

Comments on Dock-Related Issues in Minnesota

October 4, 2007

Nisswa, MN

120 people signed in; 44 comment forms received; 1 letter received

1) **What do you value about spending time on lakes and rivers? How do docks enhance or detract from these values?**

- I value the cleanliness of the lake, the clarity. Docks do not have an impact on this.
- I believe that docks provide an essential service to a lake homeowner, but only in moderation, we have to keep in mind that this is public waters and docks and shoreline development is detrimental to the fishery and the habitat that keeps the fishery alive.
- Swimming, watching my grandchildren swim, water ski, fish.
- Fishing, swimming, hunting, family.
- Spending time at the lake with our family – we have been coming up here for 50 years and we spend our summer days on our dock.
- What I spend my time on the lake for has nothing to do with docks, enhancing or detracting. There is a big lake(s) that I can use without any interference from docks. I am more concerned that this issue is more about political correctness and a great source for revenue. Don't tell people after they have spent thousands of dollars to enhance their property and enjoyment of the property that they must pay extra to the state to use those enhancements.
- Relaxation. Dock allows me to get to water.
- Access to and use of the lake.
- I do not own shoreline, but spend considerable time with my son, daughters, brother, nephews, and friends fishing in central MN lakes, and the Miss. River. The development of shoreline including these new extensive docks is very alarming! I exclusively fish bulrush, large leaf and clasping leaf pondweed beds and dead trees overhanging water. When my daughter and I fish, we enjoy hearing loons, listen to frogs in the evening, and watch sunset along undeveloped shoreline.
- I agree generally with the regulations that limit docks to what they are intended for. I do not think that docks that conform to the use of boat access detract from the value of the lakes and rivers so long as they are not a hindrance to safe navigation.
- Relaxation with quiet times and serenity. More docks = more boats = more noise. Large platforms allow larger "parties". I do not want to have my serenity ruined by such activities – either while I'm on my dock or looking at the lake from shore.
- Family activity, boating, water sports, fishing, swimming. Good judgment in selection and dock arrangement should prevail with concern for the need to be considerate of our neighbors.
- All I can.
- Fishing and pleasure cruise. At this time there are no real effects on these values.
- I enjoy boating and fishing. I value the natural beauty of our lakes. My dock and others enhance my ability by providing a place to dock my boats and a platform to enjoy sunsets from.
- We access out boat. We swim and watch our children and grandchildren.
- We value quality time on the water with friends and family. This includes entertaining with our boats. There are boats coming and going we use our dock for our boat and entertaining others.
- Recreational activities. Docks enhance these activities by providing access that shorelines do not provide.
- Fishing, swimming, cruising. Don't think docks affect our activities.
- Large docks and many boatlifts ruin the natural beauty of our shorelines.

