

Management of Small Docks and Piers



**Where to Get
Additional Help**

What is NOAA Doing?

Dock Website: <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/dock.html>

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the NOAA Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management website. The address bar shows the URL <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/dock.html>. The page header includes the NOAA logo, the text "U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration", and a search bar. Below the header is a banner for "OCEAN & COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT" with navigation links for "site map", "contacts", "news", and "my state".

The main content area is titled "Dock and Pier Management: Recent Activities by NOAA's National Ocean Service". It features a list of links and an aerial photograph of a marina.

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Initiatives

- clean marinas
- community development partnership
- coral local action strategies
- dock management
- enhancement program
- pacific islands mpa community
- portfields

[Initiatives](#) | Dock Management

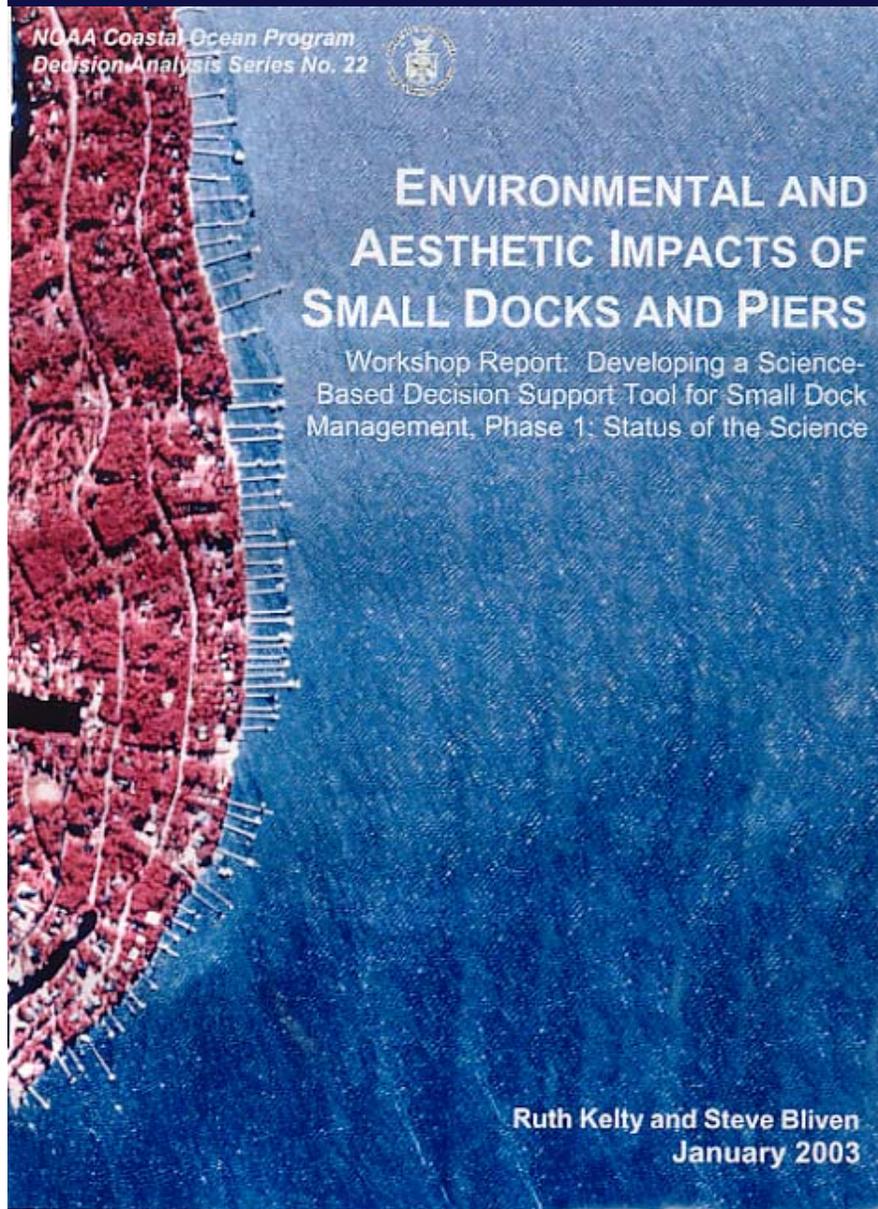
Dock and Pier Management: Recent Activities by NOAA's National Ocean Service

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- [Training Materials](#)
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As seen in this aerial photograph, the number of docks is growing throughout the coast.



What is NOAA Doing?



Science Workshop in 2003

- **Scientists and Managers reviewed the state of the knowledge of dock impacts**
- **Produced a Proceedings of the workshop available on the Internet.**

What is NOAA Doing?

