

Comments on Dock-Related Issues in Minnesota

October 15, 2007

Tower, MN

15 people signed in; 7 comment forms received

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

- Ability to freely moor a boat on water, access to areas. Docks are a necessary evil, but should be kept in check and within reason. Docks detract from shoreline vista's and are increasingly becoming parking lots for large numbers of boats, lifts, etc.
- They detract if density too high. Need (obviously) for convenient boat parking, but not party platforms.
- Enjoy fishing, swimming and picnics. Docks allow easy access to lakes.
- Neither, they are an access to lake.
- Fishing, boating, swimming, view/sitting on end. I would have a hard time with any of my interests without a dock.
- Boating – fishing – swimming. Enjoying the lake.

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

- Used for docking a boat and access for swimming.
- Boat docking.
- Accessing the lake for fishing, swimming and boating.
- Fishing, boat.
- Yes, to view the stars, for boat.
- Fishing, boating, swimming, view/sitting on end.
- Sitting on, swimming, boat mooring.

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?

- Does not need to be any wider than 5'. A platform exceeding this width is unnecessary. Large dock platforms become nothing more than floating decks and become a shoreline nuisance and eyesore.
- 6 feet width ok with me.
- 8' wide is large enough. The 170' is plenty. It is better to have more than 1 dock allowed – but smaller.
- Minimum
- No larger than 6', 8' is too large. Need enforcement of rules.
- 8' wide is fine – long enough to park boats safely in low water conditions. 12x12 end or larger 12x? – landowners pay a lot of taxes on lake lots. Let them have access to use and enjoy the lake.
- 40' of usable boat space on each side. 12'x12' platform is average.

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

10) Other thoughts or comments regarding docks in Minnesota.

- The rules are too vague or not concise enough concerning lengths of docks. Developers of non-riparian shoreline, with access to a piece of shoreline either through easement or ownership by an association, can currently build a dock of exceeding great length >40 feet as long as width does not exceed limit and it does not dock boats in the manner of providing marina services. Also, there are no current rules governing buildings of docks/platforms to access an island, especially where the island and shoreline are separated by a short distance 30-40 feet and this waterway is not navigable by a boat, but yet is normally predominantly covered by water.
- Is the use of treated lumber permissible as dock material? Need standards, depending on conditions: lot size, water frontage owned, boat size, depth of water.
- I feel it's most important to have the rules apply to everyone – with no exceptions.
- Lakes in the Ely area are most 4'x30' avg. without L or T ends. The only dock crowding seems to be in resort areas where it is necessary to serve the need. Multiple docks on sites are rare and are not a problem – filling a need. Platform ends are not that common and for the most part comply. Some lots I see now have very poor land and shoreline. They need a platform on dock end to enjoy or use their site with any satisfaction. It is rare to have a long dock with the deeper shoreline in Ely area. I have approx. 1,500 docks of mine out in the Ely area. Please don't make Northern MN suffer for the problems of Southern MN (crowding).
- I am seeing more lots with very poor lake access making a large platform on the shoreline the only way the family can be near the lake for recreation.

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?

- Dock installers, manufacturers, DNR personnel and landowners.
- MN Waters