- I pay a lot of money to live on the water so my family can enjoy the water.
- Sunning, swimming and boating. Docks provide access.
- Just watching the wildlife and people. They don't and people should be allowed to build boathouses.
- I enjoy boating and fishing with my children and grandchildren. I have never had the occasion when a dock or docks interfered with our activities.
- Access and use of public waters without trespassing. Docks use the surface of public water for private use and impede public use. Open shoreline with natural terrestrial and aquatic vegetation.
- Recreation. Docks enhance the enjoyment.
- Cruising, swimming.
- We value the scenic beauty, the wildlife, and the peace that descends upon us when we sail, kayak, canoe, or fish. We also enjoy the occasional times we are able to share the recreational use of the lakes and rivers with the children in our lives. Docks allow us easier access to the lake for watercraft activities. They detract by restricting our access to certain areas near shore.
- Tranquility – docks are need for access to the water for recreational purposes.
- I feel the lake and boating are the two main reasons I love coming up to this area. Without a dock I couldn't enjoy the boating or using the lake at all.
- Water sports, fishing, sightseeing, swimming, socializing. If cabin owners could not have docks or platforms now would they access the lake from their property. Docks and platforms enhance the values of lakeshore property.
- The end of my dock is the focal point of our off work time in the spring, summer and fall. Quality time with my wife and son – fishing and swimming off the end of our dock. Sitting and enjoying the sights and sounds of the water.
- Docks enhance my values: the lake and boating and enjoying our lake is why I've been here 35 years. Love sitting on the dock, reading, watching the lake. We need docks.
- I enjoy social time with family and friends on the water. People should be able to have as much dock as they want, they own the property.
- I like to spend time with my entire family on our lakes and docks. Docks allow us to be together while enjoying each person's individual activity.
- Our family of 11 people enjoys recreational activities on the lake.
- I love fishing and swimming! I have 2 black labs that love to jump off the dock. I think a good, clean look of a big platform is better than a crappy old dock with tires hanging from it.
- The beauty of our area and hopefully piece and quiet and being able to fish without a crowd around the boat when you catch fish, a shoreline full of docks is not good for the fishing.
- Being on our lake with friends, family or alone is the ultimate. The water, air, wildlife – I love it all. We have worked hard to afford to be on the lake and pay the taxes required to be here. It affords us the time to spend with friends and family in a relaxing atmosphere enjoying nature. Our dock provides us access to the things I have mentioned. A dock puts us into the setting instead of at the edge of it.
- The dock is a place I have spent every year of my life (64). I grew up at the lake. A dock is a part of me. It is a place to relax, enjoy solitude and appreciate nature. It is also a place for recreation in boating, swimming, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, fishing and water skiing. It is a place for family and friends to gather. It also serves a functional purpose to get to boats and as a place for times used in the recreation such as fishing gear, paddles, life vests, etc.

2) If you own or use a dock, what do you use it for?

- Fishing with our grandchildren, watching sunset, access to pontoon and speedboat and reading.
- Providing a safe place for my boat to reside on the lake.

- Entertaining, fishing off of swimming, sun bathing.
- We use our dock for a fishing platform for fishing and swimming. We need a large platform for this purpose.
- Recreation.
- Fishing, swimming, enjoyment.
- Social gathering with our family and neighbors.
- To park boats and enjoy the lake in the sun or evening. Peace and solitude. On Pelican Lake, raise dam so people don't have to have 15-20 sections of dock to get out to a boatlift or decent depth of water.
- Access to lake, fishing, enjoy lake from.
- Access to lake for boating and swimming. Stabilize/securing 1 pontoon and 1 small fishing boat on a lift. Enjoy the lake – engage in conversation, etc. Dock section are not 8' wide – but 4-5'.
- Access to the boatlift, fishing, boat mooring.
- We use our dock for an access in/out of our boat. Also, we have a 4x8 platform upon which we have a glider - great for reading/relaxing and watching the waterfowl.
- Access to boats. Use by young family members to sunbathe – participate in social gatherings of family members. Also fish off dock.
- Relaxing- I don't have time to fish.
- Use for docking a pontoon. Access to deeper water.
- Used for docking a boat and a pontoon. Also has a platform where I can sit and enjoy the views and sunsets.
- Entertainment, fishing, sitting and enjoying the incredible views. We love watching the ducks and their young seeking safe harbor water as well as watching people fish under it from boats.
- Fishing, swimming, sunbathing, boating, etc.
- Pan fishing, getting to the boat, looking at and feeding the fish, swimming.
- Boatlift and swimming.
- Access deep watch for my boat and grandkids to fish from.
- Boatlift.
- Watching the grandkids swim. We also use it for fishing. 8 feet is simply not enough room for safety concerns.
- I use my dock for grandchildren to fish. Since the ages run from 8 mos. to 1 yr., an 8' wide dock would be a safety hazard. Children that age move around too much.
- Access to watercraft, swimming and relaxation.
- Lounging, water sports, boat access.
- Access to water deep enough for boats. Deck for all to sit on for water skiing and water sports. Deck to "sit" on to read and enjoy the lake.
- We occasionally fish from it, but we mainly use it for launching/boarding our 14' boat or our canoe, kayaks and sailboat. We used to have a bench on a small platform (6'x8'), but we decided we prefer to view the lake (and trees) from our front yard. We do watch the 4th of July boat parade from our dock, since our "yard" is over 75' from the lake.
- To dock the boat, fish from, swim from, to sit and read, enjoying the day.
- To tie our boat up to – to reach our boat and station, to lounge on and enjoy the lake and the sun, etc.
- Swimming, sunning, fishing, boating, relaxing, load and unload folks onto pontoon or boats, docks and platforms are the only access to the lake for the majority of lake property owners and the main reason we live on the lake.
- Mooring my boat. Spending time with family and friends.
- Boating, sitting and enjoying the lake. Just enjoying the lake and sunshine.
- Family enjoyment, swimming, boating.

