



# Town of Chatham

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*Amy Bennett, asst.*  
July 10, 2021

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## REGULATIONS FOR

### TOWN LANDINGS, LANDING PLACES, AND OTHER TOWN-OWNED WATER DEPENDENT PROPERTIES

The following regulations for Town Landings, Landing Places, and all other Town-owned water dependent properties have been adopted by the Select Board under the authority granted by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 88, Section 19. These rules and regulations are not applicable to the Chatham Municipal Fish Pier.

“Town Landing”, “Landing Place”, and Town-owned Water Dependent Properties are used interchangeably and refer to Town-owned or leased property and/or facilities which provide public use and access to Commonwealth Tidelands and surrounding waters. Commercial fishing as used in these regulations shall generally refer to both finfish and shellfish.

- 1) Town Landings are to be used for the customary marine purposes of picking up and/or discharging passengers and cargo associated with, but not limited to, recreational boating or commercial fishing, and as a means of public access to Commonwealth Tidelands.
- 2) Except for the transfer of commercial fishing catch, no one may transact business or engage in a commercial venture at Town Landings except as may be specifically allowed in these regulations. Expressly forbidden are the placement of advertisements or advertising the location of a business as being at a Town Landing, the offering of goods or services, and the exchange of goods or money in a business transaction, with the exception of a commercial fishing catch, at a Town Landing.
- 3) Commercial buyers of finfish and shellfish must obtain an Independent Buyer’s Packer Permit through the Office of the Harbormaster to purchase commercial fishing catch at any Town Landing. All buyers must have the appropriate wholesale seafood or shellfish dealer permit from the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and must abide by the following requirements.
  - a) Commercial fishing catch at a Town Landing may be purchased only from Chatham residents, Chatham property taxpayers, Chatham mooring permit holders, or boaters with a valid Chatham Waterways User Permit (see Section 6 below).
  - b) Commercial buyers of finfish are limited to the purchase of striped bass, bluefish, and

tuna only. All other commercial finfish species shall only be transferred from a single individual's boat to their personal vehicle for sale offsite.

- c) Holders of a valid Independent Buyers Packer Permit agree to adhere to other restrictions including, but not limited to, no overnight storage of buyers' vehicles on landing premises and daily clean up and wash down of area around buying activity.
  - d) Failure to abide by these and other state laws or town bylaws or regulations governing the use and conduct at a Town Landing may result in fines, suspension or revocation of the Buyer's Permit.
- 4) Commercial enterprises such as charter fishing, boats for charter, boat ferry or livery services, tour boats, or other activities which require the use of Town Landings and the associated Town-owned, or leased, ramps, docks and floats to launch or rent their vessels, or to pick up and/or discharge passengers for hire, must first obtain the appropriate Town Landing Special Use permit approved by the Select Board, or their designated agent. To ensure public safety and avoid excessive congestion and overuse of Town Landings, these permits will be limited in number and subject to specific conditions, and some or all commercial activities may be excluded at particular Town Landings. When the maximum number of permits has been reached, there shall be an established waiting list in accordance with the Town of Chatham Waterways Regulations section 1026 (23). Persons wishing to be placed on the waiting list shall submit a "Special Use Permit Waiting List Application" and submit it to the Office of the Harbormaster.
- 5) The use of Town Landings by commercial concessions for renting, or launching either individually or in a group, rental kayaks, canoes, sailboards, or similar watercraft for rent including, but not limited to, personal watercraft is prohibited.
- 6) All vessels utilizing any town public launching ramp must first obtain a Waterways User Permit from the Office of the Harbormaster or have a valid Chatham mooring permit. Refer to Section 1005 of the Chatham Waterways Regulations for additional information, conditions, and exceptions.
- 7) Dogs, cats, horses and other livestock or pets at Town Landings must be restrained in compliance with existing Town leash laws, where applicable. Animal waste must immediately be removed and properly disposed of by the owner or custodian of the animal.
- 8) All marked roadways, lanes, boat ramps, emergency vehicle lanes, and other primary access ways to the water shall be kept open and free of parked vehicles, trailers and vessels at all times. Any blocking vehicle, trailer, or vessel may be towed at the owner's expense, or subject to fine, or both.
- 9) No parking spaces at a Town Landing shall be reserved or assigned except as they may be so marked by the Town. All parking spaces shall be available on a first come/first served basis and are for the sole use of motor vehicles parking in conjunction with the intended use of the facility. Commercial activities requiring a Special Use permit must provide offsite parking for their clientele.

