

**STEVESTON HARBOUR AUTHORITY  
OPERATIONS DIRECTIVE # 21  
BERTHAGE**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**A. PURPOSE**

To provide guidelines on the criteria for berthing vessels in Steveston Harbour.

**B. APPLICATION**

This directive applies to all Steveston Harbour Authority staff members and all harbour users.

**C. DEFINITIONS**

1. **BERTHAGE:** Area(s) within the harbour designated for tying up vessels.
2. **COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL (CFV):** Any currently licensed vessel displaying current DFO fishing license plates and species tabs that is properly equipped for harvesting or packing and actively involved in the commercial fishing industry.
3. **PLEASURE CRAFT (P/C) / UNLICENSED / NON-CFV:** Any vessel that does not meet the criteria for C. 2. above.
4. **RESERVED BERTHAGE:** Any slip or tie up location which has been reserved for the sole use of an identified vessel for a period of 12 consecutive months.
5. **TRANSIENT VESSEL:** Any vessel that primarily berths at an alternate harbour but may berth at Steveston Harbour on an irregular or seasonal basis.
6. **HOMEPORT VESSEL:** Any vessel which utilizes the berthing facilities of Steveston Harbour for the majority of a calendar year.

## II. POLICY

### A. BERTHAGE AREAS

1. CFV Reserved:
  - a. Nelson Pond: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, O, P, Q, R, S, T, and U floats.
  - b. Atagi: A, B, C and D floats.
  - c. Britannia: A, B and C floats.
  - d. Paramount Areas C, D, E and H.
  - e. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Pier: south side of A float, all of B float and portions of C float.
2. CFV Transient:
  - a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue pier: north side of A float, portions of C float and all of D and F floats. \* **Note** \* 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue pier C, D and F floats are only for vessels 14.0 m in length or longer.
3. Non – CFV Reserved:
  - a. Nelson Pond: K, L, M and N floats.

\* **Note** \* although Non – CFV vessels may be issued “reserved” slips, as per the SHA Berthage and Storage Agreement all Non – CFV vessels have 24 hours to vacate their spot (“reserved” or otherwise) should a CFV vessel need the berth for any reason.
4. Non – CFV Transient:
  - a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue pier: north side of A float (for a maximum of seven (7) consecutive days).
  - b. Public Sales Float: **one** slip on the far east finger of the public sales float is available for vessels to berth on a temporary basis (no more than five (5) consecutive days). Arrangements to book this slip must be made through the SHA main office (604-272-5539).

## **B. GENERAL BERTHAGE CRITERIA**

1. All vessel owners must sign a Steveston Harbour Authority "Berthage and Vessel Storage Agreement" (see appendix A) as a condition of occupancy. All vessel owners are bound to the terms and conditions of the SHA Berthage and Storage Agreement upon use of SHA facilities, regardless of whether this agreement has been signed.
2. All vessels must be completely seaworthy as determined by the Steveston Harbour Authority.
3. All vessel names, registration numbers and CFV plates (if applicable) must be clearly displayed on the exterior of each vessel.
4. All vessel owners / operators wishing to berth their vessel at Steveston Harbour do so at the own risk. Steveston Harbour Authority does not assume any responsibility for loss or damage to vessels and / or property while utilizing Steveston Harbour facilities.
5. All vessel owners / operators must report to the office upon arrival of their vessel to ensure all proper contact information is up to date.
6. All owners / operators of vessels in the harbour must comply with all harbour regulations, rules, and directives as well as all Federal, Provincial and Municipal legislation.
7. At the Steveston Harbour Authority's request, all owners / operators of any commercial fishing or pleasure craft vessels may be asked to move their vessel to another location within the harbour to ensure the efficient operation of the harbour and to make best use of available berthage space. If such a request is made, all owners / operators will be expected to do so within 24 hours of the request. Failure to do so may result in the Steveston Harbour Authority moving the vessel at the owner's expense. Furthermore, The Steveston Harbour Authority reserves the right to relocate any vessel without notice if necessary.

## **C. RESERVED BERTHAGE CRITERIA**

1. Only vessels deemed by the Steveston Harbour Authority to be commercial fishing vessels as per the definition in C. 2. of this directive will be considered for reserved berthage privileges unless otherwise authorized by the SHA Operations Manager or his delegate.

2. Reserved berthage will only be granted to active commercial fishing vessels with current SHA accounts that pay one (1) year in advance.
3. On the berthage anniversary date, the incumbent in each spot has the first right of refusal to renew the berthage for the coming year with the concurrence of the Steveston Harbour Authority.
4. All fees associated with each vessel must be paid in full within thirty days of the anniversary date in order for a vessel to retain its reserved slip. Failure to remit payment in full by the deadline may result in the Steveston Harbour Authority reassigning the slip to another vessel at its discretion.

#### **D. ASSIGNMENT OF BERTHAGE**

1. In accordance with the mandate set out in the SHA's head lease, priority will always be given to CFV vessels. Non – CFV vessels will be accommodated when and where possible with the understanding that Non – CFV vessels have 24 hours to vacate their berth should a CFV vessel require the spot for any reason.
2. Berthage will be assigned by the SHA based each vessel's specific characteristics including length, beam, hull type, draft, and operating equipment.
3. Reserved berthage slips will only be assigned to vessels that pay one year in advance. Vessels that are granted reserved berthage will have a vessel nameplate supplied and fastened to their reserved slip by the SHA.
4. Vessels that do not pay one year in advance must find berthage wherever they can in accordance with section 2. A. above.
5. Vessels without reserved spots must not berth in any slip with a reserved nameplate on the dock and may be required to raft to another vessel.

#### **E. RATES**

Berthage rates are in accordance with the current Steveston Harbour Authority Rates Directive.

**Approved by the Board of Directors on September 23, 2019.**

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Board Chairman  
Steveston Harbour Authority

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General Manager  
Steveston Harbour Authority