- Fishing, swimming, sunbathing, reading, conversing, family togetherness.
- Recreational use – boating, swimming, sailing (we are not fishermen).
- Fishing and swimming. My dogs like to jump off the dock. Also, we are lucky enough to have 3 related families next door to each other. We all share 1 dock. There are people from age 4 to 89 and there is always a big group on the dock, as there are 3 boatlifts, lots of kids and dogs and we are 180' from shore.
- I use it to access my shore station, which my fishing boat is in. I'm still able to get in and out but have less than 40" of water, also use it to sit on and dry off after swimming – hopefully without being run over by a speedboat.
- Our dock and dock platform is a family gathering place providing access to the water for all ages – babies to the elderly. To be good stewards of the lake we have left our shoreline natural since the good Lord through Mother Nature provided us with a natural rip rapped shoreline filled with native plants. We chose to leave the shoreline and not carve up a beach area into it. Instead we invested in a dock platform which substitutes for a beach.
- Access to lake, swim platform, mooring and accessing watercraft, fishing, reading and sunning, observing wildlife.

3) In your opinion, how large of a dock is needed for reasonable access to public waters? In what circumstances are large dock platforms reasonable for riparian access?

- I think a dock should be able to be 30-40 % of property owned. There would be less impact to the lake from a dock than there would be from developing the land down to the water
- The dock should only be large enough to safely harbor no more then 3 boats of watercraft and this can be done with one group of sections in a single line only as fat as needed for safe use.
- I think the DNR is trying to create a problem.
- The only issue is does it interfere with reasonable navigation – size is one of jealousy! The DNR has created a problem here to increase their influence and control over our lives! Your budget is too large if you have this amount of time to interfere with our lives! We need to relay this to our elected officials!
- Find something better to do then enforce a non-problem.
- 25 x 10 – when we gather at the lake we treat our dock as a deck – (there is no beach).
- Depends on water depth and shoreline. Flat open access - smaller. Steep bank - bigger platform.
- Able to get boat moored with motor up. A reasonable dock platform for 4-6 people. I agree it is getting out of control – but a compromise is always good. Does lake size on shoreline ownership contribute to decision?
- Larger dock platforms are not reasonable because they impair my use of public waters. Large dock platforms are only reasonable where a resort would use it for their clients to fish.
- Docks generally are built in 10 ft. lengths. The most secure platform is formed by fastening the 10 ft. sections lengthwise. Therefore in my opinion the regulation should be 10 ft. but limit the number of dock sections that can be fastened together. I would suggest that no more than three are needed to provide a comfortable platform. This would result in a platform no larger than 120 sq. ft.
- Dock = 4' by length needed to gain navigable water. Platform = agree with present regulation of 170 sq. ft. Large dock platform = should not be allowed – leave the shoreline for habitat.
- 4 foot wide docks should be adequate extending out to 4 foot depth of water. Size of platform should be approximately 160 sq. ft. or less (if adequate).
- Where did 170 come from? Take 3 small children and 2 adults and 170 not enough - safety issue.
- 1 – to reach access to dock a boat for in and out. 2 – any platform larger than 8' x 8'.

