



**GUIDE FOR THE
INSTALLATION OF DOCKS
Chambly Canal National Historic Site**

PARKS CANADA
QUEBEC WATERWAYS
MAY 2026



This information document is aimed at presenting the standards for the installation of private docks within the Chambly Canal National Historic Site as administered by Parks Canada. It provides an overall explanation of the types and shapes of docks that are authorized, the minimum and maximum dimensions to be observed, and the material that should be used.

It is important to note that under Section 15 of the [Historic Canals Regulations \(SOR/93-220\)](#) the construction and/or modification of a landing dock (“construction”) must first be authorized by Parks Canada. Only shoreline property owners with a lot adjacent to the Chambly Canal National Historic Site in the small-lake¹ area and whose property has a main building are entitled to the privilege of building and using a dock along the canal. You will find a summary table to this end outlining the steps to follow, as well as an authorization request form.

Finally, the procedure and annual fees for the installation of docks in the Quebec canals, which are federal property, may be subject to periodic review.

The pricing has been applied since **April 1, 1997**.

For further information, please contact:

**Parks Canada
Quebec Waterways
1899 De Perigny Boulevard
Chambly (Quebec) J3L 4C3**

interventions@pc.gc.ca

NOTE 1: *The small-lake area refers to the expansion of the channel between bridges 9 and 10 in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu (mileposts 9.5 km and 13.5 km).*



DOCK INSTALLATION PROCEDURE

The shoreline property owner must present to Parks Canada:

- 1) **The Intervention application form**
(<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/qc/chambly/info/services-immobiliers-realty>), duly completed
- 2) **The authorization request form** duly completed, in the appendix to this document, including the documents to be attached to the application.
 - A **plan of the proposed facilities** (dock and access), made to scale, including dimensions.
 - A **sketch of the site**, made to scale, illustrating:
 - The location of the proposed facilities (dock and access).
 - The distances from the side lot lines.
 - Any other information that may be useful in reviewing of the project.
 - A copy of the **certificate of location**, completed by a land surveyor.
 - Recent pictures** of the proposed development site.

Evaluation by Parks Canada

- 1) **Authorization granted**, with or without conditions.
The analysis conducted by Parks Canada does not constitute technical or structural approval. The applicant remains responsible for the design, compliance, construction, and safety of the completed facilities.
- 2) **Authorization denied**

Permit Issuance

The permit is valid for **5 years and is non-transferable, except in the event of the sale of the property** to which the dock is attached. In that case, the permit holder must submit an application to Parks Canada.



Realization of the Facilities

- 1) **Placement** of the dock and completion of the facilities by the applicant or its contractor, if applicable.
- 2) Parks Canada reserves the right to conduct a compliance inspection or an assessment of the facilities installed, or whenever a safety, operational, or compliance issue is brought to its attention.



Dock Construction and Layout Standards

TYPES	SHAPES	DIMENSIONS	MATERIALS
Floating <i>fig. 2</i> Fixed dock on pilings <i>fig. 3</i> NOTE 2	Perpendicular <i>fig. 4</i> Parallel <i>fig. 5</i>	<p><u>Width:</u></p> <p>Min.: 1.52 m (5')</p> <p>Max.: 3.05 m (10')</p> <p><u>Length:</u></p> <p>Min. : 3.05 m (10')</p> <p>Max. : 13.5 m (44' 3")</p> <p><u>Restrictions:</u></p> <p>Docks shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Erected 5 m or more from adjacent property lines b) Erected more than 10 m from another dock or structure of a neighbor c) Located at least 30 m from the navigation channel delineated by buoys 	<p>natural wood</p> <p>factory pressure-treated wood (only for the part of the structure that is not in contact with the water)</p> <p>polymer</p> <p>composite material</p> <p>non-corrosive metals: (e.g. aluminum)</p> <p>piling</p> <p>structure</p> <p>superstructure</p> <p>clean plastic barrels that have not contained any toxic substances</p> <p>polyethylene floats filled with expanded polystyrene</p> <p>concrete for anchoring or weighing floating docks.</p>

