past Commodore of RVYC) and Chris Otorowski (past Commodore of SYC and a NYYC member) for proposing the adventure over dinner at NYYC's 2010 Commissioning at Harbour Court. Thanks also go to the NYYC Cruising Committee and the flags of both RVYC and SYC for encouraging us to move forward in 2012.

Details about the cruise and yacht charter opportunities will be available on the NYYC website and by contacting Daniela Burton in the Sailing Office, burtond@nyyc.org 401 608 1167, or John McColloch, jkm927@cox.net 401 846 8384.

John McColloch, NYYC Event Chair, is a member of the NYYC Cruising Committee, a Seattle native and was for twenty years a member of the Seattle Yacht Club. He and Brookie have made several trips to Desolation Sound.



M/Y Venture Desolation Sound August 2011

CRUISE PLAN
AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 14, 2012
(as of 18 September 2011)

The first event of the cruise is a three-club dinner hosted by the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club at their Vancouver Main Station in Jericho on Sunday, 2nd September. The Cruise-in-Company for all three clubs will end on Saturday, 8 September in Desolation Sound, when the fleet gets together at the SYC and RVYC outstations in Cortes Bay for a wind-up party.

Many of the NYYC fleet will charter boats in Bellingham and Anacortes, WA. Because of the distance involved (155-175 nm) between the charter bases and Desolation Sound, the Cruise Plan below ranges from arrival at charter bases on 31 August prior to getting underway for Vancouver and Desolation Sound on 1 September to 14 September, the expected latest date that yachts might be returned to charter bases.

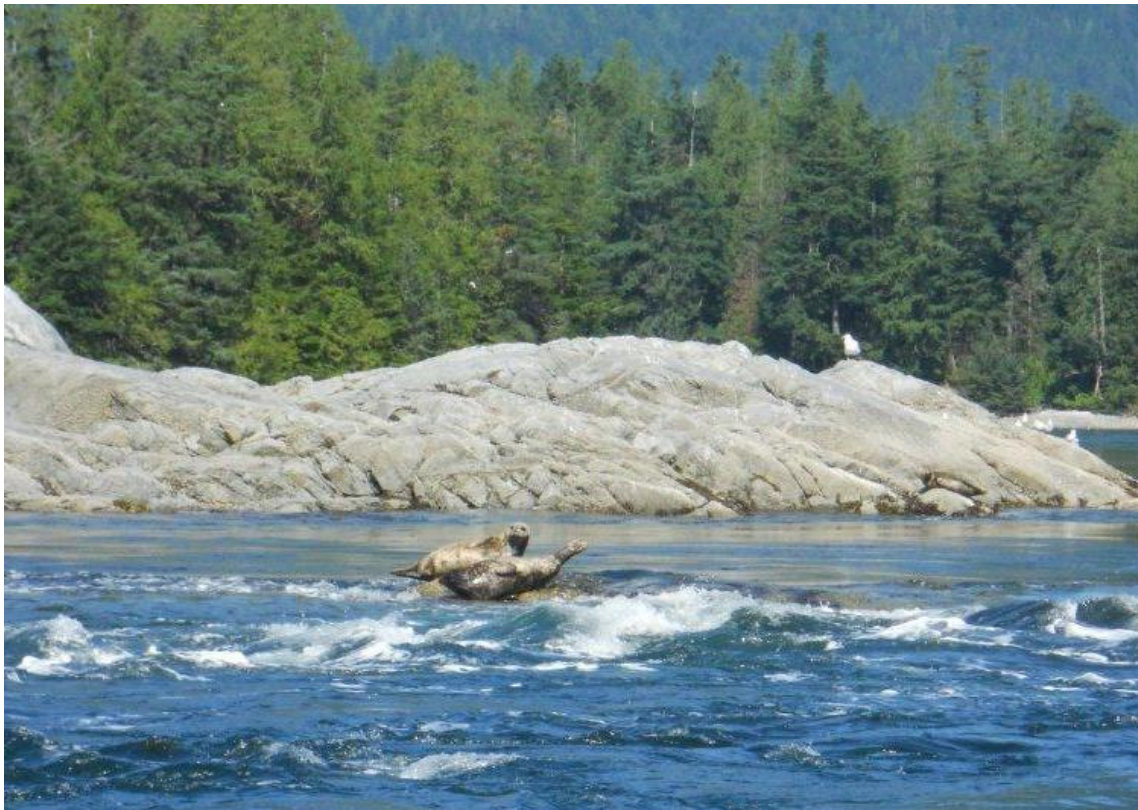
The earliest that NYYC cruisers should expect to return yachts to Bellingham or Anacortes would be 12 September. As mentioned in the overview, there will be an option, separate from the cruise, for NYYC cruisers to visit famous Princess Louisa Inlet on the return trip, which would add one day to the charter periods.

