

Recreational Boating Crucial to BC Economy: New DMP Proposal Threatens Economic and Environmental Catastrophe

The recreational boating industry, a vital contributor to the British Columbia economy, injects more than \$1 billion, disproportionately benefiting small communities like the Sunshine Coast. However, a looming threat in the form of the proposed Dock Management Plan poses severe economic and environmental consequences for the region.

The proposed DMP, touted as an environmental safeguard, stands in stark contrast to its intended purpose. If implemented, most conforming private and commercial docks would become non-conforming and owners would be compelled to replace their docks at the end of their existing tenures, resulting in the creation of tens of thousands of cubic meters of landfill. Additionally, the consequential movement of anchors and pilings to accommodate the replacement docks would have a devastating effect on marine wildlife, disrupting ecosystems and endangering vital species.

Furthermore, the economic impact on residents and business owners is staggering. The proposed regulations would mandate existing marinas in Pender Harbour, crucial drivers of community tourism and economy, to reduce their size by up to 80%. This reduction directly contradicts the economic growth these marinas have been fostering, and the consequences would be felt throughout the entire community.

The newly formed Sunshine Coast Dock Management Plan Committee, under the Pender Harbour and Area Residents Association (PHARA), is committed to challenging these detrimental proposals and pressuring the government to adopt more sensible and inclusive rules. Our requests align with other dock management policies across BC and include more reasonable size restrictions for docks to accommodate business and individual needs.

Importantly, PHARA advocates for the grandfathering of existing docks, recognizing their functionality and eliminating the unnecessary ecological and financial burden of replacement. "Far from protecting the environment, this new plan will have devastating environmental and economic implications," states Peter Robson, president of PHARA. "We call upon the government to reconsider and work collaboratively with stakeholders to create a plan that preserves our environment without compromising the economic vitality of our communities."

PHARA encourages residents, businesses, and all stakeholders to join forces in advocating for a more rational approach to dock management, one that ensures sustainability without sacrificing the economic lifelines that recreational boating provides to British Columbia's smaller communities.

Please consider becoming a member of PHARA: [phara.ca/join us](http://phara.ca/join-us)