

BOAT RAMPS

Boat ramps are necessary for public use of Texas bays, lakes and rivers. However, they should be designed to minimize direct and secondary impacts to aquatic resources. General recommendations include:

- a. Sites should be located in the least environmentally sensitive areas along shorelines that do not support wetland vegetation or seagrasses and where adjacent waters have adequate navigational depths to avoid propwashing. Acceptable sites may include existing marinas, bridge approaches and causeways (with highway agency approval) where construction access channels already exist, and natural and previously created deep water habitats.
- b. Sites should be restricted to areas that do not require dredging to gain access to navigable waters. When located close to grassbeds and oyster reefs, adequate navigation channels must exist and should be clearly marked and maintained to avoid damage to these areas.
- c. Sites should contain adequate upland area for parking and for boat launching/removal. Catch basins for collecting runoff should be included as components of the site development plan.
- d. Adequate waste collection facilities should be required at public boat launching facilities.
- e. Clearing of brush, trees and riparian vegetation for construction of any component of the project should be avoided.

NOTE: Boat ramps that: 1) require 50 cubic yards or less of concrete, rock or other materials; 2) do not exceed 20 feet in width; and 3) are not proposed for placement in special aquatic sites, including wetlands, may qualify for Nationwide Permit 36. Contact the Galveston District for more information.