NOTE 2: See annexed figures



Dock and Access Layout

1. Depending on the bank's layout, access to the landing dock must be ensured by stairs, a footbridge, or both to prevent the forming of erosion zones. The area occupied by stairs and/or footbridge must allow a minimum clearance of 1.0 metre from the bicycle path, where applicable.
2. The recommended width of stairs and/or a footbridge is between 0.61 and 1.22 metres (2 and 4 feet).
3. Docks must be designed to allow for their relocation or dismantling in the event of maintenance work or emergency response operations along the shoreline. For this reason, Parks Canada favors the installation of floating docks. Proposals for fixed docks on pilings may be evaluated on a case-by-case basis depending on the site characteristics and project constraints.
4. No excavation of the shoreline or sediment, deposition of materials (debris, fill, etc.) in the canal, and removal of shoreline vegetation will be permitted for the placement of a dock, stairs or footbridge.
5. Docks must not hinder the navigation channel or the free movement of water. You are responsible for ensuring that your project complies with the Canadian Navigable Waters Act (CNWA). Depending on the nature of the project, authorization may be required from Transport Canada under the Navigation Protection Program (NPP).

Under the CNWA, your work may require, among other things, the publication of a notice of non-interference or the submission of an application for approval to Transport Canada.

You are encouraged to consult Transport Canada's [Project Review Tool](#) to determine the requirements applicable to your project.

For any questions regarding the application of the CNWA or the authorization process, please contact [your regional NPP office](#).

6. Various measures must be observed to ensure the protection of fish and fish habitat. You are responsible for ensuring that your project complies with the Fisheries Act and applicable requirements regarding the protection of fish and fish habitat.



Temporary or permanent work or encroachments in the water or in fish habitat may require specific mitigation measures or be subject to additional requirements from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

Depending on the nature of the project, additional authorizations, notices, or recommendations may be required from DFO.

For more information, please consult the [measures to protect fish and habitat](#) published by DFO or contact the [appropriate regional office](#).

7. Fixtures such as: awnings, shelters, or other decorations are not permitted. “Dock patios and/or balustrades” may be permitted following an evaluation by Parks Canada which reserves the right to conduct inspections and to request the removal of any furniture it deems incompatible with safety, operational, or site protection requirements.-
8. An electrical connection is possible as long as it meets the applicable standards and is approved by the City, if any part of the installation is to be located under a street. Parks Canada, however, reserves the right to control the type of lighting that is proposed.
9. Treated wood directly in contact with the water is not permitted.
10. Tires cannot be used to protect a dock.
11. Floating docks must be installed at a minimum distance of 1.83 metres (6 feet) from the bank if the difference in the level and location permits it.
12. The installation of the dock must be done in the fall or when the water level is low.
13. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the proposed development complies with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws and regulations that may apply to the dock and footbridge or their use.
14. Docks for commercial purposes must be certified by an engineer.
15. The proposed location of the dock and its accesses shall not be located in an area where exotic invasive plant species (e.g., phragmites, reed canary grass, etc.) or pollinator supporting species (e.g., milkweed, aster, clover, etc.) are present. Parks Canada may request changes to the project or reject certain



facilities if they are likely to affect species of ecological interest or habitats of environmental significance.

16. Following the analysis of the application, the implementation of additional good environmental practices may be requested by Parks Canada.
17. Any addition of a dock, stairs or footbridge without prior approval from Parks Canada may be assessed and, if required, modified or replaced, according to the terms of an agreement to be negotiated for the standards to be met.

Useful references:

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (2011). *The dock primer : Quebec edition : a guide to waterfront friendly docks.* Available online :

https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2011/mpo-dfo/Fs23-506-4-2011-eng.pdf



Issuance of a Permit Between the Shoreline Property Owner and Parks Canada

Landing docks located on federal property require a permit so that the various structures erected along the banks may be regulated.