10) Restrictions for parking and ramp use at various Town Landings are as follows and identified on posted signage. Note that use of any Chatham public boat ramp requires a Waterways User Permit (WUP) as described in Section 6 of these regulations.

a) Ryder's Cove

Parking- Town Resident/taxpayer only at landing. Two (2) trailer spaces are available for non-residents year-round and four (4) additional trailer spaces are available for non-residents between 11/1 and 5/30. Non-resident vehicle/trailer combinations displaying handicapped plates or placards may park in any available designated trailer space.

Ramp Use- Open to all, requires a WUP.

b) Barn Hill

Parking- Town resident/taxpayer only at landing (6/1 to 9/15).

Ramp Use- Open to all, requires a WUP.

c) Old Mill Boatyard (Stage Harbor at Harbormaster Office)

Parking- Town resident/taxpayer only.

Ramp Use- Resident/taxpayer and mooring permit holders only (6/1 to 9/15), requires a WUP.

d) Crow's Pond

Parking- Town resident/taxpayer only at landing.

Ramp Use- Resident/taxpayer and mooring permit holders only (6/1 to 9/15), requires a WUP.

e) Bridge Street Landing

Parking- No restrictions

Ramp Use- Open to all, requires a WUP (ramp is tide limited).

f) Battlefield Landing

Parking- Town resident/taxpayer and mooring permit holder only at landing (6/1 to 9/15).

g) Clafin Landing/Road

Parking- Town resident/taxpayer and mooring permit holder only (6/1 to 9/15).

h) Cow Yard Landing/Road

Parking- Town resident/taxpayer and mooring or shellfish permit holder only (6/1 to 9/15).

11) At the discretion of the Town of Chatham, parking along the bulkhead at Ryder's Cove Landing may periodically be partially or fully limited for use by licensed commercial finfish and shellfish buyers holding a valid Independent Buyer's Packer Permit for the purchase of fishing catch.

12) Boat storage, maintenance, and repairs are prohibited on the parking areas of any Town Landing without the permission of the Harbormaster or Assistant Harbormaster.

13) All dinghies, prams, kayaks, sailboats and other forms of watercraft used as transportation on the water and stored along the shores of town-owned property shall either display a decal

issued by the Harbormaster, or by other means, that clearly indicates ownership and contact information of the watercraft. All aforementioned watercraft shall not be permitted to be stored on town-owned property after November 30 or before April 15 of each year unless in active use by the owner.

- 14) No vehicles are permitted to either travel off, or remain off, the established ways or parking areas of Town Landings, with the exception of emergency vehicles and/or vehicles used for the active launching or retrieval of vessels.
- 15) No bus or other passenger conveyance vehicle with a seating capacity greater than 25 may park, load or unload passengers within the established ways or parking areas as may be located at a Town Landing. This provision shall not apply to buses necessary to transport students.
- 16) No person shall dump any rubbish, trash, refuse, fish waste or litter at any Town Landing other than by depositing same in a receptacle as may be provided by the Town for that purpose. Home generated rubbish and refuse shall not be deposited in any Town Landing receptacle. Waste oil generated as a result of marine maintenance must be removed from the premises and properly disposed of at an appropriate offsite location.
- 17) The removal of sand, bushes or other growth at a Town Landing is prohibited except by the expressed permission of the Select Board and the Conservation Commission.
- 18) The use of all Town Landings is forbidden during the hours from 10:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m., however, Town Landings will be open at all times to commercial or sports fishermen, and other mariners for the parking of their vehicles in connection with their marine operations.

#### Penalties

A violation of these regulations may result in ejection from the premises and/or a non-criminal fine of \$20 for each violation. Parking violations are subject to a non-criminal fine of \$75 and/or possible towing at the owner's expense.

Certain of these regulations may be suspended from time to time by vote of the Select Board.

The invalidity of any section or provision of these regulations shall not invalidate any other section or provision thereof.

***Adopted by the Chatham Select Board on July 9, 2024.***