

Chapter 780

Improvement and Use of Navigable Streams

780.010	Stream improvement authorized; channel obstruction prohibited	780.030	Channels improved are highways free to navigation
780.020	Entry on riparian lands authorized; liability	780.040	Construction of wharves by landowner
		780.050	Municipality may regulate wharf construction beyond low-water mark

CROSS REFERENCES

780.010		Navigable waters as public highway, improvement of deemed public use, 768.190
Deleterious substances or use of explosives to remove obstructions in water, 509.140		Nonnavigable streams as highways, 768.420
Improvement of navigable stream by Port of Portland, 778.025, 778.085, 778.115		Waterways that may be improved, 778.080
Improving streams to prevent overflow, 549.110		780.110
		Port of Portland, control over port waters, wharf lines, 778.085

780.010 Stream improvement authorized; channel obstruction prohibited. Any person, association, or corporation may enter upon the channel or bed of any and all rivers and watercourses, navigable or susceptible of being made navigable, and perform work and labor thereon, and make such improvement of the same by clearing out or deepening the channel, constructing wing dams, blasting and removing rocks or ledges, removing sand bars, gravel bars, snags and all other obstructions to navigation, so as to render the rivers or any of them navigable at all seasons of the year or to improve the navigation. No work authorized by ORS 780.010 and 780.020 to be done shall be so done or conducted as to obstruct in any manner, either temporarily or otherwise, any channel or river now navigable, but the closing of one or more channels in any river in order to deepen or cause more water to flow in the main channel shall not be construed as constituting an obstruction to the navigation of any river or watercourse.

780.020 Entry on riparian lands authorized; liability. All persons, associations and corporations engaging in improvement of the navigation of any river or watercourse, as authorized in ORS 780.010, may enter upon the lands adjacent to any river or watercourse for the purpose of cutting timber, taking rock, gravel, dirt and other materials necessary for the prosecution of the work of such improvement, and pass over adjacent lands with means of transportation proper for conducting the work contemplated by ORS 780.010, doing as little damage as possible, subject only to the payment of such damages as may be assessed according to law.

780.030 Channels improved are highways free to navigation. All channels of rivers and watercourses made navigable or the navigation of which is improved, as contemplated by ORS 780.010, shall be public highways, and shall be free to all steamboats and other crafts navigating them.

780.040 Construction of wharves by landowner. The owner of any land lying upon any navigable stream or other like water, and within the corporate limits of any incorporated town, may construct a wharf or wharves upon the same, and extend the wharf or wharves into the stream or other like water beyond low-water mark so far as may be necessary and convenient for the use and accommodation of any ships, boats or vessels that may or can navigate the stream or other like water.

780.050 Municipality may regulate wharf construction beyond low-water mark. The corporate authorities of the town wherein the wharf is proposed to be constructed may regulate the exercise of the privilege or franchise granted in ORS 780.040. Upon application of the person entitled to and desiring to construct the wharf, the corporate authorities shall, by ordinance or other like mode, prescribe the mode and extent to which it may be exercised beyond the line of low-water mark, so that the wharf shall not be constructed any farther into the stream or other water beyond the low-water line than may be necessary and convenient for the purpose expressed in ORS 780.040 and so that it will not unnecessarily interfere with the navigation of the stream or other like water.