The annual fees are based on two criteria, which are (i) the basic rate and (ii) the area occupied. **Note: Taxes are included in the rates.**

1) Basic rate: Determined according to use:

Private dock: \$ 120.75

Commercial dock*: \$ 1,204.75

(An administrative fee of \$118.00 will be charged on renewal of the dock permit)

* Including community docks

2) Area occupied: Pricing is established proportionally according to the type and size of the landing dock (including dock, stairs/footbridge) as well as its intended purpose:

Private floating dock with mooring (vessels less than 4.5 metres)	\$ 3.00/m²
Private floating dock with mooring (4.5 metre vessels or longer)	\$ 5.25/m²
Private fixed dock with mooring (vessels less than 4.5 metres)	\$ 4.75/m²
Private fixed dock with mooring (4.5 metre vessels or longer)	\$ 8.25/m²
Commercial dock* , fixed or floating	\$ 8.25/m²

NOTE : Pricing effective January 1, 2026

For example, the annual fees for a floating dock measuring 2.04 m X 3.05 m are \$139.42 (vessels less than 4.5 metres) or \$153.42 (4.5 metre vessels or longer).

NOTES:

Mooring applies to the dock permit holder's boat only. All other boats (visitors) must obtain a mooring permit when passing through a lock, according to the mooring fees in effect.



Small non-motorized boats such as canoes, kayaks, pedal boats or rowboats fall into the “vessels less than 4.5 metres” category.

The mooring period is from mid-May to mid-October each year, which corresponds to the Chambly Canal's period of operation.

LOCKAGE

Lockage rates are determined annually. You can find them on the [Parks Canada website](https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/qc/chambly/visit/tarifs-fees) (<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/lhn-nhs/qc/chambly/visit/tarifs-fees>). You will also find there the dates and hours of operation.

WATER LEVELS IN THE CANAL:

The water level in the canal may be lowered or raised by Parks Canada without notice. It should be noted that the water level may also fluctuate naturally at any time depending on weather conditions. Parks Canada will not be liable for any direct and/or indirect damages of any kind that may result from or be related to variations in the water level in the canal.

PERMIT ISSUANCE AND RATE ESTABLISHMENT

Permits will be issued following the construction or installation of a dock for which authorization from Parks Canada had been received beforehand. Inflation adjustments are made every two years. Rates are subject to change without notice.



APPENDIX

Request for authorization form

REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION
For the installation of docks at the Chambly Canal National Historic Site



DOCUMENTS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE REQUEST

The **Intervention application form**, duly completed

A **plan of the proposed facilities** (dock and access), made to scale, including dimensions.

A **sketch of the site***, made to scale, illustrating:

- The location of the proposed facilities (dock and access).
- The distances from the side lot lines.
- Any other information that may be useful in reviewing the project.

** The sketch can be made from the template provided in the appendix or another document.*

A **copy of the certificate of location** of the subject property, completed by a land surveyor.

Recent pictures of the proposed development site.

Signature:

