



# ISLANDS 2050 - FACT SHEET

## PROPOSED POLICIES ON DESALINATION, DOCKS, AND SEAWALLS

Island shorelines are valuable for ecological and cultural reasons. Much of the Salish Sea's marine life relies on nearshore habitat for spawning, early life, and food. From clam gardens to fish weirs to middens, the shorelines in the Trust Area have been significant to First Nations people in this region since time immemorial.

Based on feedback from earlier phases of engagement, the proposed draft updates aim to minimize the cumulative effects of development on Indigenous cultural heritage and harvesting sites, and sensitive nearshore ecosystems.

There are proposed draft directive policies that would require local trust committees and island municipalities to prohibit new private docks (except where properties are boat access only), new seawalls or other hard shoreline armoring, and new desalination plants.

In the Draft New Policy Statement, community and shared docks are preferred over an excessive number of new private docks. As well, water conservation technologies are preferred over desalination plants that could adversely impact nearshore ecosystems.

### Tell Us What You Think!

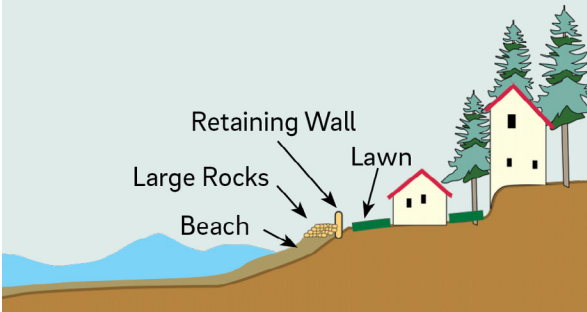
Should the Draft New Policy Statement propose prohibitions on new desalination plants, private docks, or sea walls and hard shoreline armoring? Is there a middle ground with stronger regulations, not an outright ban?

Complete the online survey before April 17, or visit us at an in-person event in March and April 2022 to provide your input!

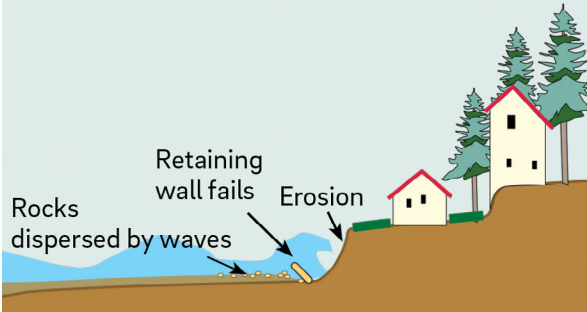
### Why is Islands Trust proposing to prohibit desalination plants?

Desalination technologies that turn seawater into potable water may be of interest to many island residents facing freshwater supply constraints. Apart from concerns over the energy demands of desalination plants, there are also concerns over the potentially harmful impacts of the desalination process on sensitive nearshore ecosystems. The desalination process most often results in a salty brine discharge that is released directly back into seawater. This salty brine can spread across the seafloor, alter oxygen levels, cause habitat degradation, and impact aquatic species. There is more to learn about desalination in the Trust Area and the cumulative impacts that many small systems can have.

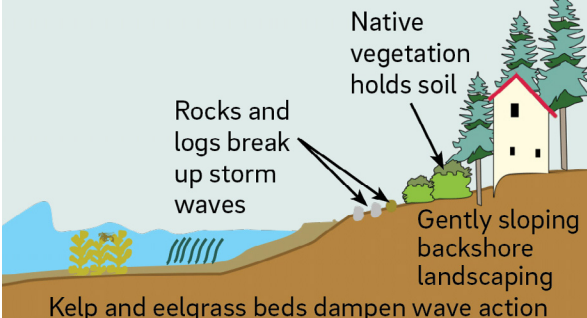
### Modified Shoreline Landscape



### Storm Damage



### Healthy, Resilient Landscape



## Why is Islands Trust proposing to prohibit new private docks?

Many island and coastal communities value the convenient access that private docks provide. However, in the Trust Area and elsewhere in British Columbia, excessive numbers of private docks extending from waterfront properties risk damaging Indigenous cultural heritage sites and harvesting areas, sensitive ecosystems like eelgrass meadows, kelp forests, clam gardens, and forage-fish habitat. They also impede access to the foreshore and detract from the natural beauty of the coastline. In an effort to limit the growing number of private docks, many jurisdictions encourage, and some even require, the sharing of dock facilities among neighbours. Others ban the development of private docks.

## Why is Islands Trust proposing to prohibit new sea walls and hard shoreline armouring?

In the face of sea level rise and other climate impacts, owning a waterfront property can also come with concerns about erosion and flooding. Hard shoreline armouring can impact Indigenous cultural heritage sites and harvesting areas, nearshore ecosystems, and the natural beauty of the coastline. Waterfront property owners wishing to protect their properties could consider soft shoreline protections (e.g. [GREENSHORES FOR HOMES](#)). In many locations, hard vertical structures like seawalls can be replaced with soft shoreline protections that are functional, attractive, and better for the environment.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

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[ISLANDS 2050 PROJECT INTRODUCTION VIDEO](#)

[ISLANDS TRUST MARINE SHORELINES WEBPAGE](#)