- In my opinion, there is no absolute size that can be set as too high or ok. It should be left to the dock's owner. They know best as to what works for them, plus they are the ones who look at it everyday.
- Dock to 4' depth is fine. Platform (in addition to dock) of 170 ok.
- These choices should be up to the private landowner – as long as what they do does not affect the property of their neighbors.
- 5' wide docks. Platform sizes should not exceed 500 sq. ft.
- We think current DNR regulations are sufficient.
- It depends – resorts, restaurants and multiple family (town homes) should be regulated separately from single family – a “one size fits all” approach isn't workable.
- Long enough to reach deep water. 8'x8' is plenty large to load boat.
- Grandfather in 10' sections, don't use 8' width maximums.
- Current rules okay (2007 general permit).
- At least 12 ft. Anything that obstructs the lake or river anytime that they are close to shore without restricting the public.
- Size should be up to the property owner but nothing larger than 20'x20'. If the dock does not restrict use of the water by other people then it should not be legislated.
- 8' wide is the law. Enforce it or change the law!
- It depends on how much shoreline is owned.
- I think a deck of 5 sections of standard dock (4x10) side by side and adjacent to a standard section (for total platform of 24'x10'=240 sq. ft.) is reasonable as it fits nicely beside a normal pontoon.
- We don't understand why anyone needs a dock 8' wide to reach a boatlift or platform – 4' – 5' is more than ample. We believe your current rules (pre-special permit) are adequate. The only situation in which a large dock platform might be reasonable for riparian access would be for disabled people. This could easily be accommodated through a special permit process.
- Should be large enough to accommodate any needs for boat docking, considering water depth, number of boats, etc.
- 6' wide and whatever length to get to the depth of 4' or 5'. There should be no restriction on the size of the platform as every cabin owner has different needs, such as high bank, weeds, riparian, wheelchair access or disabled access.
- This question is too subjective. Too much depends on water depth and number of people using the dock.
- Dock with 2 10' sections – 12x10' (120 sq. ft.). My reason: docks are manufactured in 10' sections.
- As large as you want!
- I believe a 1200-1500 square foot platform is becoming excessive. However, we have several generations of family on our dock often and enjoy having room for everybody. 170 square feet is not large enough.
- At least 170 sq. ft. – actually more.
- Every situation is different. One size does not fit all. 5 ft. is plenty for the walkway. (8' for restaurants, resorts, etc.). Platforms over 200 sq. ft. should be allowed with permit fee of (?) per sq. ft.
- Certainly not over 6 feet wide. Mine is 4' and that is plenty wide. I don't think a platform has any place on public water – no dock should be closer to a lot line than 10 ft. or extend over to an imaginary lot line in the lake than that distance.
- We have one dock with a platform large enough to accommodate our immediate family. It does not appear excessive or intrusive. People with multiple dock systems, marinas, etc., are intrusive. We see no shortage of plants, fish or wildlife around our dock. Our dock system does not

obscure anyone’s view of the lake including ours. We have circled by boat our whole lake and are not bothered by what we see.

- You need to separate the portion of the dock that enables the dock owner to get to or access navigable water from other portions of the dock. This “walkway” length will vary depending on the contour of the lake bottom. Personally, the current width of eight feet seems excessive. The other parts of the dock are the platform and the connections that create boat slips and access to boatlifts off the main “walkway”. Platforms should probably be limited to less than 250 square feet (in any configuration). The connectors should also have a limit, which may be derived from some formula relative to shoreline owned.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
4) Docks contribute to shoreline crowding in your area.	20	10	5	2	5
5) The privatization of public waters concerns you.	15	8	4	3	9
6) Docks that exceed 8’ wide should require a license and fee.	22	4	4	5	7
7) The amount of shoreline frontage covered by a dock should be limited.	12	7	2	10	11
8) Dock numbers should be limited to 1 per lot.	18	5	4	5	9
9) Your community has adequate enforcement of local dock regulations.	8	2	11	9	11

10) Other thoughts or comments regarding docks in Minnesota.

- Rather than regulating the size of the dock, I think the regulation, if there is one, should be a percentage of the total property size. That way only a certain percentage of all lakes would have docks on them. I also do not understand the difference between boatlifts, which are not regulated, and docks or platforms.
- When the selected rules and regulations are in place, please try to enforce the regulations.
- Our current “no regulations” system is working, the only issue should be if my dock interferes with reasonable navigation, or my neighbors use of the lake. The area “occupied” by our docks is not the area used by other non-riparian boaters.