PLEASE NOTE:

NYYC charterers are strongly encouraged to engage 14 day charters to provide flexibility in case of inclement weather in the Strait of Georgia and to allow a possible visit to Princess Louisa Inlet or more time in Desolation Sound. Several charter companies offer discounts for a second full week. Should crew changes be necessary, Kenmore Air, www.kenmoreair.com provides daily float plane service between Seattle and virtually all of the harbors the fleet will visit.

It may be possible to have chartered yachts delivered to Vancouver or Campbell River, B.C., which is just to the west of the Desolation Sound cruising ground and, like Vancouver, has convenient scheduled air service, provisioning opportunities, etc.

Click here to see an interactive Google map of the Cruise Plan: <http://g.co/maps/xh6md> (works best with Firefox web browser.)



Seals at Dent Rapids

Distances shown are Nautical Miles (nm); timing is based on an average SOG of 8kts.

31 August - Friday

Charter preparations for those chartering in Bellingham or Anacortes

NYC Cruisers arrive to begin charter preparation in late afternoon (time of access to boats will differ by charter company)

Provisioning

Yacht orientation/load yachts

Dinner aboard or at nearby restaurants

Sleep aboard yachts as available; otherwise in local hotels.

1 September - Saturday

Bellingham/Anacortes to Gulf Islands, B.C. (35-47nm)

A.M. Complete charter orientation/check out

Underway for Bedwell Harbour, South Pender Is. B.C. (35 nm)

Clear Canadian Customs at Bedwell Harbour

Continue to Ganges, Saltspring Island (+12nm), or elsewhere in the Canadian Gulf Islands overnight.

Provisioning is available at Ganges.

Note: With a fair wind and sea forecast, cruisers who are able to get underway early on Saturday could choose to proceed straight to Vancouver (c.a. 65 nm), rather than via Bedwell Harbour and overnight in the Gulf Islands. While this would make for a long day at displacement speeds, it would afford extra time to explore Vancouver, one of the world's most attractive cities, and home to the 2010 Winter Olympics. Canadian Customs in False Creek and Coal Harbour downtown are open 24/7 and there are marinas in both locations.

2 September - Sunday

Ganges to Vancouver (RVYC's Jericho Station in English Bay) (c.a. 40 nm)

Underway early for Vancouver via Porlier Pass and the Strait of Georgia

ETA c.a. 14:00; further provisioning if needed; explore Vancouver.

Evening: Cruise Kick-Off reception and dinner at RVYC Main Station Jericho

Welcome and briefing on transit north to Desolation Sound

3 September - Monday (Labor Day in Canada & the U.S.)

Vancouver to Garden Bay, Pender Harbour (45 nm)

NLT 10:00 underway along the Sunshine Coast for Pender Harbour; ETA c.a. 15:30

"Greenbox" (no-host cocktails) at RVYC or SYC Garden Bay outstations; briefing on Desolation Sound dinner aboard or ashore

4 September - Tuesday

Pender Harbour to Desolation Sound (45nm)

Underway at will

ETA Desolation Sound (Prideaux Haven and environs) 14:00 - 16:30

Yachts anchor at will; no organized cruise activities

5 September - Wednesday

Desolation Sound

Yachts explore and anchor at will; no organized cruise activities

6 September - Thursday**Desolation Sound**

Yachts explore at will, cruising northwards to transit Yuculta Rapids at slack water (time TBA)
Greenbox cocktails ashore at Stuart Island Community Dock, Big Bay
o/n at Big Bay docks or at nearby Dent Island Lodge
Dinner aboard, or ashore at Dent Island Lodge
Rapids tours by jet boat, and hiking available

7 September - Friday**Desolation Sound**

Yachts explore and anchor at will, after transit south through Yuculta Rapids at slack water (time TBA); no organized cruise activities.

