TO: **Maria Lentine-Eggett,** Project Manager
Dept. of Environmental Protection,
Bureau of Land & Water Quality - Bangor

FROM: Department of Marine Resources (DMR)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PROJECT REVIEW,

PROJECT:

DEP Application #:	L-25839-4P-A-N
Applicant:	Richard & Margery Read
Location:	Castine (Hatch Cove)
Type of Project:	Pier, Ramps & Floats

The above proposed project has been carefully reviewed and considered by DMR personnel.

DMR understands that the applicant is proposing to construct a 4 ft. x 100 ft. pier with a 3 ft. x 30 ft. aluminum ramp to an existing line of six 4 ft. x 16 ft. floats that would be repositioned so that they would extend 100 ft. further out. The pier would be supported by 4 pairs of 6 inch "H" piles, have a N - S orientation with an average deck height of approximately 6 ft. over an area of upper intertidal marsh vegetation and be accessed by an existing set of supratidal stairs and a 3 ft. x 16 ft. ramp from the bottom of the stairs. An existing 3½ ft. x 5 ft. post supported platform over salt marsh between the existing 3 ft. x 16 ft. access ramp and a second ramp to the existing line of floats would be eliminated. The line of floats would rest on intertidal mudflat at low tide except for the most seaward one which would provide ~ 1 ft. of water at Mean Low Water according to the permit application.

The proposed project site is located at the northerly shore of Hatch Cove in an area that is completely drained at low tide. The upland is a 14½ acre lot with ~ 477 ft. of shoreline developed with a house. The supratidal is a vegetated bank ~ 10 ft. high. The intertidal is ~ 200 ft. wide. The upper intertidal is fringing salt marsh for a distance of ~ 43 ft. Beyond this the intertidal is mudflat. The permit application states that eelgrass is "occasional". The existing line of six 4 ft. x 16 ft. floats rests on the mudflat at low tide. There is a pier on the abutting property to the east. The area is currently classified as Prohibited to the harvesting of shellfish.

This project as proposed should not cause any significant adverse impacts to traditional fishing, recreation, navigation, or riparian access. Elimination of the existing post supported access platform over the area of salt marsh as proposed would be beneficial. Use of float stops to keep the floats elevated off the mudflat at low tide would also be beneficial in preventing compaction of fine sediments and benthic infauna and loss of sediments through hydraulic pumping from the floats rising and falling in the water column.

Brian M. Swan
DMR Environmental Coordinator
Date: December 26, 2012