- I hope what seems like a non-recreation, DNR can find something better to do than worry about docks.
- Taking away the platforms at the end of the docks would be a giant step backward at our lake. This is not an issue of concern for the DNR. Instead – focus on milfoil, snails, and water quality. The docks are not a problem.
- How many complaints have you had? How many people don't care one way or the other?
- Should take into consideration lakeshore footage and steepness of bank.
- Perhaps a dock platform or a shoreline platform - not both. Don't pass laws you are unable to enforce! Perhaps minimum standards local options – I can't imagine one standard will fit all situations. Folks pay a high premium in property values and taxes for lakeshore – there has to be a value given for utilization – in balance with the needs of others and the protection of our waters – 8' docks don't seem to meet that need any more than some of the monster docks being created. Decisions should not be as simple as a fine; which the wealthy will be happy to pay!
- I spent a day this summer boating on the White Fish Chain (Cross Lake, MN). The platforms and docks on this lake are totally out of hand. There are many docks blocking shoreline I would like to fish. The people that own these complex dock systems with 4 boatlifts, 3 jet skies, and a mansion on the hill should not be the people telling the DNR how to regulate our public waters. Many of those developing our shorelines have the attitude that it is “their lake” and they would just as soon have all public accesses closed to protect their perceived “private lake”. Who is going to protect individuals like me who love to fish our waters? I hope DNR Waters stands up to the shoreline owners who are pushing over development of our shorelines.
- Again almost every dock is built in 10 ft. lengths. This should be the minimum “width” for a platform. I agree with limitation to overall sq. ft. of a platform as long as the width is 10 ft. The length of the last dock section.
- Lake Edward – east side, we have berms of earth, rushes, small tree growth of about – approx 300' or so. Can we use a small bobcat to level off the berms to be able to put a floating dock or post or pipes installed in places? Due to low water levels and dry season, this could be a good year to do this.
- Spend your resources on milfoil and education on dock enforcement. It's a waste of time except in extreme cases.
- I believe the existing statute regarding dock size should be repealed. Lakeshore is becoming more congested because it is being developed. I understand everyone has a right to have a dock, and arbitrarily setting a size limit solves no problem. It does/will however, waste lots of time by enforcement personnel who have much more important duties to perform, namely warm safety violations, game and fish violations and other things dealing with public safety and environmental protection.
- DNR illustrations are unclear and contradictory. Should make clear the differences between dock and platform.
- I believe it is our personal choice to have the dock structure we do. I do not believe it interferes with neighbors, I know for a fact.
- Need to consider (1) single residence vs. multiple family (condo/town home) communities in determining req's for the size of platforms.
 - (2) Commercial vs. private ownership
 - (3) “Grandfathering existing platforms that exceed 10' x 16 ½', etc.
- There should be restrictions on swimming platforms and trampolines. Are there any? How about allowing two docks on a minimum of 150 ft. shoreline, with the docks being at least 40 ft. apart.
- Lets take back our shorelines - enforce the present rules.
- We have soldiers dying in war to protect our freedom. This is the U.S.A., not China.

