

## Welcome to the SVOP Captain's Bootcamp course!

Datum Marine Services is so very excited to host you, and extremely proud to offer this SVOP Captain's Bootcamp in Tofino. Congratulations for registering for one of Canada's finest boating courses with the challenging and winning mixture of both inside coursework and outside practical training.

**Do you need the SDVBS and ROCM courses?** This year these courses are NOT included in the Bootcamp (because many people have them already), we will be running these courses as optional extras before or after your SVOP Bootcamp. Book online on our [website](#) or email [admin@marinetrialingbc.com](mailto:admin@marinetrialingbc.com).

My name is Captain Tom van Wyck, Head instructor at Datum Marine, I have personally run over 100 bootcamp boat courses over the years. I have selected the best, most experienced, and most patient instructors to help you on a very challenging and rewarding journey.

Here are a few points to consider:

### **100% Attendance.**

The course runs for 6 days, you must attend every-day, all-day. Every lesson builds on the lesson before. Every day builds on the day before it. The course is written like a story—you can't skip ahead, or miss part of the story, or you'll be lost. I really dislike assigning homework, so here's the deal:

### **Show Up - On Time - Every Day - Work Hard - Then Finish and Rest.**

We must start most days at 8 am so that we won't run out of daylight. It's not negotiable - if you want to pass the course.

**This course is challenging.** This is a First Responder's Captain course designed to replicate stressful situations so our students can learn to think for themselves and remain calm in the dark, in the fog, in rough weather, and when others are panicked. There have been too many deaths or serious injuries on the water involving professionals and amateurs in BC's waters. We are going to ask you to become a smart Captain who knows why safety matters, and who knows why some risks are okay while others are not.

What to expect:

We will be learning most mornings at 8 a.m. sharp, then boating in the afternoon. You can get breakfast at Rhino coffee house (open at 7am) and Tofino Roasting Company (open at 7am, just beside the classroom).

The classroom is at a house at 601 Gibson Road, Tofino. (It's a 10 minute walk from Tofino Resort and Marina. Parking is available on Gibson Rd.

The house is right behind the Shelter Restaurant up a steep driveway. The classroom is in the bottom level of the newer structure. There will be coffee and tea available for students when having a break.

Lunch is best pre-ordered (the instructors will help you with that) so you can arrive for your lunch

break quickly, eat, get geared up for boating and run down to the dock. The sooner you arrive, the more time to practice the skills you have learned before it gets dark.

We provide: Sanitized, insulated gumboots, floater jacket, water resistant pants, and neck buffs when you are on the boat. We will also provide goggles for when you are out on an open boat in the rain. All this equipment is to borrow.

You provide: warm under layers (no cotton!). Warm gloves—we can show you a good and cheap combination of gloves to buy at the fuel dock (bring your bank card or money on the first day out). Bring a toque and neck warmer - It gets super cold on the water on an open boat!

There are 3 different, open-style boats. I'm not talking some cushy water taxi with seats, a cabin heater and windshield wipers. Full on ocean, in your face. You'll be hanging on and standing for 4 hours. In the bootcamp we still go even if it's raining; we still can go to many places in Clayoquot Sound if it's stormy. We might even have to change the schedule around if the Pacific gets too rough. We'll be doing a couple of training runs at night, in the dark, in the rain.

Trust me, you need to bring your "A" game.

In earlier courses, a 67 year elder passed the captain's boat camp course on her second try. Young 16-year-olds have passed. There will be 3 multiple choice written exams, as well as a practical skills exam. After working with over 1000 people on this course personally, and with this school having a history of training over 25 years, I can tell you that most often the beginners are our best students. They are often more open and available to take up the challenges we give them.

Bring your best self. Have at least 8 hours of sleep every night. Arrive sharp, enthusiastic, and ready for anything. Do right by yourself, trust yourself and respect yourself first. You'll learn to trust, respect, and have an amazing time with us and the ocean in a way you've never seen it before. Bring your "A" game. You GOT this! You are about to become a captain, and a beacon of calm, humorous safety, and excellence for your community.

A rising tide floats all boats.

Warmly,

Captain Tom van Wyck  
Head Instructor

