



# TOWN OF CHATHAM

## HARBORMASTER DEPARTMENT

OLD MILL BOATYARD  
613 STAGE HARBOR ROAD



STUART F. X. SMITH  
HARBORMASTER

### Regulations for Town Docks, Piers, Wharfs, Floats and Bulkheads

The following regulations for use of Town Docks, Piers, Wharfs, Floats and Bulkheads, associated with Town Landings and other Town-owned property located in the tidewaters of the Commonwealth have been adopted by the Harbormaster under the authority granted by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 91, Section 10C, and pursuant to Chapter 265, Sections 265-1(b), and 265-4 of the Town of Chatham Waterways Bylaws.

- Maximum size (overall length) of recreational boats, commercial fishing vessels, or other private or commercial vessels which may temporarily tie up, or be secured at a Town dock or float for the purposes of loading and unloading fishing catch, cargo, or persons are listed below. These maximum limitations assume infrequent usage (4 tie-ups per day or less), and normal weather and tidal current conditions. Vessels in excess of the size limitation must receive approval of the Harbormaster or Assistant Harbormaster prior to securing to a Town dock or float.
  - Chatham Municipal Fish Pier Float: **50 feet**
  - Ryders Cove Float: 36 feet
  - Old Mill Boat Yard: 44 feet
  - Barn Hill Landing Float: 31 feet
  - Little Mill Pond Float: 26 feet
  
- Listed below are the maximum sizes (overall length) for vessels which may temporarily tie up or be secured to a Town dock or float for purpose of loading and/or unloading passengers in conjunction with a livery or harbor touring service, or are otherwise carrying passengers for hire on a more frequent, and regular and scheduled basis (4 tie-ups per day or more). These maximum vessel size limitations assume normal weather and tidal current conditions. Vessels in excess of these limitations may be allowed usage of the Town facility under conditions set forth by the Harbormaster or Assistant Harbormaster.

- Chatham Municipal Fish Pier Float: **50 feet**
  - Ryder's Cove Float: 31 feet
  - Old Mill Boat Yard: 35 feet
  - Barn Hill Landing Float: 28 feet
  - Little Mill Pond Float: 22 feet (launch service only)
- The maximum number of passengers which a commercial passenger vessel can at one time carry, and load or unload at any Town dock or float is 25. Vessels needing to load or unload passengers in excess of 25 must receive permission of the Harbormaster, or Assistant Harbormaster.
  - No vessel may tie up at a Town float for greater than fifteen (15) minutes without the expressed permission of the harbormaster, or Assistant Harbormaster. Red Zones and Yellow Zones which may be so designated at a Town float are defined as follows:
    - Red Zone: Tie up limit 15 minutes
    - Yellow Zone: Load and unload are only, no unattended vessel.
  - In the interest of public safety, listed below are the maximum number of persons who may remain on a Town float at the same time:
    - Chatham Municipal Fish Pier: **15**
    - Ryders Cover: 15
    - Old Mill Boat Yard: 15
    - Barn Hill Landing: 8
    - Little Mill Pond: 8
  - No dinghy's may be secured to town docks or floats without the permission of the Harbormaster, or Assistant Harbormaster.
  - No vessel may tie to, or be secured in any way to a Town-owned vessel while it is berthed.
  - No vessel may power on, or off, a trailer while launching or loading the vessel from a Town ramp, as doing so undermines the ramp.
  - No personal items, cargo, fishing catch, or other private gear or boat equipment shall be left on or at a Town dock, float or bulkhead any longer than is reasonably necessary to transfer said items to and from the boat or vehicle.

- The discharge, disposal, or dumping of oil, dead fish, fish parts, rubbish, refuse, or debris onto the dock, float, bulkhead or in the tidewaters or shores of the Town of Chatham is strictly forbidden. Violators will be prosecuted in accordance with all applicable Town, State and Federal laws.
- There shall be no scaling, or cleaning of fish or shellfish at any Town dock, float or bulkhead.
- No vessel may be secured to a Town dock, float or bulkhead in a manner which interferes with the use of, or launching of a vessel at a Town ramp.
- Vessels requiring the use of Town operated marine sanitation pump-out facilities must contact the Harbormaster's Office to arrange a mutually convenient time to receive the pump-out service.
- The Town shall not be held responsible for any loss or damage to boats or vessels at the Town dock, float or bulkhead. Vessel owners will be held responsible for damage caused by them or their vessels to structures, pilings, and related facilities owned by the Town and shall indemnify and hold harmless the Town for any such damage or injury to any other person or property.
- The fueling of vessels at a Town facility will comply with all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.
- Commercial activities utilizing a Town dock, pier, wharf, float or bulkhead to launch or rent their vessels, or to pick up and/or discharge passengers for hire may require a Town Landing Special Use permit approved by the Board of Selectmen. The Special Use permit may contain conditions or limitations which are more stringent than those listed above.

The above regulations notwithstanding, in the interests of public safety the Harbormaster and Assistant Harbormaster are duly empowered to address situations as they arise at all Town docks, floats and bulkheads.

Violations:

Pursuant to Chatham By-laws Chapter 1, Section 1-7, individuals in violation of any portion of these regulations may be subject to a non-criminal \$50.00 fine for a first offense, \$100.00 for a second offense, and \$200.00 for a third offense and subsequent offenses.