- Square footage of platform at end of dock - typical section is 4' wide x 10' long + platform at end is 8' wide x 10' long (80 sq. ft.). Rule at less than 160 sq. ft. is most helpful.
- Docks should be sized by the size of the lot. If you have a 150 ft. verses 100 or less it should be taken into account. There is no way it should be a hard and fast rule or law. I have more fish living under my dock.
- Docks should not be an item of interest to the DNR. We need to occupy our time with important issues and not the social ? Should be no hard and fast rule.
- Large dock systems usually require the removal of aquatic vegetation resulting in a huge loss of habitat for all aquatic species, specifically fish. Exclusive use of public water is grossly unfair to all Minnesotans. Charge for use. Keep dock size reasonable to protect habitat.
- Very concerned about how county ordinance has impacted land use.
- We, the shoreline property owners, will probably have to come up with the resources (\$) to track, prevent and clean up the exotic species in our lake for the benefit of all including those who are part of the "public" who will not be supporting this effort. Not a problem! But let me have my deck (210' out to swimming and boating depth [42' in June, 2007]).
- We own 149' feet of lakeshore on a GD lake in Crow Wing County. We have heard the argument that "I pay taxes and I should be allowed to use the lake (docks and platforms) as I see fit". Even if we did not put in a dock each year, our riparian property ownership allows us to walk down to the lake and swim, wade, launch watercraft (esp. non-motorized). That is what our taxes pay for, not the ability to clutter public waters with our personal property depriving others of fully enjoying them. We riparian property owners already have greater access (to say nothing of scenic beauty) to the lake than non-riparian property owners have. Some people view their docks and platforms as a privately owned portion of the lake and they can get quite unpleasant when the public approaches them too closely (in their opinion).
- Dock sections not in use should not clutter shoreline, nor should any other "junk". 8 feet should be the limit, but I would like to be able to make walkways perpendicular to the main dock if it is necessary for boat access. In answering question #6, I am assuming that you would determine the extension beyond the main dock in the 8'.
- If there is a regulation or reduction on the size of a platform it should be large enough to cover most situations. I would think 500 sq. ft. would be reasonable.
- I've had a 12x10 ft. dock and platform for 35 years. That has been adequate for me and my family. Docks are manufactured in 10' sections – can't understand DNR thinking about an 8' sections??
- Would you rather have people clear-cut their shoreline if you limit how big of a platform? I don't feel platforms are hurting anything!
- Fish love the shade provided by my dock. I can see limiting the width of dock platforms to 5 or 6 sections. However, that platform should be allowed to be doubled up back towards the shore. I see fishermen around my platform, but never on the inside of the platform. I do not see any harm being caused by this platform being extended towards shore.
- I don't agree with the idea that "privatization" of the public waters is a problem. With all the public areas along highways, parks, etc., nobody with any sense would come to swim in front of my house. The history of dock regulation is a concern. Dock rules were loosely interpreted and now you are trying to catch up on your own mistake, and it is not a popularity contest you will easily win. When the rules were changed in 2002, no notifications were given to homeowners or dock manufacturers or installers. Some people want a swimming area dock away from a boat dock for safety. Invasive species are a bigger problem. Too much of your limited time and money is being put into docks. Move on!

- Resorts should also be included in dock limitations. Places like Grand View have 8 or 10 docks and have taken over the 20 ft. public access adjacent to it. These places with multiple docks need regulation as they really degrade the shoreline and environment.
- Our lake place is, in my view, a family investment. I believe that is how most people feel. They work hard for it! We own a landscaping business, including a garden center, nursery and greenhouses. We continually get requests to tear up shorelines to make beaches for our customers. We advise our clients to put a platform on their dock instead of tearing up the shoreline. (Permits for a beach of a certain size are legal.) Which is better – to tear up the shoreline destroying part of it to make a beach or to leave the shoreline in tact? I thought the big push was shoreline restoration! People need access to the water. They pay big taxes for their lake front property. A dock is not just to get to a boat. Who thinks of all these rules and regulations? It seems the time and effort could be spent in better ways – or – is this just more politics of envy.
- 1. Lifestyle – the usage of docks today is different than it was 25 or 30 years ago. More regulation should reflect the change. 2. Owners of riparian property have a significant financial interest and in many cases, they do the most to manage and protect the lakes. This needs to be acknowledged in the “equation”. 3. Regulation must be clear and understandable (current is not). Reasoning for regulation cannot be arbitrary. The reasoning must be communicated and the science understandable. 4. Regulations need to separate basic components of docks “walkway”, “platform”, and “connectors”. 5. The regulations should address what percentage or portion of the shoreline the docks may extend over. 6. Regulations should be easily enforced. Conservation officers cannot be expected to know how much shoreline a given dock is placed on (is it 60’ lot or 600’ lot?). Perhaps a license with some type of code is needed. 7. Permits and variances are okay but must be justified by need. There should also be a significant cost to a variance and those monies put toward enforcement.

