



Shoreline Modification

FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

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Shoreline areas are an extremely important part of every lake ecosystem. The area acts as biological and physical filter to help protect water quality and prevent erosion of the lake edge.

This area is also home to many fish and terrestrial animals that spawn, raise young, hide and feed there. Lakeshore sand, gravel, rock and vegetation are also important for keeping a lake attractive, healthy and productive.

Before starting any project that might alter the shoreline of a lake, you must contact Alberta Environment.

APPROVALS

Alberta Environment issues approvals to ensure that the public and the environment (water quality/aquatic habitat) are not adversely affected by any activity.

Any shoreline modification or alteration activity, such as placing sand, removing rocks and vegetation, tilling, constructing retaining walls or other permanent structures (e.g. piers, docks) or other disturbance is subject to review and approval under the *Water Act* and the *Public Lands Act*.

Approvals are also required for activities on private lands that alter the natural drainage including filling, alteration of permanent wetlands, lakes or intermittent watercourses.

Approvals from other levels of government may also be needed. The local municipal government may own an Environmental or a Municipal Reserve between your lot and the lake, and may require an approval before you conduct any alterations on that land.

ENFORCEMENT

Modifying a shoreline without an approval is subject to enforcement action and fines of up to \$50,000 for an individual or \$500,000 for a company or organization.

The willful destruction of migratory bird nests or the harmful alteration, disruption and destruction of fish habitat is a federal offence under the *Fisheries Act* and *Migratory Birds Convention Act*. For further information on federal fisheries legislation, contact Fisheries and Oceans Canada at (780) 495-4220 or visit www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/habitat/

If you observe shoreline activity or water-related activity that seems questionable, contact the Alberta Environment at 1-800-222-6514.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on when an approval is required to modify a shoreline, or to get an approval, contact the regional office nearest you.

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