

Dock Report 2021

The Southern Gulf Islands Harbour Commission (SGIHC) is a volunteer committee under the purview of the CRD, the Commission represents 11-dock facilities across the Gulf Islands and Swartz Bay.

The Piers Island Harbours Commissioner (John Hall) and Wharfinger (Mike Smart) are responsible for both the Piers Island and Swartz Bay facilities.

A modest extension for the Piers Island Dock was recently approved under a new Federal policy review. While regulatory approval was gained, the extension work now requires new funding approval. This should not be an issue, as the project was previously approved and funded in 2017/18.

Discussions to upgrade the Swartz Bay infrastructure have begun, but there are no plans in place as of this date.

Currently, both the Piers Island and Swartz Bay government docks are well-over capacity, and there is no room at the dock. Arguably, this is not a tenable situation when the gales of October come calling.

On a somewhat related note, the yellow bull-rail on the dock is for **15-minute maximum tie ups**, if you are tied up in the yellow paint, **someone must remain in the boat at all times**.

A few reminders on dock etiquette.

- The yellow bull-rail on the dock is for **15-minute maximum tie ups**, if you are tied up in the yellow paint, **someone must remain in the boat at all times**.
- The easement leading to the government dock should be kept clear and free. Currently there is a golf cart parked along the access path, making an approach for emergency services quite difficult.
- If you are going to be off island for extended periods of time, please pull your boat out of the water and store it on your property. It is better for your boat, your free up much needed dock space and the Otters won't find a new home.
- These docks are shared spaces so please ensure you optimize the available dock space you use. That means if you are occupying the front of the dock, please ensure your bow extends to the very front or beyond. If you are at the back of the dock, your aft should align with the end of the dock.
- Rafting is a reality of using the Government docks. If you are the outside boat in a rafting situation, please ensure you have enough line to tie your boat to the dock, and not the boat next to you. It is recommended that you carry line that is 20-25 feet long and both port and starboard bumpers.

- Moorage on the dock is not free. Be sure to deposit your payment in the payment box on the dock at the time of use.

Finally, a big thank you to Wharfinger Mike Smart for working diligently to ensure that the docks are kept in good working order throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted by,

John Hall
Southern Gulf Islands Harbour Commissioner