

## Chapter 780

### 1973 REPLACEMENT PART

(1977 reprint)

## Improvement and Use of Navigable Streams

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| <p><b>780.010</b> Stream improvement authorized; channel obstruction prohibited</p> <p><b>780.020</b> Entry on riparian lands authorized; liability</p> <p><b>780.030</b> Channels improved are highways free to navigation</p> <p><b>780.040</b> When landowner may construct wharf</p> | <p><b>780.050</b> Municipality or port may regulate construction of certain structures beyond low-water mark</p> <p><b>780.060</b> Construction not to interfere with oyster production</p> |
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### CROSS REFERENCES

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| <p>Boats and boating facilities, funds, 488.860</p> <p>Commercial boat operators, licensing, 488.400 to 488.430</p> <p>Conformance with state water resources policy required, 536.300 to 536.400</p> <p>Fish and Wildlife Commission may</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Rebuild ineffective fishways at dam sites, 509.625</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Remove log jams, 506.201</p> <p>Log patrols and booming companies, disposition of stray logs, boom sticks and boom chains, 532.510 to 532.710</p> <p>Navigable bay and river beds, mineral leases, 274.615 to 274.645</p> <p>Ports may contract with federal, state or local agencies for improvements, 777.112</p> | <p>Public right of navigation presumed not to be affected by fill for which permit has been granted, 541.665</p> <p>Submersible lands, easements and licenses, 274.040</p> <p>Use of navigable waters, regulation by State Marine Board, 488.830</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>780.010</b></p> <p>Deleterious substances or use of explosives to remove obstructions in water, 509.140</p> <p>Improvement of navigable stream by Port of Portland, 778.025, 778.085, 778.115</p> <p>Improving streams to prevent overflow, 549.110</p> |
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**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 When landowner may construct wharf.** (1) The owner of any land lying upon any navigable stream or other like water, and within the corporate limits of any incorporated town or within the boundaries of any port, may construct a wharf upon the

same, and extend the wharf into the stream or other like water beyond low-water mark so far as may be necessary for the use and accommodation of any ships, boats or vessels engaged exclusively in the receipt and discharge of goods or merchandise or in the performance of governmental functions upon the stream or other like water.

(2) As used in this section, "wharf" does not include new lands created upon submersible or submerged lands by artificial fill or deposit.

[Amended by 1963 c 125 §1, 1973 c 328 §2]

**780.050 Municipality or port may regulate construction of certain structures beyond low-water mark.** The corporate authorities of the town wherein a wharf, dock, pier, moorage or similar structure is proposed to be constructed, or the commission of any port wherein the structure is proposed to be constructed if the proposed location of the structure is not within any town, may regulate the construction of the structure. Upon application of the person entitled to and desiring to construct the wharf, dock, pier, moorage or similar structure, the corporate authorities or port commission, as the case may be, may by ordinance or other like mode prescribe the mode and extent to which the structure may be constructed beyond the line of low-water mark so that the structure 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 use of the structure and so that it will not unnecessarily interfere with the navigation of the stream or other like water.

[Amended by 1963 c 125 §2; 1973 c 328 §3]

**780.060 Construction not to interfere with oyster production.** Nothing in this chapter authorizes the construction of a wharf, dock, pier, moorage or similar structure at any place where its construction and operation will substantially impair or interfere with the cultivation and taking of oysters subject to the provisions of ORS 509.425 to 509.455.

[1969 c 675 §20, 1973 c 328 §4]

**CERTIFICATE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL**

Pursuant to ORS 173 170, I, Thomas G. Clifford, Legislative Counsel, do hereby certify that I have compared each section printed in this chapter with the original section in the enrolled bill, and that the sections in this chapter are correct copies of the enrolled sections, with the exception of the changes in form permitted by ORS 173 160 and other changes specifically authorized by law

Done at Salem, Oregon,  
November 1, 1973

Thomas G Clifford  
Legislative Counsel