

RESIDENTIAL DOCKS AND PIERS

Docks and piers, whether built over or floating on the water, are generally acceptable methods of gaining access to deep water rather than dredging. General considerations include:

- a. Docks and piers should be aligned to avoid existing oyster reefs, marsh grasses and seagrass beds when possible. In addition, pier walkways should generally be no wider than four feet.
- b. Terminal structures should be located in sufficiently deep waters to avoid propwashing of bay bottoms.
- c. In areas where either submergent or emergent vegetation cannot be avoided, terminal structures should be limited to 6 feet in width and 20 feet in length to minimize shading impacts to the vegetation. If vegetation is in the project area, additional appurtenances on terminal structures or walkways are not recommended.
- d. In non-vegetated areas shallower than 4½ feet at mean high water (MHW), terminal structures should be limited to a maximum width of 8 feet and length of 20 feet. In non-vegetated waters deeper than -4½ MHW, terminal structures should be limited to a maximum width of 10 feet and length of 30 feet.
- e. No boathouses should be constructed in waters less than -4½ MHW. Boathouses should be designed without walls to allow sunlight to penetrate the water (this may be required in areas with seagrasses). Boathouses should be limited to a maximum width of 16 feet. Generally, only one boathouse per pier is recommended for single family residences. Community or group boathouses are preferred.
- f. Deck board spacing should be at least one inch to allow sunlight penetration to the water.
- g. If oyster reefs, seagrasses or emergent marshes occur along the shoreline at the project site, parallel structures should not be built along the shoreline. These structures should be built in deeper offshore waters to avoid these resources. A walkway no wider than 4 feet should be utilized to access the deeper water structure.
- h. Decks parallel to the shoreline are generally not recommended.
- i. Piers should not be constructed within 50 feet of an existing oyster reef. Oyster reefs should be temporarily marked to help avoid impacts during construction.
- j. When possible, pilings should be jettied in by hand and the pier should be built out from land using the pier itself as a work platform or using small boats with small outboard motors while exercising extreme care to assure that no propwashing occurs.
- k. Support structures in contact with the water should be constructed of non-toxic material.
NOTE: Piers under 1,000 square feet surface area that abide by the previous guidelines may qualify for General Permit 14392. Structures in artificial canals

may qualify for Nationwide Permit 2. Contact the Galveston District for more information.

Pier construction activities on Lake Livingston may qualify under General Permit 11142.