8 September - Saturday**Desolation Sound**

Yachts explore at will
Greenbox cocktails followed by a Desolation Sound farewell dinner at SYC/RVYC outstations in Cortes Bay, Cortes Island.

CONTINUING CRUISE PLAN FOR CRUISERS NOT PLANNING TO VISIT PRINCESS LOUISA INLET**9 September - Sunday****Desolation Sound to Pender Harbor (45nm) or Secret Cove (52nm)**

Underway at will for transit south
O/N at marina of choice or at anchor (Pender Harbour)
no organized cruise activities; dinner aboard or ashore

10 September - Monday**Pender Harbour/Secret Cove to Silva Bay (32/25 nm) or Montague Harbour (56/49 nm)**

Transit across the Strait of Georgia to the Canadian Gulf Islands
O/N at Silva Bay Marina or at anchor in Montague Harbour; no organized cruise activities

11 September - Tuesday**Silva Bay/Montague Harbour to Roche Harbour and environs (40/20 nm)****Clear U.S. Customs at Roche Harbour Resort, San Juan Island**

O/N Double Island, West Sound, Orcas Island or elsewhere in the eastern San Juan Islands to facilitate the next day's return to charter bases.

12 September - Wednesday**Double Island/Friday Harbor to Bellingham Anacortes (c.a. 25 nm)**

NLT 12:00 return yachts to charter bases



Princess Louisa Inlet

VISITING PRINCESS LOUISA INLET

For those stopping at Pender Harbour on the way south, there will be an opportunity for a one day visit to Princess Louisa Inlet with Sunshine Coast tours www.SunshineCoastTours.ca.

The owner, Bryce Christie, accommodates larger groups with "float and fly" fast boat/floatplane shuttles. Capacity is limited and the cost is expected to be C\$200 per person, provided there is sufficient demand. Sign-up will be first come, first served, upon distribution of a detailed package to be made available during the formal entry process in the first quarter 2012.

ALTERNATE CRUISE PLAN FOR CRUISERS PLANNING TO VISIT PRINCESS LOUISA INLET

9 September - Sunday

Desolation Sound to Pender Harbor (45nm)

Underway at will for transit south

O/N at marina of choice or at anchor (Pender Harbour)

no organized cruise activities; dinner aboard or ashore

10 September - Monday

Pender Harbour

One day "float/fly" visit to Princess Louisa Inlet from Pender Harbour (see details above)

11 September -Tuesday

Pender Harbour to Silva Bay (32nm) or Montague Harbour (56nm)

Transit across the Strait of Georgia to the Canadian Gulf Islands

O/N at Silva Bay Marina or at anchor in Montague Harbour; dinner aboard or ashore

12 September - Tuesday

Silva Bay/Montague Harbour to Roche Harbour and environs (40/20 nm)

