

Subject Buildings for Bait Harvesting Management		Policy PL 3.03.08	
Compiled by - Branch Lands & Waters	Section Land Management	Date Issued September 23, 2002	
Replaces Directive Title	Number	Dated	Page 1 of 2

1.0 **PURPOSE**

This policy applies to permanent structures on Crown land, outside of provincial parks, utilized by licensed bait harvesters for legitimate bait harvesting purposes. This policy was developed in consultation with the Bait Association of Ontario.

In some cases, present day bait harvesting management practice may require the availability of overnight accommodations. These accommodations may be required for licensed harvesters and designates primarily for the safety of the harvesters and for purposes of efficient bait harvesting management (e.g. economic viability by reducing extreme travel costs/time).

In conjunction with the Class Environmental Assessment for MNR Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects, Policy & Procedure PL 4.02.01 Application, Review and Land Disposition Process and Policy PL 6.01.02 Crown Land Rental the following outlines the additional standards and criteria with respect to the establishment of buildings for the purposes of conducting legitimate bait harvesting.

NOTE: For camping on Crown land for bait harvesting purposes, refer to PL 3.03.01 Free Use policy.

2.0 **CONSIDERATION OF BUILDINGS FOR BAITFISH HARVESTING**

Requests for the establishment of a building will only be considered if:

- submitted by a licensed commercial bait harvester (licensed under the Fish & Wildlife Conservation Act, Ont. Regulation #664/98);
- the site being requested is within the licensed bait harvesting area or adjacent to the licensed area (¹access may suggest the best site is close to but not actually on the licensed area); and
- the licensee provides rationale which demonstrates the need for a building as part of the management of the bait harvest area
 - e.g. there is significant travel/distance to reach the bait harvest lakes/river,
 - e.g. economic efficiencies.

Bait harvest buildings should not be permitted:

- on lakes with existing development or lakes designated for cottaging, commercial tourism camps e.g. outpost camps, or other uses which would result in resource management and land use conflicts without consultation and mitigation of any issues with existing users;
- immediately adjacent to a highway;
- on road allowances ("road allowance" means an allowance for road laid out by a Crown surveyor, including a road allowance shown on an original township survey and a road allowance included in a plan of Crown plan of subdivision);
- in areas extensively used by the public e.g. public camping areas, access points; or
- on or near a portage.

NOTE: The establishment of appropriate buffers/setback for cabins will be determined by the district through the Class Environmental Assessment for MNR Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects review.

¹ If the bait harvest cabin is located outside of the harvester's licensed area and within the area of another licensed harvester, notification of the establishment of a cabin must be sent to that harvester.

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3.0 BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Only the following structures will be allowed on the authorized site.

- Shelter/accommodations - the cabin shall not exceed 37.0 sq. metres (400 sq. feet)
- Ancillary building for storage - shall not exceed 18.5 sq. metres (200 sq. feet)
- Privy
- Dock

NOTE: Dock construction may require separate approval/authority from MNR dependent on the size and location of dock. Approvals may also be required from other agencies e.g. DFO., Dept. of Transport.

The licensed bait harvester is responsible for the use/maintenance of the bait harvesting building(s).

Routine maintenance, upkeep and minor alterations (e.g. porch, new privy), of the building(s) do not require consent of the Ministry of Natural Resources, however the licensee is responsible to obtain consent from MNR for major alterations/improvements (e.g. additional enclosed living space) or reconstruction.

4.0 OTHER USES

- While using the bait harvesting cabin during ongoing bait harvesting, the licensed harvester, and designates may carry on any lawful activities e.g. fishing, berry picking etc.
- No other commercial/private use of the bait harvesting building(s) is permitted.

5.0 OCCUPATIONAL AUTHORITY

- Land use occupational authority will be by land use permit. The land use permit shall contain the following condition: "This permit will remain valid as long as the bait harvesting license is in good standing and the license area remains in the valid license holder's name."
- Rental rate will be established per PL 6.01.02 Crown Land Rental policy.

NOTE: Where land use permits have been issued for bait harvesting previous to this policy the existing conditions i.e. purpose, improvements etc. as set out on the permit will continue to apply. Rental rates will continue to be subject to change as per condition # 6 on the land use permit.

6.0 DIRECTIVE CROSS REFERENCES

- PL 3.03.01 Free Use Policy
- PL 4.02.01 Application, Review and Land Disposition Process Policy & Procedure
- PL 6.01.02 Crown Land Rental Policy
- Class Environmental Assessment for MNR Resource Stewardship and Facility Development Projects