

ERO number 019-5119: Comments to Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) on Floating Accommodations on Waterways/Public lands

MNR Questions	<i>Background from MNR</i>	Suggested Responses
Should the types of water-craft that are allowed as “camping units” be clarified?	<i>The regulatory definition of a “camping unit” does not currently describe or limit the types of water-craft equipped for overnight accommodation (or vessels) that are allowed for camping on water over public lands.</i>	Yes, the types of watercraft units permitted should be clearly described to distinguish between floating cottages, houseboats, other large vessels and all smaller vessels (canoes, kayaks etc.) to allow for different regulations to be developed and enforced for each type.
Should the meaning of “camping purposes” be clarified?	<i>The regulation doesn’t currently define “camping purposes”. The ministry generally regards “camping purposes” to mean for recreational use, used during a vacation, etc.</i>	Yes, there should be a distinction between camping on land and camping on a vessel attached to land, so that different permitted lengths of stay can be implemented.
Should changes be made to the camping rules set out in Ontario Regulation 161/17 as they relate to camping on waterways over public lands? Are there other rules that should be applied to camping on water?	<i>Currently the rules include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>limiting the number of days a person can camp on water, at one location, to 21 days; &</i> • <i>the distance watercraft must move is 100m if a person camping wishes to stay longer than 21 days.</i> 	Floating cottages, houseboats, & other large vessels should be subject to lower limits for camping on water – perhaps limited to overnight stays – and the distance should be increased [to one km]. Current rules are OK for all smaller vessels. Strict rules on garbage and human/animal waste disposal should be clearly articulated and enforced.
Should more restrictive municipal bylaws apply where they exist / are created?	<i>Interested municipalities may enact bylaws regarding camping on water within their jurisdiction to suit their local needs.</i>	MNR should inform municipalities that they have the option to enact such bylaws.
Should municipal bylaw requirements that are more restrictive than the provincial regulation apply? <i>For example, should they not apply if they are more permissive than provincial regulations and laws?</i>		Yes. Where municipal bylaws are more permissive, then provincial regulations should apply.
Please provide any other information / concerns / suggestions regarding camping on waterways over public lands or the use of floating accommodations on waterways over public lands that you think the ministry should consider in the future.	Environmental protection should be the primary concern. Therefore, strict rules are needed on wastewater management, garbage and human/animal waste disposal, fuel storage / safety, and fires. In addition, impeding access to public land and waterways must be prevented.	