

# Policy

## Launching Ramp Clarification

#CP2020-02

**Effective**  
03/24/2020

**Last Revised**  
03/24/2020

**Review Frequency**  
Every year  
(until Code revision)

**Policy Contact**  
Sean Gaffney



**Dennis Hanberg**  
Director

### Purpose of this Policy

To clarify the allowances for a “launching ramp” The need for this clarification is “residential launching ramps” are prohibited entirely in PCC 18S.60.015 but allowed landward of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) in PCC 18S.40.140 D10.

### Referenced Pierce County Code (PCC)

PCC 18S.40.140 D10 (Regulations – Residential)

10. Launching ramps, and covered moorage that is not light penetrable, are prohibited waterward of the OHWM.

PCC 18S.60.015 Prohibited Uses and Development.

G. Residential launching ramps in all SEDs.

PCC 18S.70 – Appendix A:

"Launching Ramp" means a boating facility used for launching and retrieving vessels.

### Conclusion

The intent was to allow launching facilities for individual residential use for watercraft that can be launched without the need for a structure that extends past the ordinary high water mark (OHWM).

Such launching ramps may be allowed if consistent with applicable requirements of PCC 18S including, but not limited to, impervious surface restrictions, mitigation sequencing requirements, and buffer disturbance allowances.

Launching ramps require shoreline review and approval.

### Revision History

Revision #	Date	Description of Change(s)	Requested By
0	03/23/2020	Initial Publication.	Dave Risvold