



shíshálh Nation

shíshálh Nation Best Management Practices for Freshwater Docks

Our *swiya* (land, waters, world) has been significantly impacted by dock moorages. The *shíshálh* Nation Best Management Practices (BMPs) for freshwater docks (including wharfs, piers, floats and moorages) is a compilation of the requirements from Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, BC Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the Resource Management Department of the *shíshálh* Nation. The BMPs are intended to help minimize and mitigate impacts to freshwater lake ecosystems and habitats by promoting responsible and appropriate development.

1. Wherever possible proponents are encouraged to develop dock facilities that can facilitate numerous upland owners. In pursuing multi-owner/use facilities the footprint on lakeshore habitats is minimized. These types of facilities also help to alleviate potential cumulative impacts from high density, individual dock infrastructures.
2. No critical habitats can be impacted within the immediate vicinity of the proposed dock. Critical habitats are defined as:

“habitat that is important for: (a) sustaining a subsistence, commercial, or recreational fishery, or (b) any species at risk (e.g., terrestrial or aquatic Provincial red- and blue-listed species, those designated by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, or those SARA-listed species), or (c) because of its relative rareness, productivity, or sensitivity.”

A Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio) may be required to provide an assessment and opinion on the risks of any dock/float structures on critical habitat(s).

3. Design of a Dock or Boathouse should not include components that block the free movement of water along the shoreline. Crib foundations or solid core structures made of cement or steel sheeting should be avoided as these types of structures result in large areas of vegetation removal and erosion in riparian areas.

Docks that require new access points will have to meet the requirements listed under the Provincial Riparian Area Regulations (RAR). A RAR assessment may be required to be completed by an appropriate Qualified Professional.

4. When designing dock/float structures, the bottom of all floats should be a minimum of 1.5 meters above the lake bottom during the lowest water level. Fixed structures are discouraged and the dock should be able to move up and down with lake levels.
5. Dock/float structure and the vessel to be moored at the structure are not to come to rest on the lake bottom during the lowest water period of the year.

The minimum depth is required to ensure bottom flora and fauna are not adversely impacted by shading and/or propeller wash from moored vessels.

6. Access ramps or walkways should be a minimum of 1.0 meters above the seasonal high water mark and a maximum width of 1.2 meters. Docks should not exceed a maximum width of 1.5 metres. In situations where this is not physically possible, design variations supported by the appropriate Qualified Professionals, including a Registered Professional Biologist (RPBio), should be provided.
7. All improvements should be a minimum of 5.0 meters from the side property line (6.0 meters if adjacent to a dedicated public beach access or park) and at least 10 meters from any existing dock or structures, consistent with Federal requirements under Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Act.
8. Decking materials must allow for a minimum of 43% open space allowing for light penetration to the water surface. Various materials shaped in the form of grids, grates, and lattices to allow for light passage may be used.
9. Docks should be aligned in a north-south direction to the maximum extent that is practicable.
10. Steel is the preferred material although concrete, treated or recycled timber piles are also acceptable. Detailed information on treated wood options can be obtained on-line from the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website (*Guidelines to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat from Treated Wood Used in the Aquatic Environment in the Pacific Region*).
11. Construction must never include the use of native lakeshore materials (boulders, cobble, gravel, sand, logs). All native wood adjacent to the proposed dock/float structures must remain. These areas of debris provide important shoreline protection and habitats.
12. Access to the lakeshore for construction purposes is to be from the adjacent upland property wherever possible. If heavy equipment is required to work on the Foreshore or access is required along the Foreshore then the advice of a Qualified Professional or Fisheries and Oceans Canada should be obtained.
13. Access or construction along the lakeshore also requires at least 45 days advance notification sent to the *shíshálh* Nation and its Rights and Title Department (604.740.5600) in order to ensure cultural sites are not impacted or disturbed. A Preliminary Field Reconnaissance (PFR) for archaeology may be required. A PFR is a field survey to assess the archaeological resource potential of the area, and to identify

the need and appropriate scope of further studies, and is to be performed by a Qualified Professional Archaeologist.

14. Filling, dredging, or blasting on or below the lakeshore is not supported by the *shíshálh* Nation. Unauthorized filling, dredging or blasting noted by the *shíshálh* Nation will be reported immediately to Fisheries and Oceans Enforcement and the BC Conservation Service.
15. All work is to be conducted in a manner that does not result in the deposit of toxic or deleterious substances (sediment, un-cured concrete, fuel, lubricants, paints, stains) into lake waters. This includes refueling of machinery and washing of buckets and hand tools.
16. Applications for Docks that exceed 20 square meters, or such other dimensions may trigger a review under the *Fisheries Act*. Applicants must contact Fisheries and Oceans Canada and submit a Request for Review and any required documents to ensure proposed activities, and the scheduling of those activities, complies with Fisheries and Oceans Canada requirements. All fisheries works windows must be observed.
17. The upland design of the dock including anchor points should not disturb the riparian area except at the immediate footprint. An effort should be made to maximize riparian cover adjacent to the dock to reduce erosion and exposure to the lakeshore.
18. Pile driving is the preferred method of pile installation. All pile driving must meet current Fisheries and Oceans regulations.
19. The use of Styrofoam to keep docks afloat is prohibited for new construction and repairs. Styrofoam floats on existing docks that are showing evidence of breakdown should be replaced using an alternative material.
20. Docks must be constructed in accordance with requirements under Navigation Protection Act as may be amended or replaced from time to time.