We anticipate holding one or two meetings in St. Cloud this fall. The Meetings will be comprised of small-groups of stakeholders. The intent is to develop recommendations that address issues and concerns related to docks. Who would you recommend participate in these smaller group discussions, and why? How we contact them?

- All County Lake Associations.
- The officers of the Gull Area Lake Assn. (GALA)
- Lake Associations
- Property owners affected, lake association members, planning and zoning representations from local government entities
- Ask for volunteers who own lakeshore since they are the stakeholders.
- Don Porter
- David Depoint
- Ducks Unlimited, MN Waterfowl Association, Audubon Society, Wildlife Society, Fisheries Society
- A cross section of those affected and those who understand the environmental issues. Ask for volunteers -invite environmentally educated folks – do include enforcement personnel. I would love to volunteer if I am available.
- Susan Amacher, Doug Miller
- Lake homeowner associations (Pelican Lake Property Owners), lake conservation groups (Pelican Lake Conservation Club), lakeside resorts (Breezy Point Resort).
- Many lake rich counties have coalitions of lake/river associations. We believe they should be represented in this group. We also believe independent dock installers (not dock and marina

companies) should be included. They could provide a good perspective. Individual lake associations could also be included.

- Lake association officers and possibly interested people.
- Lake associations, dock manufacturers and installers.
- People who live on the lakes and use them all the time and support the areas we live in.
- Lakeshore property owners, dock installers and manufacturers, fishermen/sportsmen.
- Gene Holderness
- D.H. Docks in Nisswa.
- I attended the Nisswa meeting and the crowd was overwhelming – real estate agents, dock makers and installers and developers whose only interest is to make money off of the lake as the tournaments do. And any individual in that crowd who favored as much on more dock regulation was too intimidated to voice their opinion.
- Lake associations could send representatives. Dock business owners or landscape businesses such as ours who work with clients who own lake front property could send a representative.
- Whitefish Area Property Owners Assn.

What Size Dock Platform is “Right?”

In its list of questions related to dock platforms, the DNR reports that “dock platforms shall be the minimum size necessary to meet the water related needs of the permittee.”

Here are the water related needs of one permittee—our family.

Background on our family’s situation:

- We have had a home and dock on Gull Lake for 27 years.
- Our extended family now consists of 11 people—five grandchildren (ages 11 – 6) and six adults.
- All or most of the 11 people are at our lake home virtually every summer weekend.
- We are NOT fishermen. No one in our family has had a fishing license for 20 years.
- But we DO enjoy many other recreational activities on the lake—and most of these activities require a larger dock platform than if we were fishermen.

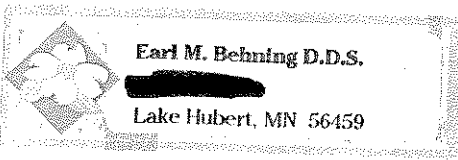
Here’s a list our grandchildren put together of activities we do on the dock—and remember that many of these activities involve 11 people at one time:

- The children fish (and adults set up the gear, bait the hooks, and take fish off the hooks.)
- The children swim and jump off the dock (and several of the adults typically act as “lifeguards.”)
- We dock our pontoon boat on the end of the dock and load/unload 11 people and their gear for rides on the lake.
- We dock and unload the boats of friends and guests.
- Parents sit on the dock and read books or enjoy the sun. (The afternoon sun is behind trees and a hill, so our shoreline gets no afternoon sun.)
- Children get set up with water skis and wakeboards on the dock and often then enter the water from the dock (again, with the help of adults.)
- Children get onto tubes and inflatables from the dock (with the help of adults) before being towed around on rides.
- And there’s surely more. This is what the grandchildren thought of top-of-mind.

