

Temporary Field Authorizations (TFA)

Temporary Seasonal Docks for Personal Recreational Use

Seasonal mooring structures

An authorization is required to place a mooring structure into a waterbody when the structure will be there longer than 14 days. Seasonal docks used by waterfront landowners for personal recreational use.

Mooring structures include:

- Docks/Piers
- Mooring Anchors for Buoys
- Boat Lifts and Shelters
- Swimming Rafts and Wharves

Docks and some mooring structures that are for personal recreational use are now applied for as a Temporary Field Authorization (TFA).

Obtaining authorizations

For a temporary, seasonal dock for personal recreational use

A waterfront or semi-waterfront landowner can make application for a dock authorization using the following form:

- Application for Temporary Field Authorization: Personal Use Recreational Docks

If you are not the waterfront landowner, you will need to provide written consent from the waterfront landowner prior to an authorization being issued. In many instances this will be the local Municipality if the waterfront property is a municipal reserve.

The *User Guide for Dock Permits* is available to assist you in completing and submitting an application to the department.

Find both the guide and the application form on the Alberta.ca website at: <https://www.alberta.ca/lakeshores.aspx>.

Exceptions to seasonal mooring structures

There may be exceptions to the placement of mooring structures, these exceptions may apply when:

- Other plans limit or restrict uses:
 - Local municipality development plans

- Lake management plans
- Water management plans
- The Provincial or Federal government has set restrictions around an environmentally sensitive area or management concern
- The structure blocks public access along the lakebed or shore of the waterbody
- The structure's design interferes with the normal flow of water
- The structure increases the probability of bank or shoreline erosion

It is the responsibility of the landowner to determine if a waterbody is subject to restriction. Contact your local municipality planning office, provincial regional operational district office, or federal government regulatory office for more information.

Structures that have already been placed without prior approval may have to be removed.

Permanent Structures

On Crown Owned Bed and Shore

There are occasions where a permanent structure may be required on Crown owned bed and shore. Any permanent structure occupying the beds and shores of a waterbody requires a formal disposition.

Most permanent structures are not approved for private use, but may be for commercial or public use. These permanent structures include:

- Breakwaters
- Groynes (trap sand and hold it on the beach)
- Piers

Permanent structures placed on a lakebed can:

- Significantly alter the movement of water
- Affect the erosion, transport and deposit of sediment along a shore
- Interfere with the public's right of navigation and access to and around the shores of a lake.

Related Information

Further information can be found:

- Lakeshores: <https://www.alberta.ca/lakeshores.aspx>
- Respect our Lakes: <https://www.alberta.ca/respect-our-lakes.aspx>
- Canadian Coast Guard: <http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/eng/CCG/Home>
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/index-eng.htm>
- Fisheries and Oceans – Alberta Office: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/contact/regions/index-eng.html>