

TO: **Tom Gilbert**, Project Manager
Dept. of Environmental Protection,
Bureau of Land & Water Quality

FROM: Department of Marine Resources (DMR)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PROJECT REVIEW,

PROJECT: DEP Application #: L-25261-4P-A-N
Applicant: Town of Rockport
Location: Rockport Harbor (Goose River)
Type of Project: Seasonal Floats & Securing Piles

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

DMR understands that the applicant is proposing to install a line of five 8 ft. x 20 ft. seasonal floats over a subtidal portion of the Goose River along a granite block bulkhead. These would be secured by eleven 12 inch diameter piles, drilled (15 inch diameter x 6 ft. deep holes) and grouted into underlying ledge, and accessed by 16½ ft. long gangway from the seaward end of the existing boat ramp floats. Prior to construction/installation six large boulders (2 ft. x 2 ft. to 4 ft. x 5 ft. in size) would be removed from the project area. Plans indicate that the distance between the face of these floats and floats along the opposite side of the river would be between 47 ft. and 56 ft. Construction equipment would operate from the upland or from a barge. Construction duration is estimated at one month.

Upland of this project area is developed as a public park with lawn, parking and picnic areas. A paved boat ramp is just upstream (NW) of the project. The supratidal is the upper portion of a granite block bulkhead with fender piles which extends vertically to the subtidal which is mixed coarse/fine substrate with scattered boulders. The opposite shore of the Goose River (~ 70 ft. wide here) is a similar granite block bulkhead. Floats used by commercial fishermen are situated along this opposite side of the river. There is an active dipnet elver fishery in this portion of the river and a fykenet elver fishery just upstream.

This project as proposed should not cause significant adverse impacts to marine resources, traditional fishing, recreation, navigation, or riparian access. There may be some disruption to elver fishing activity during the spring and/or commercial fishing boat access to floats on the opposite side of the river and/or access to and from the boat ramp upstream if a large barge is to operate from the river for any length of time. Operation of construction equipment from the upland or during the winter months could minimize these potential impacts.

Brian M. Swan
DMR Environmental Coordinator
Date: April 27, 2011