

Riparian Areas Regulation Implementation Guidebook



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Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Environmental Stewardship Division
Biodiversity Branch

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Acknowledgement

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Preface

The Riparian Areas Regulation, enabled by the *Fish Protection Act*, came into effect on March 31, 2005. It provides the legislated direction needed by local governments to achieve improved protection of fish and fish habitat in British Columbia.

The Regulation, administered by the Ministry of Environment, applies to riparian fish habitat affected by new residential, commercial and industrial development on land under local government jurisdiction (private land and the private use of Crown land).

The primary purpose of this guidebook is to help local governments, landowners, developers, community organizations and Qualified Environmental Professionals (QEPs):

- understand what the legal requirements of the Riparian Areas Regulation are;
- understand the process for seeking development approval under the Regulation; and
- be aware of the measures that can be used to meet those requirements and the goal of protecting the biological functioning of riparian areas.

The guidebook also:

- provides guidance to ministry staff and others in applying the Regulation; and
- outlines the roles and responsibilities of governments, QEPs and proponents (landowners and developers) in implementing and complying with the Regulation.

Compliance with the Riparian Areas Regulation does not exempt anyone from complying with other applicable federal or provincial laws, local government bylaws or related environmental legislation.

The Riparian Areas Regulation is designed to provide local governments with adequate support, direction and assurance that, with the exercise of due diligence, protection of riparian fish habitat will be achieved. The information presented here has been reviewed and approved by both the Ministry of Environment and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and by meeting these standards a developer will avoid impacting riparian habitat.

Note: This guidebook is not the official version of the Riparian Areas Regulation. To obtain the official version, contact [Crown Publications Inc.](#), 521 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1E7.

