



SMALL MOORINGS

Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Region Operational Statement

Version 3.0

Small moorings, which are typically comprised of concrete anchor blocks, chains, rope and floats, are anchored to the bottom of a water body in open water and away from the shoreline and are used to secure a boat or to hold a channel marker in place as a navigational aid. This Operational Statement applies to the installation and operation of small moorings in freshwater and marine systems.

Moorings alleviate the need for boats to set temporary anchors and therefore reduce damage to the bed or bottom of a river, lake or ocean from shifting/dragging anchors. Small mooring structures can be designed and installed in a manner to prevent disturbing the bottom substrate of the water body and better protect fish habitat.

Moorings can negatively impact fish and fish habitat by disrupting sensitive aquatic habitats and fish spawning areas through the physical placement of mooring anchors and associated boating activity. Moorings can disturb aquatic vegetation and bottom substrates if under-sized mooring anchors are used, if boat moorings are located in very shallow water or if materials to construct anchors are taken from the bed of the water body.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for protecting fish and fish habitat across Canada. Under the *Fisheries Act* no one may carry out a work or undertaking that will cause the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of fish habitat unless it has been authorized by DFO. By following the conditions and measures set out below you will be in compliance with subsection 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act*.

The purpose of this Operational Statement is to describe the conditions under which it is applicable to your project and the measures to be incorporated into your project in order to avoid negative impacts to fish habitat. You may proceed with your small mooring project without a DFO review when you meet the following conditions:

- the project does not involve the installation or operation of a structure fixed to the bottom (for example, permanent navigational beacon, boat mooring bolted to the substrate), and
- you incorporate the *Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat when Placing Moorings* listed below in this Operational Statement.

If you cannot meet all of the conditions listed above and cannot incorporate all of the measures listed below then your project may result in the violation of subsection 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act* and you could be subject to enforcement action. In this case, you should contact the DFO office in your area if you wish to obtain DFO's opinion on the possible options you should consider to avoid contravention of the *Fisheries Act*.

You are required to comply with all municipal, provincial, territorial and/or federal legislation that applies to the work being carried out in relation to this Operational Statement. In British Columbia, please contact the Water Stewardship Division, Ministry of Environment (http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/water_rights/licence_application/section9/index.html) for information on the Provincial *Water Regulation* notification requirements when conducting mooring construction in or around BC waters.

The activities undertaken in this Operational Statement must also comply with the *Species at Risk Act* (<http://www.speciesatrisk.ca>). For general information on aquatic SARA species please visit the following web site: http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/species-especes/actMeans/actMeans_criticalHabit_factsheet_e.asp and/or contact DFO by email at SARA@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

If you have questions regarding this Operational Statement, please refer to the list of **Frequently Asked Questions** (http://www-heb.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/decisionsupport/os/os-faq_e.htm) or contact DFO Regional Headquarters at 1-866-845-6776.

Please notify DFO 10 working days before starting your work by filling out and sending the Pacific Region Operational Statement **notification form** directly to DFO Regional Headquarters. This information is requested in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the work carried out in relation to this Operational Statement. It is recommended that you keep a copy of the Operational Statement at the work site to demonstrate to Habitat and Fishery Officer staff that the conditions and measures, as outlined in the OS, are being followed.

Area of Application

This Operational Statement applies to the province of British Columbia and Yukon Territory freshwater and marine systems only.

Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat when Placing Small Moorings

1. Avoid locating moorings in sensitive aquatic habitats such as eelgrass, kelp beds, salt marshes, shellfish harvesting areas and known fish spawning areas, Orca rubbing beaches, or marine mammal feeding areas.
2. Minimize disturbance to submerged aquatic vegetation and the bottom substrate of the water body.

3. Moorings (including anchors and floats) are to be made of clean material. If concrete anchors are used, they are to be pre-cast and cured away from water before use to prevent seepage of potentially toxic substances into the water body.
4. Locate moorings at depths that will allow vessels to remain afloat at the lowest possible water levels to prevent propellers from disturbing the bed of the water body.
5. Mooring anchors are to be adequately sized to secure vessels or structures and prevent the anchor from shifting or dragging along the bed of the water body.
6. Mooring lines, chains or cables should be such that excess does not collect on the bed of the water body or form loops that may ensnare marine mammals.
7. Native beach material such as logs, sand, gravel, and boulders are important components of fish habitat and should not be used as mooring structures or taken from the bed or bank of the water body.
8. Mooring structures should be kept in good repair through a regular inspection and maintenance program. Derelict or unused floats, lines, chains or cables should be disposed of in accordance with the appropriate legislation and standards.

