



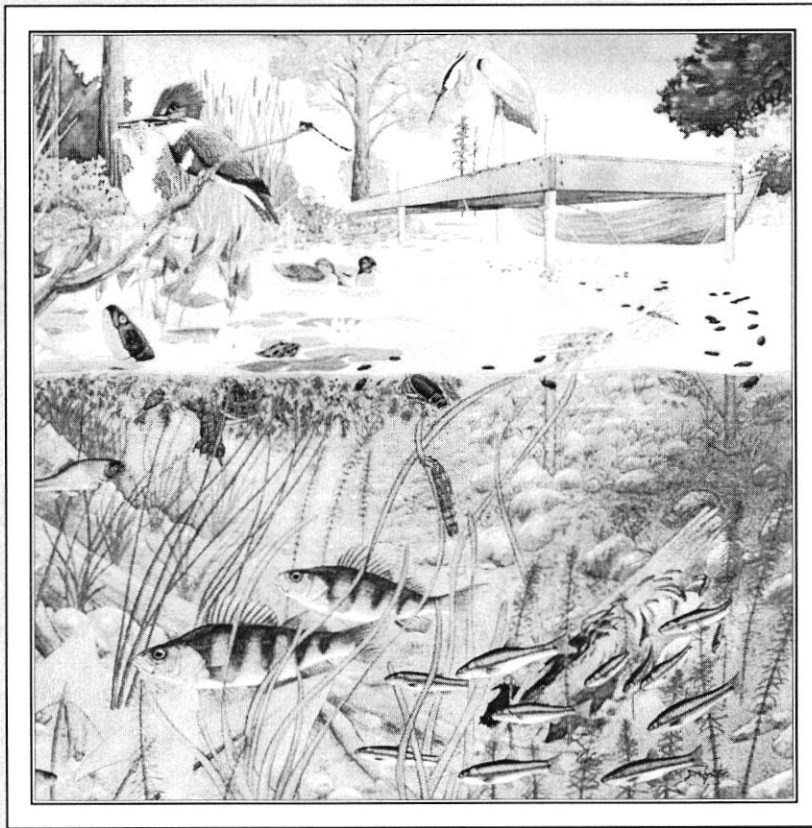
Fisheries and Oceans
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THE DOCK PRIMER



A COTTAGER'S GUIDE TO
WATERFRONT FRIENDLY DOCKS

Cottage Life



Canada

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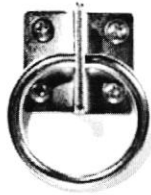


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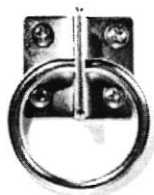
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GETTING STARTED

It is part of the waterfront experience...sitting on your dock watching the sun set and having a place to tie up your canoe or motor boat. Perhaps your shoreline already has a dock but it is badly in need of repair, or perhaps you do not have a dock and would like to add one to your waterfront. For whatever reason, you may be thinking of building or replacing a dock along your shoreline.

Building a residential dock is not a difficult process. In fact, constructing a dock can be easy when you know what factors to consider and you are prepared with some basic information. Fortunately, building a safe and stable dock is only a little more difficult than building a bad one, and with the right design, you can have a dock that meets your waterfront needs while minimizing impacts to fish habitat. This primer points both the confirmed do-it-yourselfer and the equally confirmed purchase-it-yourselfer in the direction of good docks and good dock-building practices. It also explains how to avoid some potentially damaging and costly errors. For the full scoop on docks - including plans and full construction techniques - check out additional references or consult experts to get you started.

The most important thing to know about dock construction is that no dock is a

stand-alone structure. A dock has to work in harmony with that sometimes uneasy marriage of land and water known as your shoreline, and with the various uses you and your family envision for that shoreline. No two sites are alike so your dock should be designed to fit the characteristics of your shoreline. Is your site on a windy point with a lot of wave action? Or is it tucked away in a quiet bay? Is the shoreline mainly bedrock or do you have a sandy or mucky shoreline? The answers to these kinds of questions will help to determine the structural requirements for your dock. The best way to start is by taking note of your shoreline's prominent features and then making a detailed map of it all. Graph paper is the preferred media for map-making novices, as a scale can easily be assigned to the squares, such as one (1) centimetre square equals five (5) meters, or whatever is needed to fit your cottage shoreline onto paper.

A detailed map of your shoreline is your most valuable tool in building a dock. For one thing, you probably do not want to build your neighbours a dock, which can happen when your carefully constructed masterpiece ends up on the wrong side of a property line (it happens). Also, no matter where your waterfront is located, chances are you will need to get approval from at least one government department - probably several.