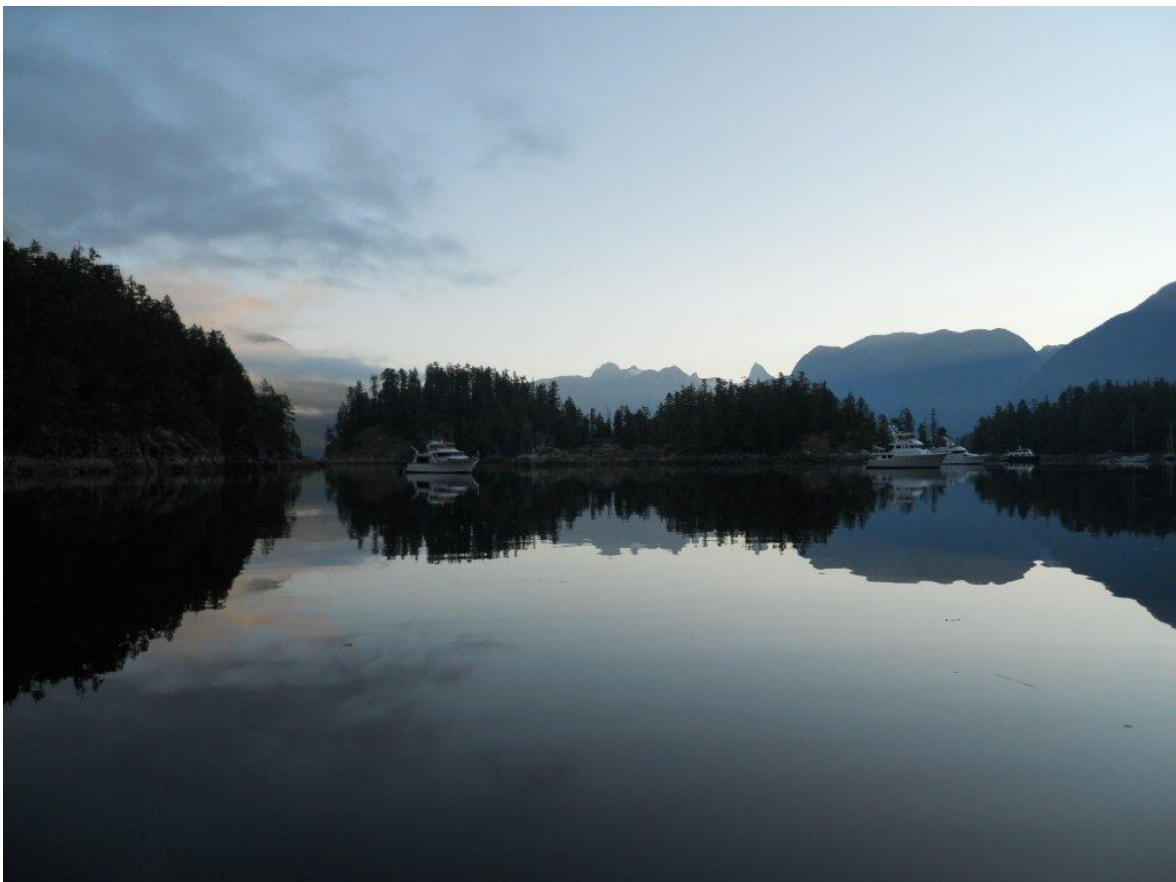
Clear U.S. Customs at Roche Harbour Resort, San Juan Island

O/N Double Island, West Sound, Orcas Island or elsewhere in the eastern San Juan Islands to facilitate the next day's return to charter bases.

13 September - Wednesday

Double Island/Friday Harbor to Bellingham Anacortes (c.a. 25 nm)

NLT 12:00 return yachts to charter bases



Dawn at Prideaux Haven

YACHT CHARTER INFORMATION

There is well-developed bareboat charter industry based in Bellingham and Anacortes, WA (under two hours' drive from Seattle) that serves British Columbia cruising destinations, including Desolation Sound. Unfortunately, the British Columbia charter industry is less well-developed with a much smaller inventory of boats.

As a result, most NYYC cruisers who do not secure custom, crewed charters of larger yachts will charter out of Bellingham or Anacortes, which will add a number of days to the cruise to allow time to reach the primary cruising ground in Desolation Sound. It is for this reason that the Cruise Plan encourages charters of 14 days to allow more time in Desolation Sound, or perhaps a visit to Princess Louisa, and flexibility in case of bad weather.

Most charter companies offer a broad range of yachts, both sail and power. Often in late August and early September stable high pressure offshore will settle in, providing warm clear days and very moderate westerly breezes in the cruising ground, favoring powerboat charters. However, the Cruise Plan includes a number of longer transits (i.e. the Strait of Georgia) where good sailing weather may be found. Since the plan is predicated on an average SOG of 8 kts., larger sailboats have little disadvantage under power and provide the option of fun sailing, particularly if the typically less benign southerlies are present.

IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE:

The number of cruisers (and therefore the demand for charter yachts) thins out a bit after Labor Day, but the first two weeks of September are considered by many to be the best time for a visit to Desolation Sound. As a result, bookings for September 2012 are already coming in to the charter companies, most of whom offer early booking discounts.

It is important that members seriously interested in this cruise move without delay to secure the boat of your choice and the length of charter you wish. Each company offers specific refund terms if your plans do not solidify, so there is no reason not to move as soon as you have reviewed this information packet. Furthermore, please note that most of the companies listed below offer discounts for groups over certain sizes, so be sure to mention that you are part of a NYYC group when you book.



Underway for Grace Harbour

CHARTER COMPANIES

For general information and a list of several charter companies operating out of Anacortes and Bellingham, go to the website of The Pacific Northwest Charter Association: <http://www.pnca.org>.

