

February 24, 2023

Hello,

We are writing to let you know that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is proposing to make amendments to [Ontario Regulation 161/17](#) under the [Public Lands Act](#) regarding the use of floating accommodations and camping on water over public lands in Ontario. In addition, minor changes (listed below) are proposed for added clarity and consistency in the regulation.

The proposed changes are described in a regulation proposal notice that was posted on Ontario's Regulatory Registry and the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) on February 24, 2023 (ERO number [019-6590](#)).

The proposed changes related to floating accommodations were informed by feedback received by the ministry in response to the March 2022 ERO bulletin titled, "Seeking input about the use of floating accommodations on waterways over Ontario's public lands" (ERO number [019-5119](#)).

We are proposing to amend Ontario Regulation 161/17 to clarify the types of camping units that can be used to camp on water over public land. It is proposed that the definition of 'camping unit' will be clarified to allow for camping on liveaboards and houseboats but will exclude floating accommodations, float homes and barges with residential units or camping facilities.

We are also proposing to change the conditions that must be met when camping on water over public lands in Ontario by:

- reducing the number of days that a person can camp on water over public land (per location, per calendar year) from 21 days to 7 days
- increasing the distance that a person camping on water must move their camping unit to be occupying a different location from 100 metres to 1 kilometre
- adding a new condition to prohibit camping on water within 300 metres of a developed shoreline, including any waterfront structure, dock, boathouse, erosion control structure, altered shoreline, boat launch and/or fill.

In addition, we are proposing to:

- harmonize the conditions for camping on public land so that residents and non-residents are required to follow the same conditions when camping on water over public lands or on public lands
- specify conditions for swim rafts, jumps, ramps for water sports, heat loops and water intake pipes
- clarify that camping on a road, trail, parking lot or boat launch is prohibited
- amend the regulation to add the following to the list of excluded public lands to which section 21.1 of the *Public Lands Act* and Ontario Regulation 161/17 do not apply:
 - lands subject to an agreement authorizing the use of those lands
 - lands subject to an authorization under the *Aggregate Resources Act*.

We encourage you to review the proposal notice (ERO number [019-6590](#)) and provide feedback through the ERO. The comment period for the proposal closes on **April 11, 2023**.

Online Information Sessions

We invite you to attend an online information session during which ministry staff will present an overview of the regulatory proposal and answer questions. Sessions will be held on the following dates:

Session 1 – Wednesday, March 8: 10:00 am to 11:30 am

Session 2 – Monday, March 20: 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

If you wish to attend an online information session, please register by emailing public.lands@ontario.ca with the subject line “Regulatory Proposal Information Session” and indicate your preferred session date. You will receive a reply to your email with the session start/end times and information on how to join.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Henry, R.P.F.
 Director, Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch
 Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: Pauline Desroches, Manager, Crown Lands Policy Section
 Michelle Dano, Senior Program Advisor, Crown Lands Policy Section