

Management of Small Docks and Piers



**Introduction to
the Issues**



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

This presentation funded by the

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science

and

The Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management

Materials prepared by Steve Bliven of Bliven & Sternack

Small Docks and Piers—Working Definition



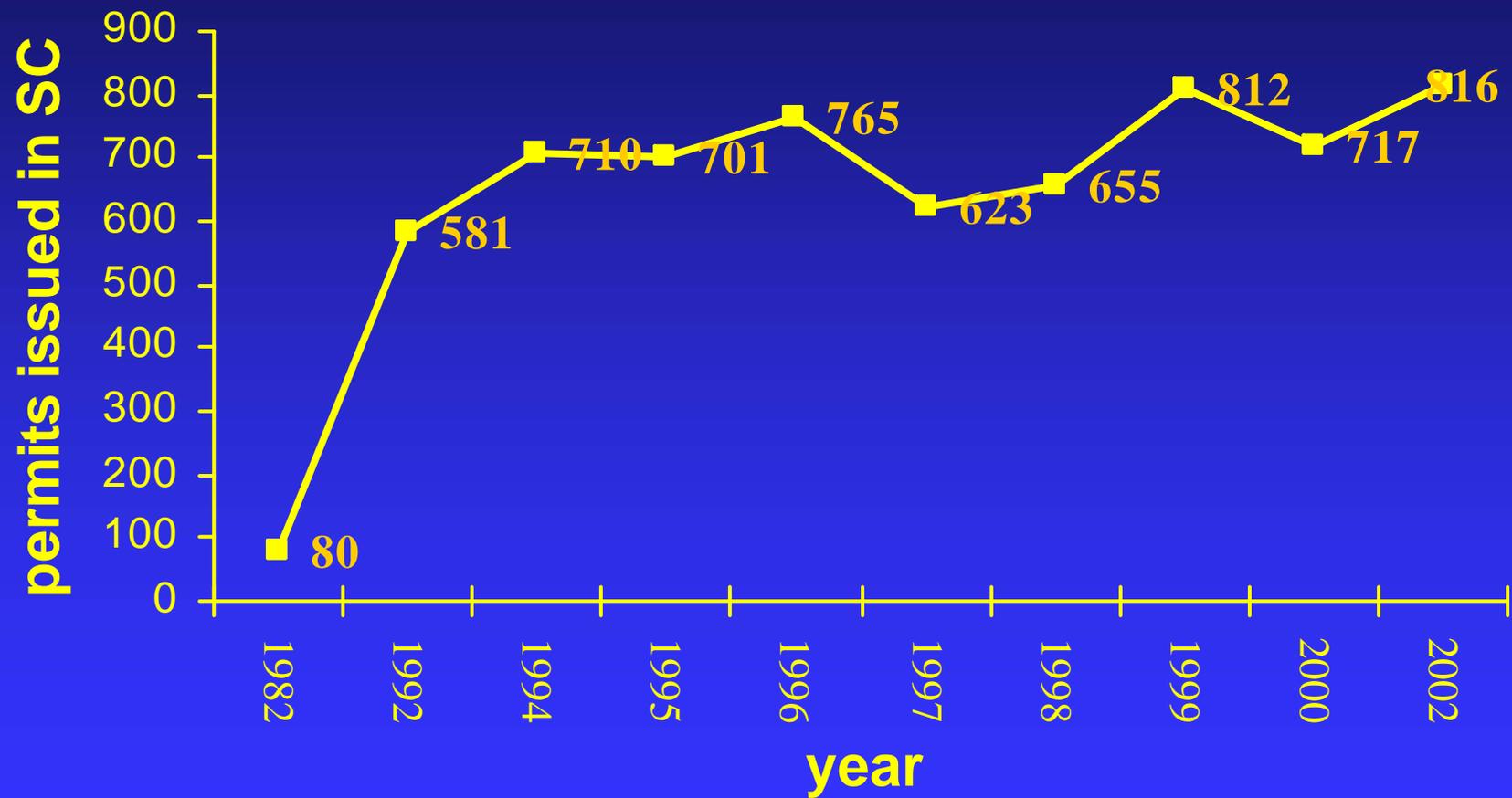
- Private ownership
- Residential
- Less than 5 vessels

An aerial photograph of a coastal area. The water is a light blue-grey color. Numerous long, narrow wooden docks extend from the shore into the water, many with small buildings or structures on them. A long bridge spans across the water in the middle ground. The shoreline is lined with green trees and some residential buildings, including a large white house with a blue roof. The sky is overcast.