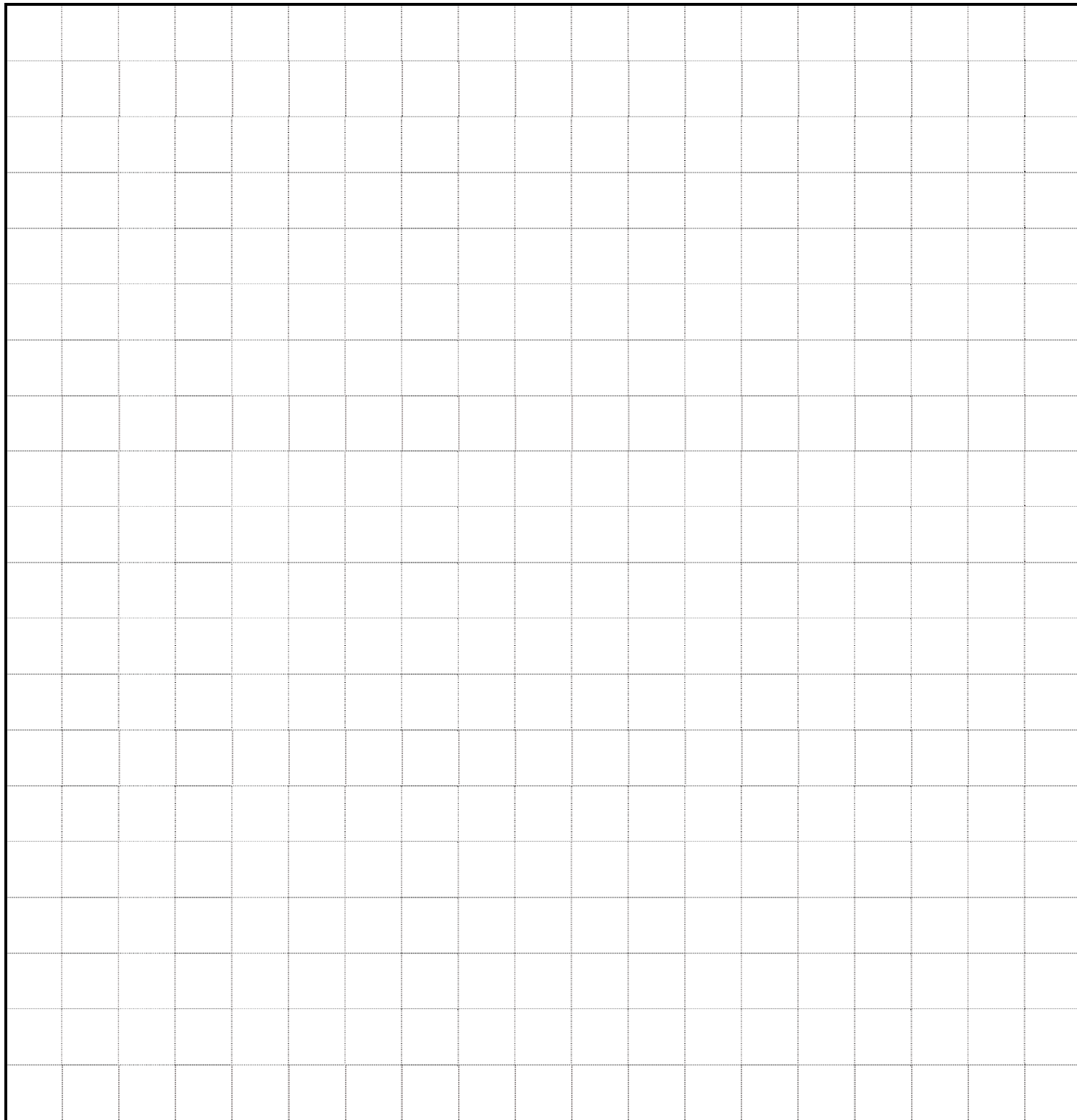
Date:

PARKS CANADA | QUEBEC WATERWAYS
1899 De Perigny boulevard, Chambly (Québec) J3L 4C3
Email: interventions@pc.gc.ca

Revised: May 2026



SKETCH OF THE PROPOSED LAYOUT



Address:- _____
Scale of the sketch (:)