MANAGEMENT TOOLS TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACTS OF RESIDENTIAL DOCKS AND PIERS

Allison Castellan, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

Abstract

To comprehensively manage docks, coastal managers must have both the latest science and the laws and policies in place to implement new management techniques. This workshop to engage resource management professionals in promoting better dock management compiled and evaluated various regulatory, planning, design, and construction practices to minimize the environmental impacts from small docks and piers. This talk provides a description of the range of existing regulations and showcasing programs incorporating management tools. As follow-up from the workshop, NOAA is developing a case study database to house information on state regulatory and planning programs used to manage docks and piers. Managers improve and justify their regulations and permitting processes by providing information to handle similar circumstances. Information in the database can also be used to develop best management procedures, support permit denials when the impacts of a proposed project are unacceptable, and support management plans. The session will conclude with a discussion on regional outreach and how information learned during the national workshop to a wider audience. This is one of the topics in Integrating Science, Policy, and Management of Docks and Piers. Also see *Assessing the Impacts of Docks and Piers* (R. Kelty) and *Visual Impact Assessment of Docks and Piers* (Bliven) also included in these proceedings.

Introduction

Few issues confronting coastal managers are as divisive or difficult to manage as the proliferation of private recreational docks and piers. The number of dock permit requests has increased in a few decades and dock authorizations are now the single most frequently sought permit. For example, the number of dock permit requests received each year in South Carolina has increased in two decades from 80 to over 800. Many coastal managers and citizens are concerned about the impacts of numerous private docks and the potential impacts numerous private docks may have on the environment, the public to access the waterfront. Therefore, coastal managers have requested a variety of management techniques—both regulatory and non-regulatory—that they can use to manage pier growth.

Management Tools Workshop in 2003

- Managers and /educators reviewed management concerns and options related to small dock management.
- Workshop summary available online.

What is NOAA Doing?

Searchable, Web-based Bibliography



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<p>STRESSORS</p> <p>Pollution</p> <p>Invasive Species</p> <p>Extreme Events</p> <p>Resource & Land Use</p> <p>Climate Change</p> <p>THE CENTERS</p> <p>CSCOR</p> <p>CCMA</p>	<h3>Publications</h3> <h4>Bibliography Search Results</h4> <p>Your search resulted in 15 references. Displaying records 1 thru 10, grouped by author.</p> <hr/> <p>View Benfield M.C. and T.J. Minello. 1996. Relative effects of turbidity and light intensity on reactive distance and feeding of an estuarine fish. <i>Environmental Biology of Fishes</i> 46 : 211</p> <p>View Burdick, D.M. and F.T. Short. 1999. The Effects of Boat Docks on Eelgrass Beds in Coastal Waters of Massachusetts. <i>Environmental Management</i> 23 (2) : 231240</p> <p>View Dennison, W.C., R.J. Orth, K.A. Moore, J.C. Stevenson, V. Carter, S. Kollar, P.W. Bergstrom, and R.A. Batiuk. 1993. Assessing Water Quality with Submerged Aquatic Plants. <i>Bioscience</i> 43 : 8694</p> <p>View Fonesca, M.S. and W.J. Kenworthy. 1987. Effects of current on photosynthesis and distribution of seagrasses. <i>Aquatic Botany</i> 27 : 5978</p>	<h3>PUBLICATIONS</h3> <p>Notable Additions</p> <p>Publication Search</p> <p>Entire Collection</p> <h3>RELATED ITEMS</h3> <p>CSCOR Publications</p> <p>CCMA Publications</p> <p>CCFHR Publications</p> <p>CCEHBR Publications</p> <p>NOAA Library</p>
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What is NOAA Doing?



Residential Dock and Pier Management Database

State:

Overview | **Regulatory Program** | **Planning & Zoning** | **Leasing** | **Acquisition** | **Siting Criteria** | **Design Criteria** | **Construction Criteria** | **Miscellaneous**

State information:
Last Updated Date:

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION FOR DOCK AND PIER MANAGEMENT

LEAD AGENCY FOR DOCK AND PIER MANAGEMENT	SECONDARY AGENCY	OTHER AGENCY	List any Additional State Agencies that may play a role in dock and Pier Management
AGENCY: <input type="text" value="Department of Environments"/>	<input type="text" value="Department of Conservation"/>	<input type="text" value="Land Use Regulation Comm"/>	<input type="text" value="LURC in unorganized territories only; Dept. of Conservation for Submerged Land Leases"/>
CONTACT: <input type="text" value="Judy C. Gates"/>	<input type="text" value="Dan Prichard"/>	<input type="text" value="Catherine Carroll"/>	
PHONE #: <input type="text" value="207-287-7691"/>	<input type="text" value="207-287-4919"/>	<input type="text" value="207-287-4930"/>	
E-MAIL: <input type="text" value="judy.gates@maine.gov"/>	<input type="text" value="dan.prichard@maine.gov"/>	<input type="text" value="catherine.carroll@maine.gov"/>	
WEBSITE: <input type="text" value="www.state.me.us/dep"/>	<input type="text" value="www.state.me.us/doc"/>	<input type="text" value="www.state.me.us/doc"/>	

TEXT FOR DOCK AND PIER MANAGEMENT

Number of dock and pier permits issued annually: Number of permits denied annually:

Regulatory definition for docks or piers. Consideration of all types of supports (piles, cribs) occurs through permit process to determine least damaging practicable placed on width or length, but restrictions to half tide access are more common. Piers are approx. 20 to 40 wide, but tend to be shorter than private piers. Typical piers are 10 feet long and 4 to 6 feet wide.

