

Fact Sheet:

Streamlined Process for Existing Marine Private Moorage Facilities with Boathouses in swiya under Ministerial Order M367

The Province and the shíshálh First Nation are initiating a streamlined process to efficiently authorize eligible existing marine private moorage facilities and boathouse(s) (“boathouses”) within the swiya with a 20-year renewable Licence of Occupation.

Similar to the streamlined process announced for private marine docks in the swiya in July 2025, this process has been initiated through a single Ministerial Order to reduce wait times for boathouse owners and eliminate the need for application-by-application review. This will reduce administrative burden for boathouse owners and is possible through our work to uphold government-to-government commitments. Boathouses that are confirmed as meeting the Ministerial Order requirements will be considered approved, and provincial staff will proceed with the necessary steps to issue tenure documents.

By 2034, approved boathouses are required to have updated light-penetrating decking on areas of the private moorage facility that are not roofed (i.e. not the boathouse) and be free of unencapsulated styrofoam.

To be eligible for processing under the swiya boathouse Ministerial Order, boathouses must meet all of the criteria below:

- a. the private moorage facility and boathouse(s) must be in the swiya as shown in Schedule A of the Order,
- b. the private moorage facility and boathouse(s) must be in the marine environment,
- c. the private moorage facility and boathouse(s) must meet the definition of a boathouse as defined in paragraph 2 of the Order, and have been in existence on July 1, 2024,
- d. the private moorage facility and boathouse(s) must have been registered through the shíshálh swiya (Pender Harbour) self-registration system, and
- e. the private moorage facility and boathouse(s) must not have been identified as derelict in the inventory survey completed by the Province on December 3, 2024,

Please note, boathouses may include multiple slips or roofs as long as they were existing, as-is, on July 1, 2024 and are not derelict.

For eligible boathouses:

Provincial and shíshálh Nation staff conduct pre-screenings of self-registrants to determine if the private moorage marine boathouses may be eligible for authorization under the Ministerial Order.

Provincial staff will contact eligible boathouses owners via email with a Licence of Occupation document with the terms and conditions for review and details of the information required to complete the authorization of the boathouses and next steps.

To receive an executed authorization, in accordance with the Ministerial Order requirements, boathouses owners must submit:

- Signed declaration
- Plans or drawings
- Photos of the existing facility
- \$3,336.00 + GST one-time rental fee for 20-year term
- \$1,000 security deposit
- Certificate of insurance

If you have questions, please contact ssDMP@gov.bc.ca

Not self-registered yet?

Boathouse owners can be issued a Licence of Occupation under the Ministerial Order **only if self-registered.**

If you haven't self-registered yet, don't worry – registration is still open. Complete your self-registration now to qualify for the streamlined process. [Click here for the self-registration system.](#)

A few additional things to note about repairs and replacements

- Existing boathouses can stay until end of life; however, no new boathouses will be permitted on private moorages, including if a boathouse needs to be replaced within the term of an authorization. Full structure replacements, structural changes, or changes to a dock's footprint will not be considered repairs.

- If the Province determines that a boathouse has become substantially dilapidated or damaged (derelict), the owner will not be able to repair/rebuild and the use of the land for the boathouse will be terminated.
- Replacement of structures (docks or boathouses) due to a sudden catastrophic loss of the structure due to natural disaster or fire will be allowed but owners are expected to meet the requirements around Styrofoam, light penetrating decking and non-creosote pilings and, where possible, other (BMPs) are encouraged but not mandatory.

For those not eligible:

Some existing boathouses will not be eligible for this current streamlined process, such as those boathouses in freshwater or those that don't meet the criteria for the Ministerial Order. Those private marine boathouses not eligible under the Ministerial Order will undergo a standard review process. While the boathouses eligible under the Ministerial Order are prioritized, the Province and the shíshálh First Nation will continue to work together to create efficiencies in the authorization process.

Boathouses identified as being derelict in the fall [2024 field inventory](#) in the swiya, are not eligible under the Ministerial Order. Those with boathouses in need of repair will be notified via letter mail with requirements for next steps to be eligible for a 20-year long term renewable tenure.

Freshwater Boathouses and Commercial Boathouses

For freshwater boathouses, the pause on freshwater boathouses applications in the swiya will continue until the literature review currently underway is completed and any further changes to the Boathouses Management Plan (DMP) are finalized.

For commercial, group and strata moorage boathouses, considerations are still under way regarding potential changes to the DMP following engagement sessions with commercial, group and strata moorage owners and field inventory assessments.

Definitions

Boathouse - means a currently existing structure with a roof for private use for boat shelter, but does not include a dwelling

Derelict Structure – For the purpose of the Dock Management Plan, derelict structures include sinking boathouses, boathouses impeding passage, collapsing or dilapidated structures, broken pilings broken mooring chains, and deteriorating or spalling un-encapsulated Styrofoam.

Private Moorage Facility - means a structure used for the purpose of mooring boats and for providing pedestrian access to and from the moored boats, and can consist of a single dock, wharf, or pier (including walkway ramp) that is permanently affixed to aquatic Crown land, and any ancillary structures such as a boat lift and anchor lines but does not include a boathouse. It is for the personal and private use by one or a number of individuals or a family unit for boat moorage.