

TO: **Beth Callahan**, 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-25819-4P-A-N
Applicant: William & Cynthia Anderson
Location: So. Thomaston (False Whitehead Harbor, Spruce Head)
Type of Project: Pier, Ramp & Float

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

DMR understands that the applicant is proposing to construct a 6 ft. x 85 ft. pier to extend from above The Highest Annual Tide (HAT) to Mean Low Water (MLW). This would be supported by eight 12 inch diameter piles driven or pinned to ledge. The pier would have a N - S orientation with an average deck height of ~ 12 ft. above the intertidal substrate. A 3 ft. x 50 ft. aluminum ramp would connect to a 12 ft. x 24 ft. float to be oriented parallel to the pier and ramp to provide ~ 5 ft. of water at MLW according to the permit application. The float would be secured by chain to the pier and by chain to granite block moorings seaward.

The proposed project site is located along the southerly shore of False Whitehead Harbor. The upland is a 5.87 acre lot with 350 ft. of shoreline developed with a large house. The supratidal is ledge. The intertidal, ~ 65 ft. wide, is ledge/boulder and mixed coarse/fines with abundant rockweed. Eelgrass is described as being "absent". There are other commercial and recreational piers and a mooring field within the harbor. An existing marine "railway" used to launch and retrieve kayaks is located 6 ft. to the west of the proposed pier location.¹

While the permit application describes eelgrass as being "absent" in the proposed project area, DMR has identified eelgrass as being within most of the harbor through aerial photography. The applicant's agent should describe the methodology used to determine the absence of eelgrass in the project area for our review.

There is the potential for adverse impacts to eelgrass and other marine vegetation from shading by the proposed float, and by the mooring blocks, chain scour and boat traffic from this proposal. The project as proposed should not cause any significant adverse impacts to traditional fishing, recreation, navigation, or riparian access.

Brian M. Swan
DMR Environmental Coordinator
Date: December 6, 2012

¹ This was permitted under a NRPA Permit-by-Rule, Section 14 to the previous owners (Duncan & Victoria Stevens) on December 4, 2001.