Management of Small Docks and Piers

Introduction to the Issues
Small Docks and Piers—Working Definition

- Private ownership
- Residential
- Less than 5 vessels
• Growing population intent on living near the coast

• Desire for immediate access to the water by private docks
Dock Permit Applications in South Carolina

Number of permits issued in SC from 1992 to 2002:
- 80 in 1992
- 581 in 1994
- 710 in 1995
- 765 in 1996
- 623 in 1997
- 655 in 1998
- 812 in 1999
- 717 in 2000
- 516 in 2002
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Permits Issued</th>
<th>Applications Denied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>3,244</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>Not Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>1,085</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>808</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Averages</td>
<td>949</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(where data available)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dock number increase on Wilmington Island, GA

- 73% increase in number of docks between 1970–2000
- 90% increase in dock area between 1970-2000
- Potential of 4–6% of marsh shading at full build out

From Alexander and Robinson, 2004
What do the numbers show?

- Considerable number of permit applications
- Number of applications increasing
- Minimum number of denials upheld
What types of impacts can small docks have?

- Environmental
- Navigation
- Visual
- Public access
Complex Permitting Process

- Public and private ownership issues
- Many type or layers of reviews
- Different levels of review
### Public Perceptions about docks
#### In South Carolina

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Owners</th>
<th>Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Should size of docks be regulated?</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do docks harm the environment?</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do docks adversely affect views?</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there places where docks should not be built?</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*From Felts et al, 2001, 2002*
What do managers need?

- Ways to factor in cumulative impacts
- Better understanding of the science related to impacts
- Best Management Practices
- Better tools and techniques
- Ways to incorporate new science into existing programs
People want docks—

How can they best be managed to protect public interests?
Topics to be discussed:

Insert titles of modules here