DFO REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Fisheries & Oceans Canada
Regional Habitat Manager
200-401 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 3S4.
Toll Free: 1-866-845-6776
Fax: (604) 666-7907
Email: dfo_epmp@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Aussi disponible en français

http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans-habitat/habitat/modernizing-moderniser/epmp-pmpe/index_f.asp



NOTIFICATION FORM

Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Region Operational Statement

Version 3.1

PROPONENT INFORMATION

NAME: STREET ADDRESS:
CITY/TOWN: PROVINCE/TERRITORY: POSTAL CODE:
TEL. NO. (RESIDENCE): TEL. NO. (WORK):
FAX NO: EMAIL ADDRESS:

CONTRACTOR INFORMATION (provide this information if a Contractor is working on behalf of the Proponent)

NAME: STREET ADDRESS:
CITY/TOWN: PROVINCE/TERRITORY: POSTAL CODE:
TEL. NO. (RESIDENCE): TEL. NO. (WORK):
FAX NO: EMAIL ADDRESS:

PROJECT INFORMATION

Select Operational Statements that are being used (check all applicable boxes):

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Vegetation Removal in Lakes | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice and Snow Fill Bridges | <input type="checkbox"/> Routine Maintenance Dredging for Navigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Isolated Pond Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Moorings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Culvert Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of Riparian Vegetation
in Existing Rights-of-Way | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Clear-Span Bridges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Directional Drilling | <input type="checkbox"/> Overhead Line Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Ford Crossings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dock and Boathouse Construction
in Fresh Water Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Beach Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Underwater Cables in Fresh Water Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Open-Cut Crossings | <input type="checkbox"/> Punch and Bore Crossings | |

Select the type of water body or watercourse at or near your project:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> River, Stream, Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine (Ocean or Sea) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pond or wetland (pond is less than 8 hectares) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake (8 hectares or greater) | <input type="checkbox"/> Estuary | |

PROJECT LOCATION (S) (fill out this section if the project location is different from Proponent Information; append multiple project locations on an additional sheet if necessary)

Name of water body or watercourse	Coordinates of the Project (UTM co-ordinate or Degrees, Minutes, Seconds), if available	
Nearest Town to site	Easting: Latitude:	Northing: Longitude:
Legal Description (Plan, Block, Lot, Concession, Township, Section, Range)	Directions to Access the Project Site (i.e., Route or highway number, etc.)	
Proposed Start Date (YYYY/MM/DD):	Proposed Completion Date (YYYY/MM/DD):	

Please notify DFO, preferably 10 working days before starting your work, by filling out and sending in, by mail, email or by fax, this notification form to the DFO Regional Headquarters. This information is requested in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the work carried out in relation to the Operational Statement.

I, _____ (print name) certify that the information given on this form is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and complete.

Signature _____ Date _____

Note: If you cannot meet all of the conditions and cannot incorporate all of the measures in the Operational Statement then your project may result in a violation of Subsection 35(1) of the *Fisheries Act* and you could be subject to enforcement action. In this case, you should contact the DFO office in your area if you wish to obtain DFO's opinion on the possible options you should consider to avoid contravention of the *Fisheries Act*.

Information about the above-noted proposed work or undertaking is collected by DFO under the authority of the *Fisheries Act* for the purpose of administering the fish habitat protection provisions of the *Fisheries Act*. Personal information will be protected under the provisions of the *Privacy Act* and will be stored in the Personal Information Bank DFO-SCI-605. Under the *Privacy Act*, individuals have a right to, and on request shall be given access to, any personal information about them contained in a personal information bank. Instructions for obtaining personal information are contained in the Government of Canada's Info Source publications available at www.infosource.gc.ca or in Government of Canada offices. Information other than "personal" information may be accessible or protected as required by the provisions of the *Access to Information Act*.

This Notification Form (Version 3.1) may be updated as required by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. It is your responsibility to use the most recent version. Please refer to the Operational Statements web site at http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans-habitat/habitat/modernizing-moderniser/epmp-pmpe/index_e.asp to ensure that a more recent version has not been released.

DFO REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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200 – 401 Burrard Street
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