APPENDIX
Figures

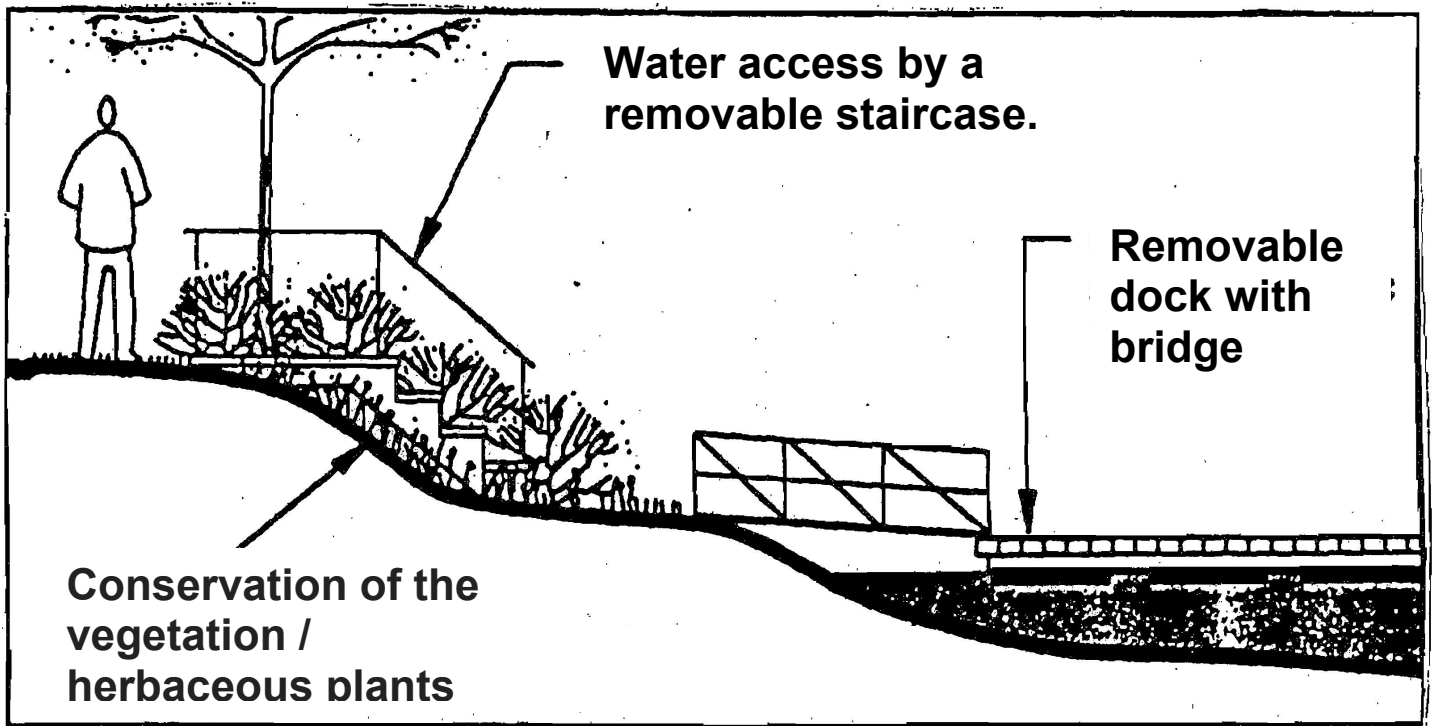


Figure 1

Proposed development for dock access

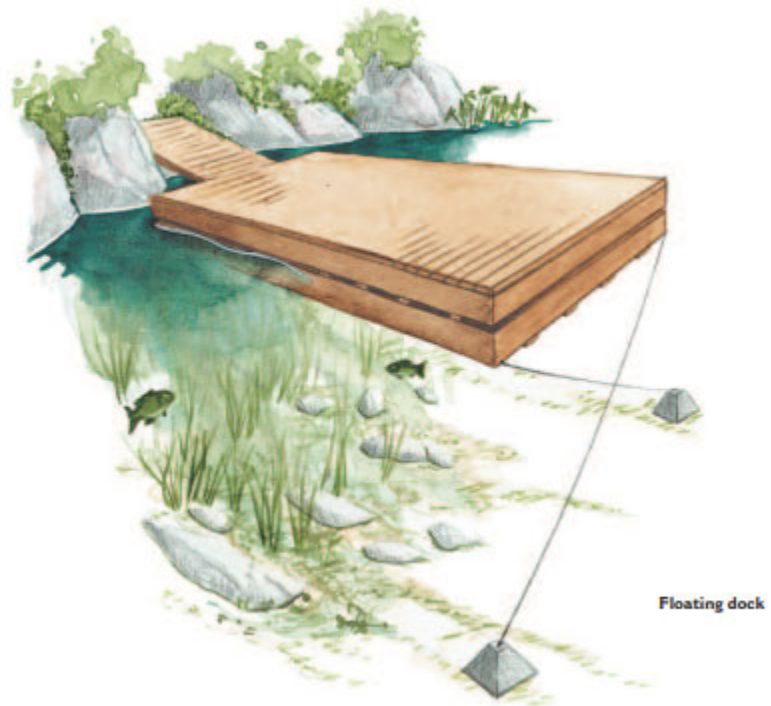


Figure 2: Floating dock
Source: Fisheries and Ocean Canada (2011).