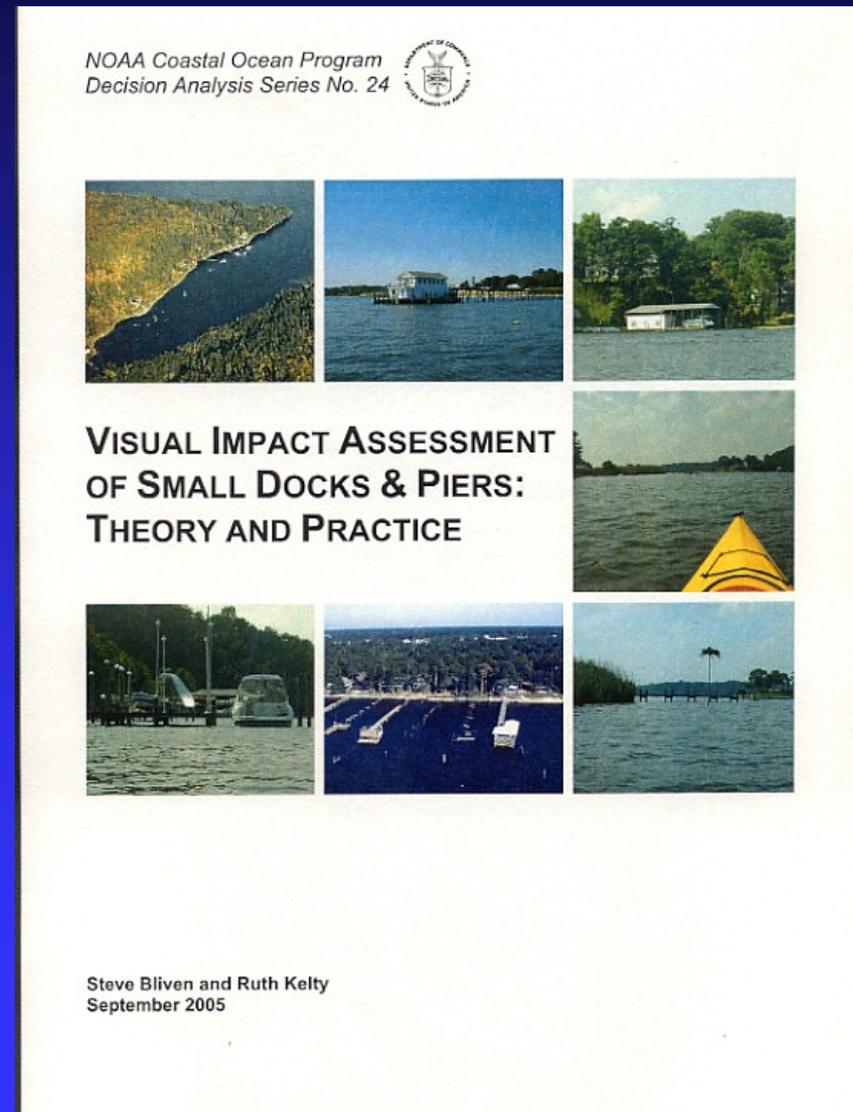
Under the National Resources Protection Act (NRPA), 38 M.R.S.A. Sect. 480-A through Z, requires permitting for any structure in, on, over, or adjacent to a protected natural resource, including any dock or pier in place over 7 months (i.e. permanent).

General Description of Management Program: (We are looking for a very

Data Base of State Programs on Web

What is NOAA Doing?

Visual Impact Assessment Publication; 2005



What is NOAA Doing?

- **Inventory of State Programs by Region**
- **Visualizing Alternatives Computer Simulation**
 - **CanVis:** www.unl.edu/nac/simulation/
 - **InfranView: Image Resizing Software**
www.irfanview.com/
 - **Docks and Piers Objects:**
www.csc.noaa.gov/visualizations/
 - Docks**
 - Boats**
 - Houses**
 - Buoys**
 - Vegetation and Rocks**
 - Google Docks**
- **Outreach and Training materials**

Additional Sources:

- **State Coastal Management Programs**
- **National Estuarine Research Reserves**
- **State Regulatory Programs**
- **Sea Grant Programs**
- **US Army Corps of Engineers**
- **The Internet**