- **Growing population intent on living near the coast**

- **Desire for immediate access to the water by private docks**

Dock Permit Applications in South Carolina

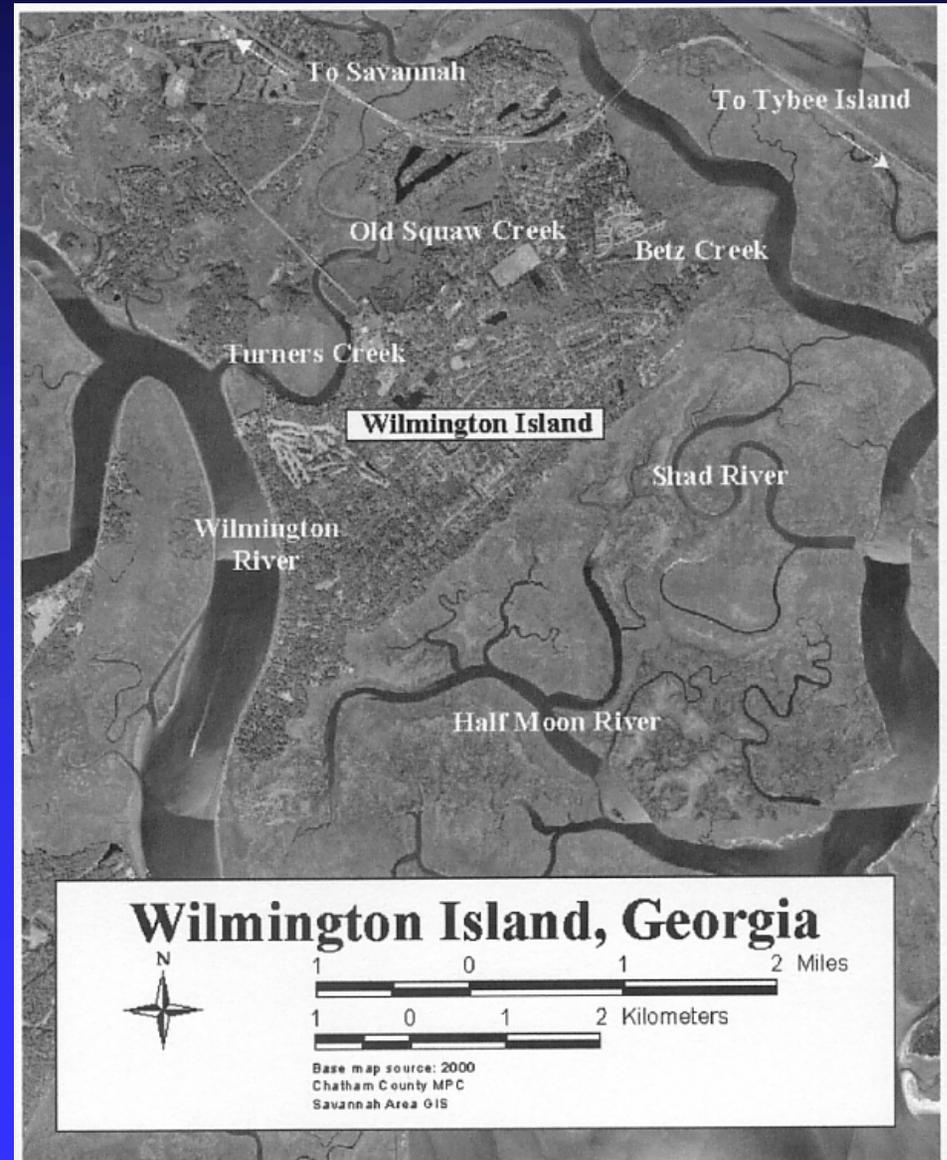


State	Permits Issued	Applications Denied
Connecticut	161	Not Available
Florida	3,244	Not Available
Georgia	195	Not Available
Maine	200	2
North Carolina	1,085	3
South Carolina	808	7
Averages (where data available)	949	4

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

	<u>Positive Responses</u>	
	Owners	Residents
Should size of docks be regulated?	80%	60%
Do docks harm the environment?	20%	20%
Do docks adversely affect views?	10%	25%
Are there places where docks should not be built?	60%	60%

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**

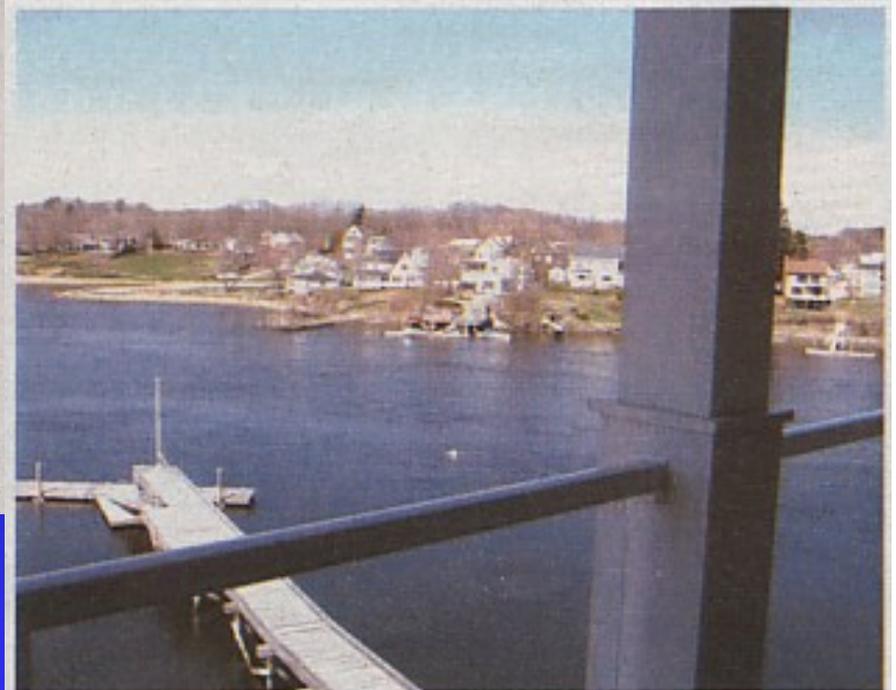


Westport Cape
with private dock



People want docks—

How can they best be
managed to protect public
interests?



BADGER'S LANDING

KITTERY ME—This magnificent Badger's Island address features 3 luxurious condominiums. Perfectly balancing refined elegance and direct ocean access, private dock. Walking distance to downtown Portsmouth — making this the ideal setting for a full-time residence, seasonal home, vacation getaway or corporate residence.

Starting at \$1.2 M.

Topics to be discussed:

Insert titles of modules here