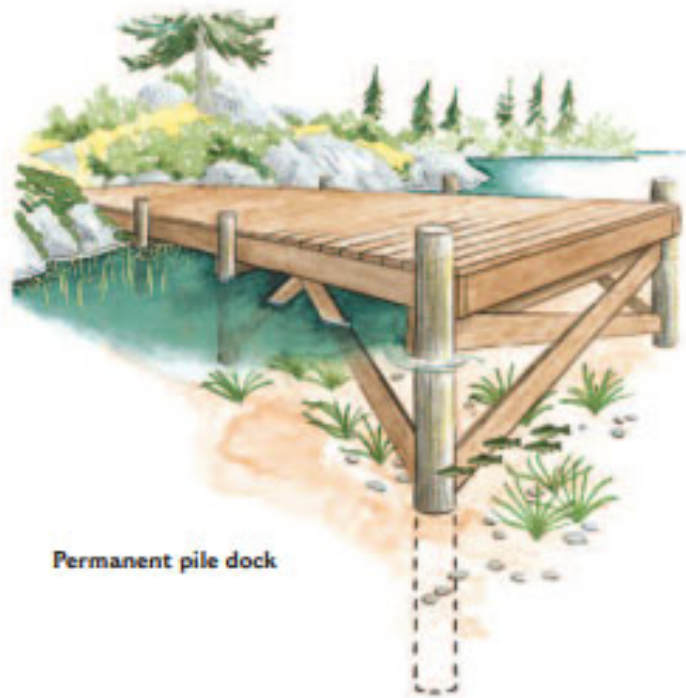


Figure 3: Fixed dock on pilings
Source: Fisheries and Ocean Canada (2011)

