

Tips on how to Prevent Shoreline Erosion

The natural shoreline:

The shoreline is a constantly changing environment altered naturally by waves, storms and fluctuating water levels. When these changes result in erosion, a common response of property owners is to install some form of shoreline structure to prevent further shoreline loss. Unfortunately, this often results in only a short-term, localized solution that often accelerates erosion on other areas of the shoreline, moving and multiplying the problem.

Alterations of natural shoreline environment can result in:

- Accelerated property erosion
- Loss of natural beaches
- Loss of natural habitat for wildlife

Tips to prevent shoreline erosion:

***Avoid hard and soft shoreline stabilization techniques** - *Hard* shoreline structures (like riprap, lock block armouring or retaining walls) prevent the natural deposition of sand and gravel and reflect waves thereby increasing erosion. Installation and maintenance of these structures is often costly. *Soft* stabilization like beach replenishment is only a temporary fix, and often costly as well.

***Keep native vegetation on and around your shoreline** - Root systems of trees and shrubs can help stabilize soil and prevent erosion. To enhance your lake view, prune trees rather than removing them. Using a

wide variety of vegetation will promote a heavier underground network of roots that will better hold the soil together. Keeping natural aquatic plants and debris along your waterfront dissipates the energy of waves.

***Respect the 'no wake' zone** - Shoreline erosion is also caused by increased wave activity from recreational boats. When boating near shore, respect the no wake zone to help minimize wave induced erosion.

***Timing of shoreline construction** - Leave soils that could erode alone during the wet, rainy season. Also consider how timing of construction will impact fish and fish habitat.

***Extreme erosion problems** - Consult an engineer with shoreline erosion expertise before proceeding with a major erosion prevention project to avoid making costly, hard to reverse mistakes.

Obtaining approvals:

Consult Land and Water B.C. and Department of Fisheries and Oceans for guidance and approval before altering shorelines or streams. The *Fisheries Act* requires a review of any proposed activity, such as landscaping shorelines, which may harm or destroy fish habitat.

For more information about shoreline and/or stream erosion contact:
Fisheries & Oceans – 250-615-5353
Land & Water B.C. – 250-847-7334
LWS – 250-798-9500 or 250-798-2589

**Lakelse Watershed Society 2003 AGM:
August 23, 10:00a.m. at Mount Layton
Hot Springs Resort**