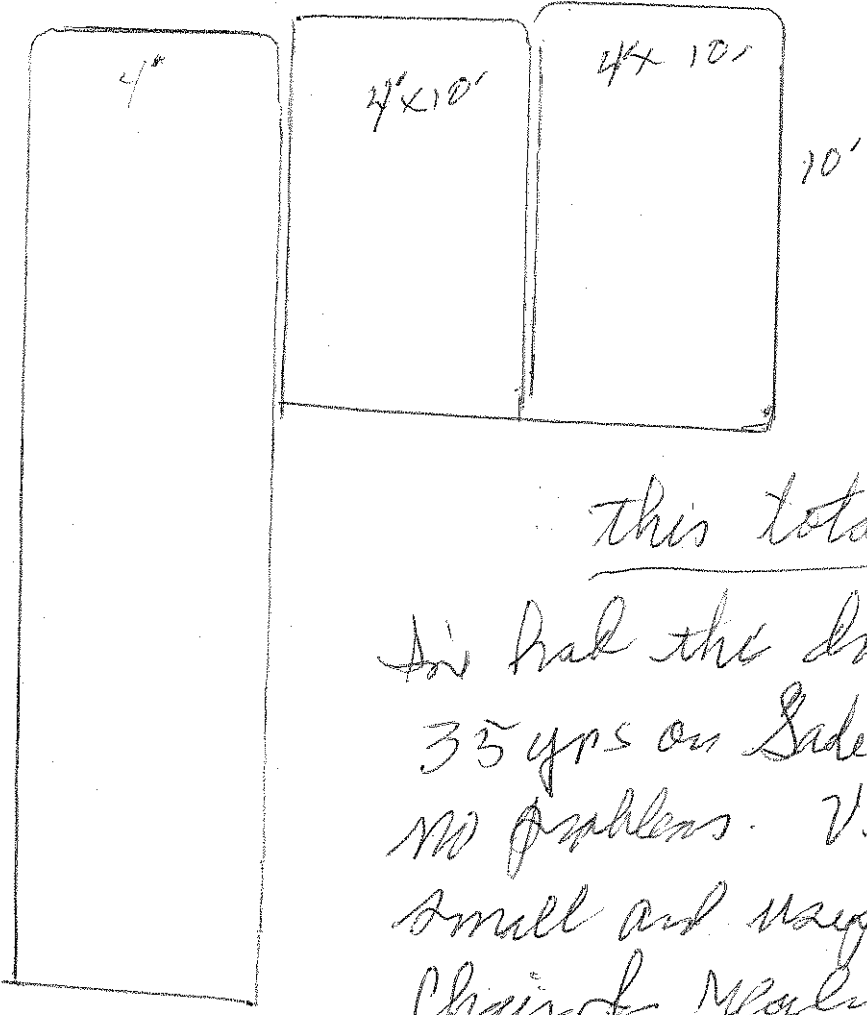
What’s the “minimum platform size necessary to meet these needs?” It’s obviously a lot more than an 8 ft. width. It’s more than 170 sq. ft.

Right now we need a lot of platform space. The dock platform is the “headquarters” of all these lake activities for us. It needs to be big.

*Jeff and Suzanne Pope
Gull Lake*



8-1-07



this totals 120 sq ft

has had the dock + platform for 35 yrs on Lake Hubert with no problems. Very adequate, yet small and useful for boating, chair of meals and sunning.

I repeat docks are manufactured in 10' sections. - Where did the 8' talk get started??

Frontage Based Proposal: Private Riparian Lot Dock Allowance

Lake Frontage (ft.)	Walkway (4.5' = navigable) Max. width = 5'	Platform*	Annual cost/sq. ft. of added platform over granted	Add-ons allowed**
60' or less	As necessary to 4.5'	100 sf	\$10/sf to 150 sf	4
61' -- 100'	As necessary to 4.5'	100 sf + 1 sf/ft. frontage	\$10/sf to 200 sf	4
101' -- 200'	As necessary to 4.5'	Same	\$10/sf to 250 sf	4
201 or greater	As necessary to 4.5'	Same to max of 300 sf	\$10/sf to 300 sf	4

* Includes connector walkways up to 4' wide (i.e., connections between main walkway and other walkways such as around one lift to another)

** Includes boat lifts, rail systems, etc. Also includes swim "rafts"

John Forney

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
Crosslake, MN 56442
[Redacted]

*basically based on
total sg. footage.
If less than 8 ft wide
factor remainer into
total sg. footage*

