

Bamfield Harbour Authority

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The Bamfield Harbour Authority has completed the major leasehold improvements to the West Bamfield Dock commonly referred to as the Fisherman's Dock. Prior to the upgrade the facility did not have electricity, lighting or water. The immediate access to the ramp was extremely narrow limiting the number of people able to access the dock simultaneously and did not allow parking and storage of hand carts. The ramp was rotting and a safety issue. The existing system used to anchor the docks needed upgrading to facilitate larger motor vessels.

The upgrades completed are listed below:

1. **Firefighting Improvements & Safety Additions:** The dock has been made safer with the completion of the water system, lighting, fire extinguishers and improved access. An additional 8 extinguishers with cabinets have been purchased and installed. A commercial 'Spill Kit' is positioned on the approach for emergency marine use and the Harbour Authority has designed & installed safety ladders.
2. **Ramp:** The original ramp has been replaced with a new metal ramp. The new ramp has decreased the steepness making access easier and safer especially during inclement weather. The surface is nonskid facilitating the movement of wheeled carts and equipment. An apron was constructed to provide access from the dock to the new ramp.
3. **Expansion of Approach at Top of Ramp:** A large platform was built to support the new ramp and provide an area for the congregation of people and their provisions. The platform provides an excellent viewpoint and provides boaters with a place to meet and socialize. This area also allows for signage and storage of children lifejackets for the 'Kids Don't Float' program.
4. **Office/Storage Building:** The construction of an office/storage building has been erected & positioned at the top of the platform. This addition will help facilitate the dock manager's job as it is the only onsite storage available.
5. **Pod Float:** The new dinghy/pod float has been anchored in place and will provide additional dock space especially for smaller boats.
6. **Finger Docks:** The finger docks were not built and will not be considered in the near future. Small Craft Harbours removed the finger docks from the original construction plans in an attempt to improve relations with an up-land owner.
7. **Signage:** Signage has been installed with more to be put in place throughout the spring. The signs not only provide instruction, direction and safety but will also provide information to protect and preserve our marine environment.

8. **Anchors:** The anchors to the dock have been upgraded to provide greater safety and stability especially in inclement weather.
9. **Refreshing the Dock Approach:** The approach, ramp and dock had a major facelift making the facility not only serviceable but interesting and attractive.
10. **Kids Don't Float:** The Harbour Authority has embraced the 'Kids Don't Float' program and has installed an information sign announcing free loaner lifejackets for children. Throughout the summer the jackets will be displayed hanging from pegs with additional jackets stowed in a large storage box below the sign. Off season the jackets will remain in the box to be accessible.

Benefits of Leasehold Improvements:

The community of Bamfield is connected by water transportation only as there is no land access from the East side to the West side. The dock is required to access family and friends, mail pickup, shopping, deliveries, visitors, etc. Therefore the benefit of the leasehold improvements to the community is substantial providing a safer and more accessible dock.

There is a reduction of traditional commercial fishing activities on the West Coast of BC and the dock has experienced a decrease in fish boats utilizing the facilities, however, there is an increase in other commercial boating activities. Boats offering opportunities: fishing charters, diving charters, whale watching charters, eco tours, etc. Pleasure boat traffic has increased and the duration of their visit has been extended considerably due to the extra services available, i.e. water and electricity. The increase in water traffic and the ability for cruisers to spend more time in Bamfield will benefit the community in off sales.