

**SECTION .1300 – GENERAL PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT BOAT RAMPS ALONG ESTUARINE AND  
PUBLIC TRUST SHORELINES AND INTO ESTUARINE AND PUBLIC TRUST WATERS**

**15A NCAC 07H .1301 PURPOSE**

A person requesting the construction of boat ramps along estuarine and public trust shorelines and into Estuarine and Public Trust Waters AECs shall apply for a General Permit according to the rules in this Section. This permit shall not apply to oceanfront shorelines or to waters and shorelines adjacent to the Ocean Hazard AEC with the exception of those shorelines that feature characteristics of the Estuarine Shoreline AEC. Such features include the presence of wetland vegetation, lower wave energy, and lower erosion rates than the adjacent Ocean Erodible Area.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113A-107(a); 113A-107(b); 113A-113(b); 113A-118.1; 113A-124;  
Eff. March 1, 1984;  
Amended Eff. April 1, 2003; August 1, 2000;  
Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022.*

**15A NCAC 07H .1302 APPROVAL PROCEDURES**

(a) An applicant for a General Permit under this Subchapter shall contact the Division of Coastal Management at the Regional Office indicated on the map located at <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1a5881ec85ca40679988982e02665b51> and request approval for development as defined in G.S. 113A-130(5).

(b) The applicant shall provide:

- (1) the site location, dimensions of the project area, and his or her name and address; and
- (2) confirmation that a written statement has been obtained, signed by the adjacent riparian property owners, indicating that they have no objections to the proposed work; or
- (3) confirmation that the adjacent riparian property owners have been notified by certified mail of the proposed work. The notice shall instruct adjacent property owners to provide any comments on the proposed development in writing to the Division of Coastal Management within ten days of receipt of the notice and indicate that no response by the adjacent property owners shall be interpreted as the adjacent property owners having no objection. Division staff shall review all comments and determine, based on their relevance to the potential impacts of the proposed project, if the proposed project can be approved by a General Permit. If Division staff finds that the comments are worthy of more in-depth review, the Division shall notify the applicant that he or she must submit an application for a major development permit.

(c) No work shall begin until an on-site meeting is held with the applicant and a Division of Coastal Management representative to review the proposed development. A permit to proceed with the proposed development shall be issued if the Division representative finds that the application meets all the requirements of this Subchapter. Construction permitted under this Section shall be completed within 120 days of permit issuance or such permit shall expire. If the applicant seeks a new permit under this Section, the Division of Coastal Management shall re-examine the proposed development to determine if the General Permit may be reissued.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113A-107(a); 113A-107(b); 113A-113(b); 113A-118.1; 113A-124;  
Eff. March 1, 1984;  
Amended Eff. August 1, 2007; September 1, 2006; January 1, 1990;  
Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022.*

**15A NCAC 07H .1303 PERMIT FEE**

The applicant shall pay a permit fee of four hundred (\$400.00) by check or money order payable to the Department of Environmental Quality.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113A-107; 113A-113(b); 113A-118.1; 113A-119; 113A-119.1; 113A-124;  
Eff. March 1, 1984;  
Amended Eff. September 1, 2006; August 1, 2000; March 1, 1991;  
Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022;  
Amended Eff. January 1, 2024.*

**15A NCAC 07H .1304 GENERAL CONDITIONS**

(a) Structures authorized by this permit shall be non-commercial boat ramps constructed of acceptable material and conforming to the standards herein.

(b) Permittees shall allow authorized representatives of the Department of Environmental Quality to make inspections at any time in order to ensure that the activity being performed under authority of the General Permit set forth in this Section is in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed herein.

(c) There shall be no interference with navigation or use of the waters by the public through the existence of boat ramps.

(d) The permit set forth in this Section shall not be applicable to proposed construction where the Department has determined based on an initial review of the application that notice and review pursuant to G.S. 113A-119 is required because there are unresolved questions concerning the proposed activity's impact on Areas of Environmental Concern.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113A-107(a); 113A-107(b); 113A-113(b); 113A-118.1; 113A-124;*  
*Eff. March 1, 1984;*  
*Amended Eff. May 1, 1990;*  
*RRC Objection due to ambiguity Eff. May 19, 1994;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 1998; July 1, 1994;*  
*Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022.*

#### **15A NCAC 07H .1305 SPECIFIC CONDITIONS**

(a) Boat ramps shall be no wider than 15 feet and shall not extend more than 20 feet waterward of the normal high water level or normal water level.

(b) Excavation and ground disturbing activities above and below the normal high water level or normal water level will be limited to that necessary to establish ramp slope and provide a ramp no greater in size than specified by this general permit.

(c) Placement of fill materials below normal high water level, or normal water level, will be limited to the ramp structure and any associated riprap groins. Boat ramps may be constructed of concrete, wood, steel, clean riprap, marl, or any other suitable equivalent materials approved by the Division of Coastal Management. No coastal wetland vegetation shall be excavated or filled at any time during construction.

(d) The permit set forth in this Section allows for up to a six-foot wide launch access dock, fixed or floating, immediately adjacent to a new or existing boat ramp. The length shall be limited to the length of the permitted boat ramp with a maximum length of 20 feet waterward of the normal high water level or normal water level. No permanent slips are authorized by this permit.

(e) Groins shall be allowed as a structural component on one or both sides of a new or existing boat ramp to reduce scouring. The groins shall be limited to the length of the permitted boat ramp with a maximum length of 20 feet waterward of the normal high water level or normal water level.

(f) The height of sheetpile groins shall not exceed one foot above normal high water level or normal water level and the height of riprap groins shall not exceed two feet above normal high water level or normal water level.

(g) Riprap groins shall not exceed a base width of five feet.

(h) Material used for groin construction shall be free from loose dirt or any other pollutant. Riprap material must be of sufficient size to prevent its movement from the approved alignment by wave action or currents.

(i) "L" and "T" sections shall not be allowed at the end of groins.

(j) Groins shall be constructed of granite, marl, concrete without exposed rebar, timber, vinyl sheet pile, steel sheet pile, or other suitable equivalent materials approved by the Division of Coastal Management.

(k) Boat ramps and their associated structures authorized under this permit shall not interfere with the access to any riparian property and shall have a minimum setback of 15 feet between any part of the boat ramp or associated structures and the adjacent property owners' areas of riparian access. The minimum setbacks provided in the rule may be waived by the written agreement of the adjacent riparian owners, or when two adjoining riparian owners are co-applicants. Should the adjacent property be sold before construction of the boat ramp or associated structures commences, the applicant shall obtain a written agreement with the new owner waiving the minimum setback and submit it to the Division of Coastal Management prior to initiating any development of the boat ramp or associated structures authorized under this permit.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 113A-107(a); 113A-107(b); 113A-113(b); 113A-118.1; 113A-124;*  
*Eff. March 1, 1984;*  
*Amended Eff. August 1, 2014;*  
*Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022.*