REMINDER:

With all companies, be sure to mention that you are part of the NYYC-RVYC-SYC group at booking.

Also, please ensure you notify Daniela Burton in the Sailing Office, burtond@nyyc.org 401 608-1167 that you have booked a charter, and provide the name of the charter company, as well as the name, length and type of boat.

NW EXPLORATIONS

www.nwexplorations.com

2623 South Harbor loop

Bellingham, WA 98225

800 826-1430

360 676-1248

Email: Charter@NWExplorations.com

Charter Manager: Alison Horne

NW Explorations is the only authorized charterer of Grand Banks in the world and has been in the business for nearly 30 years. They offer a range of boats up to 52', and were used by most of the NYYC members who chartered for the 2009 Pacific Northwest Cruise. They are happy to meet the dates of our Cruise Plan, with charters getting underway on Saturday, 1 September with flexibility out to 14 September (14 days).

Check out, pre-boarding (after 17:00), welcome cocktails and sleeping aboard on Friday 31 August are offered at no charge, allowing departure early Saturday. There is a 10% discount for NYYC members plus an additional 5% discount if booked before year-end 2011. If sufficient members book through NWE, they are willing to provide a Captain and naturalist aboard their own boat DECEPTION, providing mechanical, technical and navigation support as well dinghy and hiking tours for the benefit of the fleet. Captains are available for hire separately from the charter contract.

ANACORTES YACHT CHARTERS

www.ayc.com

2415 T Ave. Suite #2

Anacortes, WA 98211

800 233-3004

Email: danielle@ayc.com Reservations Specialist: Danielle Vincent (x200)

With over 30 years in the industry, AYC is the most experienced charter operator in Anacortes. AYC offers both power and sailboats, with flexible charter packages that meet our Cruise Plan out to 14 days and beyond, and offers discounts up to 20%. Boarding and checkout are possible for Friday 31 August, as well as a reception for NYYC and complimentary "sleep aboards" that night to allow for departure early on Saturday.

AYC has organized flotilla charters for the CCA, Annapolis Yacht Club and recently the ICOYC. They are a Moorings Preferred Partner and offer Moorings Loyalty Program discounts. Ask about early charter and large group discounts.

SAN JUAN SAILING AND YACHTING

www.sanjuanyachting.com

2615 South Harbor Loop

Bellingham, WA 98225

800 670-8089

360 671-4300

Email: rick@sanjuansailing.com Charter Manager: Rick Sale

With almost 30 years of experience, San Juan Yachting and Sailing offers a broad range of both power and sailboats. They can meet the dates of the Cruise Plan, chartering in two week increments, and offer a 10% discount for the second full week.

Boarding, check out and sleeping aboard are possible for Friday, 31 August, allowing for an early departure on Saturday. Captains are available for hire separately from the charter contract.

Ask about early booking and large group discounts.

BELLINGHAM YACHTS

www.bellinghamyachts.com

Squalicum Harbor Center

1801 Roeder Avenue #174

Bellingham, WA 98225

360 671-0990

Email: herve@bellinghamyachts.com Charter Manager: Herve Burnel

Bellingham Yachts, founded 27 years ago, is owned by Dean and Nick Ouilette, originally of Maine. Both brothers are graduates of the Maine Maritime Academy and served as professional mariners before starting Bellingham Yachts, which is the Pacific Northwest dealer for Sabre and Back Cove yachts.

Bellingham Yachts offers flexible charter options and can meet the dates of the Cruise Plan. Boarding, check out and sleeping aboard are possible for Friday 31 August. They can also offer a range of Premium Crewed Yachts as agent (see link on the website).

CUSTOM CREWED CHARTERS

A number of Pacific Northwest bareboat charter companies, including Bellingham Yachts, Anacortes Yacht Charters, and Ship Harbor Yacht Charters www.shipharboryachts.com, list custom crewed charters as agents through website links.

There are also a number of larger yachts available through direct charters.

Securing a custom charter would enable cruisers to meet a boat further north, in Vancouver or Campbell River as noted above, saving most or all of the transit time. It should be noted that some of the more secluded stops in Desolation Sound may not be suitable for very large yachts.

For further information on custom charters contact Daniela Burton in the Sailing Office: burtond@nyc.org 401 608-1167.