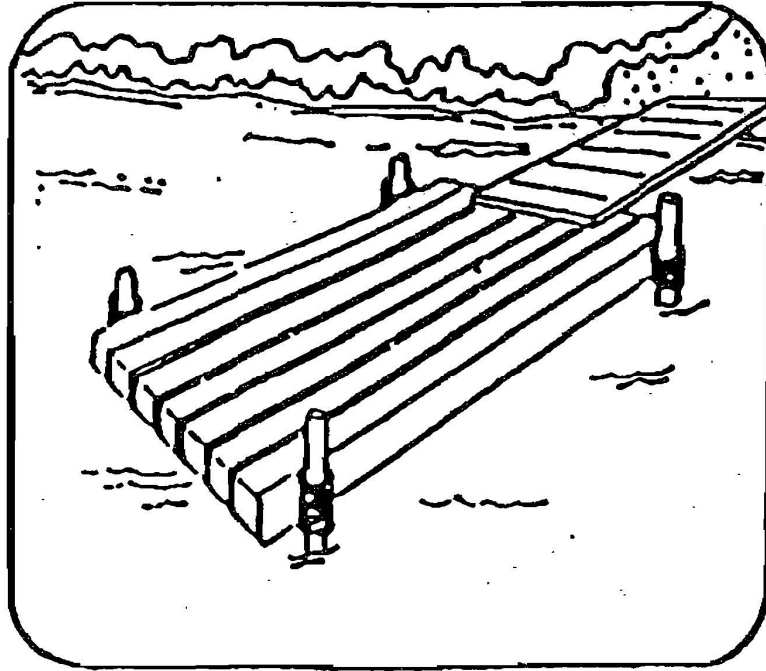


Figure 4

Perpendicular dock

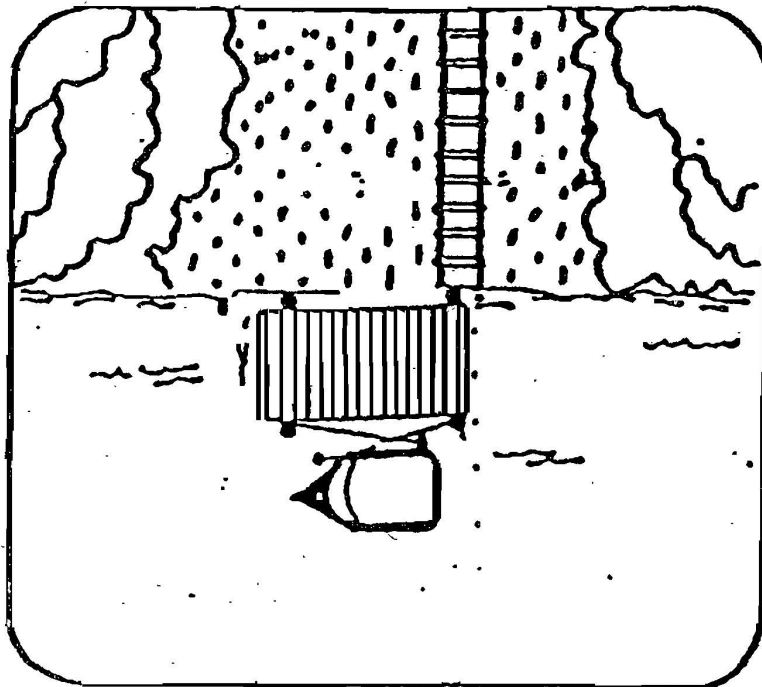


Figure 5

Parallel dock

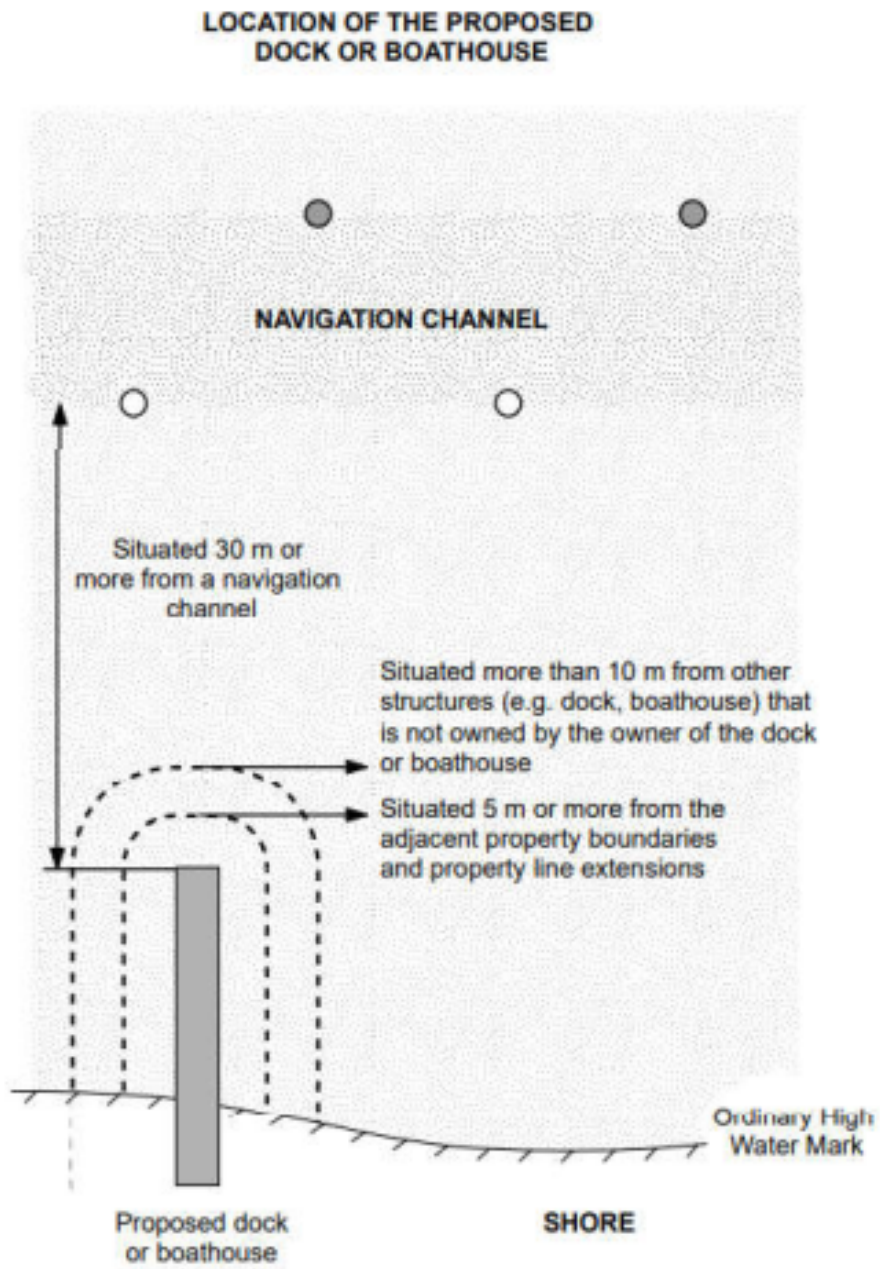


Figure 6
 Source: Transport Canada