

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.

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. 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.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for protecting fish and fish habitat across Canada. Under Section 35 of 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 mooring project in order to avoid negative impacts to fish habitat. You may proceed with your 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 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 more information on the possible options you should consider to avoid contravention of the *Fisheries Act*.

This Operational Statement does not release you from the responsibility of obtaining any other permits or approvals that may be required under municipal, provincial, territorial and federal legislation (e.g., the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*) that apply to the work being carried out in relation to this Operational Statement. If you have questions regarding this Operational Statement, please contact DFO by telephone at (418) 775-0726 or by email at Habitat-qc@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

We ask that you notify DFO, preferably 10 days before starting your work, by filling out and sending in the attached notification form to : Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Fish habitat management branch, 850 route de la Mer, C.P. 1000, Mont-Joli, Québec, G5H 3Z4; Fax : (418) 775-0658. This information is requested in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the work carried out in relation to this Operational Statement.

Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat when Placing Moorings

1. Avoid locating moorings in sensitive aquatic habitats such as eelgrass, kelp beds, salt marshes, shellfish harvesting areas and known fish spawning areas.
2. Minimize disturbance to benthic fauna and submerged aquatic vegetation when installing mooring structures on the bed 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. Mooring floats are to be located in depths that will allow them 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. Prevent access chain or line from collecting and disturbing fish habitat features on the bed of the water body.
6. 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.

Aussi disponible en français

www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans-habitat/Index_f.asp

This Operational Statement applies to the province of Québec.



NOTIFICATION FORM

Québec
Operational Statement

VERSION 2.0
Valid until March 31, 2007

PROPONENT INFORMATION	
NAME:	
STREET ADDRESS:	
CITY/TOWN:	PROVINCE/TERRITORY:
TEL. NO. (RESIDENCE):	TEL. NO. (WORK):
FAX NO:	EMAIL ADDRESS:
POSTAL CODE:	
CONTRACTOR INFORMATION (provide this information if a Contractor is working on behalf of the Proponent)	
NAME:	
STREET ADDRESS:	
CITY/TOWN:	PROVINCE/TERRITORY:
TEL. NO. (RESIDENCE):	TEL. NO. (WORK):
FAX NO:	EMAIL ADDRESS:
POSTAL CODE:	
PROJECT INFORMATION	
Select Operational Statements that are being used (check all applicable boxes):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Vegetation Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Culvert Maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Beach Creation	<input type="checkbox"/> Directional Drilling
<input type="checkbox"/> Beach Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Dock Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> Beaver Dam Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Bridges
<input type="checkbox"/> Bridge Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Isolated Ponds
<input type="checkbox"/> Clear-Span Bridges	<input type="checkbox"/> Log Salvage
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of Riparian Vegetation in Existing Rights-of-Way	<input type="checkbox"/> Moorings
<input type="checkbox"/> Overhead Lines	<input type="checkbox"/> Punch and Bore Crossings
<input type="checkbox"/> Routine Maintenance Dredging	<input type="checkbox"/> Underwater Cables
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"/> Lake (8 hectares or greater)	<input type="checkbox"/> Estuary
<input type="checkbox"/> Pond or wetland (pond is less than 8 hectares)	
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
	Easting: _____ Northing: _____ Latitude: _____ 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):

We ask that you notify DFO, preferably 10 working days before starting your work, by filling out and sending in, by mail or by fax, this notification form to: Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 850 Route de la Mer, P.O. Box 1000, Mont-Joli, Québec G5H 3Z4; Fax : (418) 775-0658. 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*.

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