

# Dock Design Criteria for Okanagan Large Lakes

This document does not give you permission to construct, modify or remove a dock it only provides the design requirements specified under the *Water Sustainability Act* by a designated Habitat Officer to assist you in your planning.

**NOTE:** To move forward with construction, modifications, or removal of a dock you must prepare an application under the *Water Sustainability Act* and *Land Act* through FrontCounter BC.

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Example of Dock on Okanagan Lake



## Dock Design Requirements

These are specific to the habitat zone your property falls within. Zones consist of no colour, yellow, red, and black. To determine the habitat zone you are in you must:

- Open the provincial interactive mapping tool at [iMAPBC](#)
- Use the zoom tool to locate your property
- Open 'layers' in the tool bar and under the 'Fish Wildlife and Plant Species' tab select the following layers:
  - ✓ Kokanee habitat zones – Okanagan Region
  - ✓ Mussel habitat zones – Okanagan Region



**NOTE:** If you are undertaking an activity in a red zone based on known Rocky Mountain ridged mussel (*Gonidea angulata*) occurrences you must follow the Guidance for Freshwater Mussels in the Okanagan (2017) and engage a qualified professional biologist to assist in this process.

Example of Habitat Zone Mapping



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## Design Requirements

**ALL docks in ALL zones are required to:**

**Exception:** although these are the requirements for all docks in all zones if you can not achieve these requirements in a yellow or no colour zone you can proceed if you engage a qualified professional (QP) to assist in your design and construction to ensure serious harm to fish does not occur (Federal Fisheries Act).

The qualified professional must complete the checklist found in the Large Lake Foreshore Protocol and submit it with the Section 11 Application. A full Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

- Avoid construction or placement of your dock in areas of known fish spawning habitat
- Locate your dock to avoid native aquatic vegetation
- The area of the dock (platform) beyond the end of the walkway must be **no larger** than 24m<sup>2</sup>  
**NOTE:** The 24m<sup>2</sup> size requirement refers to the structure beyond walkway access. Walkway accesses are to be no more than 1.5m wide and extend to a minimum depth of 0.8m at low water level. The 24m<sup>2</sup> starts being measured where the dock widens beyond 1.5 meters
- Use untreated materials where they will be submerged in water
- Avoid the use of rubber tires
- If a concrete abutment is needed to secure your dock to land, install it entirely on your private land above the high water mark
- Least risk timing window **must** be followed for all works

**Exception:** The timing window for works involving only decking/ re-decking has been modified by the Habitat Officer. These works can occur in kokanee spawning areas between January 15 and September 30 if all works are accessed from shore, works are done above the water and no significant vibration occurs.

- Position the dock (if floating) and lift to avoid grounding and or impacts from propeller wash
  - No colour and yellow zones must be at a minimum of 0.8 m of water depth (at low water)
  - Red and black zones must be at a minimum of 1.5 m of water depth (at low water)

## All docks in Red and Black zones

**NOTE:** For black zones only repairs to grandfathered structures fall under this. There are no new structures permitted in black zones)

**In addition to the design requirements listed above you also must follow these requirements:**

- No floating structures permitted
- Qualified Professional familiar in fish biology required to determine spawning area
- Piles are not to be placed within known or potential spawning substrates
- The spanning structure (gangway) of spawning area must be no greater than 1.5m in width
- Dock must be no less than 0.5m above the high water mark, or the Geodetic Survey of Canada datum (if available)
- Batter board must not be used on the dock – alternatives that do not affect ebb and flow such as screen can be considered

