

## SHORE LAND WORK PERMITS

In Ontario, the beds of most water bodies are Crown land also referred to as public land. The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) manages these lands under the authority of the *Public Lands Act (PLA)*. Shore lands are defined as *lands covered or seasonally inundated by the water of a lake, river, stream or pond*. The intention of this fact sheet is to clarify MNR work permit requirements for shore land related activities. Below is a list of common projects and their permitting requirements. If your project is not listed please contact your local MNR office for further direction.

### DOCKS & BOATHOUSES

Certain types of docks and boathouses built on shore lands require a work permit prior to construction.

#### **Dock and boathouse projects that DO NOT require a work permit:**

- Docks and boathouses supported by posts, stilts, poles or floats
- Boathouses not located on shore lands
- Docks and/or boathouses where the total footprint of the crib(s) or other supporting structures to be constructed or placed on the bed of the water body does not exceed 15 sq. metres
- Any combination of the above (i.e. a post dock and a crib dock occupying 15 sq. metres or less of the bed)
- Boat lifts and marine railways where the occupied area of the bed of the water body is less than 15 sq. metres
- Removal of an old dock or boathouse, except where rock filled cribs are to be removed and would be considered dredging as defined below

**Note:** all docks and boathouses must be located directly in front of the upland property owners property, and not interfere with their neighbour's use or enjoyment of their property.

#### **Dock and boathouse projects that DO require a work permit:**

- Any docks and/or boathouses where the total footprint of cribs or other supporting structures to be constructed or placed on the bed of the water body exceeds 15 sq. metres

Certain types of structures occupying Crown land; for example, two storey boathouses, single storey boathouses with living accommodations, docks not fronting your property and revenue producing docks, are not classified as free uses of Crown land. As a result, although you may not need a work permit, you may require land use occupational authority under the *Public Lands Act* which may be subject to fees. If you are considering building any of these structures, please contact your local MNR office early in the planning stage as there is an application and review process.

## DREDGING

Dredging is the removal or displacement of any material from the bottom of a lake, river or stream. Most projects that involve dredging shore lands require a work permit from the MNR.

### Dredging projects that DO NOT require a work permit:

- To install a water intake line, service cable, or heat loop for private use (i.e. private cottages or residences)
- Dredging shore lands previously dredged within the past 5 years - \*rules in regulation\* <https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/dredging-shore-lands-previously-dredged>
- Relocation of rocks/boulders on shore lands up to a maximum area of 6 metres - \*rules in regulation\* <https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/relocate-rocks-shore-lands>
- Removal of invasive aquatic vegetation from shore lands Ontario wide - \*rules in regulation\* <https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/remove-invasive-aquatic-plants>
- Removal of native aquatic vegetation from shore lands off the Canadian shield - \*rules in regulation\* <https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/remove-native-aquatic-plants>

### Dredging projects that DO require a work permit:

- Creation of new boat channels or swimming areas
- To install a water line, cable or heat loop for commercial use (i.e. a waterline or heat loop for a lodge, marina, resort or large scale development)
- Removal/relocation of rocks/boulders from shore lands in an area greater than 6 metres
- Removal of native aquatic vegetation on the Canadian shield

## FILLING

Filling is the placement or causing the placement of fill material on shore lands.

### Filling projects that DO NOT require a work permit:

- Placement of rocks into rock filled cribs on shore lands if the total footprint of the crib or combination of cribs does not exceed 15 sq. metres (rock must be clean, sediment free and obtained from above the high water mark)
- Maintenance, repair or replacement of erosion control structures \*registration\* <http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/maintain-repair-or-replace-erosion-control-structures-shore-lands>

### Filling projects that DO require a work permit:

- Constructing an erosion control structure
- Placement of rocks into rock filled cribs on shore lands if the total footprint of the crib or combination of cribs exceeds 15 sq. metres
- A work permit is required for all other filling of shore lands (i.e. causeway, groyne)

## PRIVATE LAND - *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*

Proposed works on private land may also require MNR approval under the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* such as water crossings, ponds, dams and creek/channel alterations etc.

**Note:** It is the responsibility of the applicant to contact other agencies and comply with all existing laws and regulatory requirements. Applicants need to be aware that approvals may also be required from other agencies as well, such as municipal building permits, conservation authority permits and Department of Fisheries and Oceans approvals related to fisheries habitat. Approval from one agency does not guarantee approval from another agency.

## REGISTER ONLINE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES ACTIVITIES

Effective January 1, 2014 changes to the *Public Lands Act* work permit regulation have been made to apply common rules to certain activities that have minimal impacts on the environment.

### Rules in Regulation

- Require the client to meet each rule as outlined in regulation
- No work permit required

### Rules in Regulation with Registration

- Require the client to meet each rule as outlined in regulation and register their activity with MNR through an online registry system (RASC) or paper copy registration
- Notice of Registration must be kept on-site for duration of activity and made available to MNR staff upon request

### Review and Approval

- Work permit required where a client cannot meet the rules in regulation for a specific activity

Rules in Regulation	Registration	Review (unchanged)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dredging of shore lands (lands covered or seasonally inundated by waters) previously dredged</li><li>• Relocating rocks on shore lands</li><li>• Removal of invasive aquatic vegetation from shore lands - Ontario wide</li><li>• Removal of native aquatic vegetation from shore lands (off the Canadian Shield)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintenance, repair or replacement of erosion control structures on shore lands</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dredge shore lands (new)</li><li>• Fill shore lands (new)</li><li>• Construct or place a structure or combination of structures that occupies more than 15m<sup>2</sup> on shore lands</li><li>• Remove native aquatic vegetation on Canadian Shield</li><li>• Construct or place a building on public land</li></ul>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Projects that require a work permit can pose a significant ecological risk. To assess the impact of your project, an MNR representative may visit the site. The review process takes time, so submit your application early. Work permit application forms are available from the local MNR office or on the MNR website: <http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/>

Online registration is fast and easy. Businesses and individuals can now register online for many Natural Resources activities. For more information and to register please go to:

[http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/About/2ColumnSubPage/STDPROD\\_104342.html](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/About/2ColumnSubPage/STDPROD_104342.html)

### Registry Approval Services Centre (RASC) Contact information:

Phone number: 1-855-613-4256  
Email General Inquiries: [mnr.rasc@ontario.ca](mailto:mnr.rasc@ontario.ca)  
Email Form Submission: [mnr.registry@ontario.ca](mailto:mnr.registry@ontario.ca)  
Internal Inquiries: [mnr.rasc.internal@ontario.ca](mailto:mnr.rasc.internal@ontario.ca)  
Mailing Address: MNR Registry Approval Services Centre  
300 Water St  
Peterborough, ON, K9J 8M5

To discuss your proposal, contact your Ministry of Natural Resources Minden Field Office at 705-286-5201.