

**General Permit for Minor Coastal Structures (DEEP-OLISP-GP-2015-01)  
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A 4/40 DOCK OR ACCESS  
STAIRS authorized in Section 3(a)(1)**



**THIS GENERAL PERMIT  
REQUIRES THE  
SUBMITTAL OF AN  
APPLICATION FOR  
REGISTRATION.**

**NO WORK CAN BE  
INITIATED UNTIL YOU  
RECEIVE AN APPROVAL  
OF REGISTRATION IN  
WRITING FROM DEEP**

The **Construction and Maintenance of a 4/40 Dock or Access Stairs** activity authorized under Section 3(a)(1) of the General Permit for Minor Coastal Structures (DEEP-OLISP-GP-2015-01) has very specific eligibility criteria. As defined in the general permit:

**4/40 DOCK** means a structure comprised of a fixed pier, ramp and float, or any part or combination thereof, which is accessory to a residential property, does not extend further waterward than the distance to a depth of -4 feet mean low water or a distance of 40 feet from mean high water, whichever is shortest, and which is used to achieve riparian or littoral access to tidal, coastal or navigable water for noncommercial boating purposes.

**ACCESS STAIRS** means an open-design structure or ladder affixed in a parallel fashion to an existing authorized wall, bulkhead or revetment or a stairway constructed landward into an existing wall or revetment, which is used solely for pedestrian access from the upland to the shoreline, and which is accessory to a residential property.

### **Eligibility Criteria for both 4/40 Docks and access stairs:**

- 1) The project site must be a residential property;
- 2) There can be no existing dock or access stairs at the site;
- 3) The dock or access stairs cannot be constructed prior to the written approval of the registration;
- 4) The dock or access stairs shall be sufficiently set back from abutting property lines to avoid conflicts with adjacent property owners;
- 5) There can be no submerged aquatic vegetation in the footprint of the dock or access stairs;
- 6) There can be no right-of-way or easement at the location of the dock or access stairs;
- 7) The dock or access stairs cannot interfere with public access along the shoreline at or below the mean high water mark; and
- 8) The dock or access stairs cannot include non- riparian/littoral access features, such as a gazebo, deck, viewing platform, patio or walkway;
- 9) The dock or access stairs cannot interfere with public access along the shoreline at or below the mean high water mark.

### **Additional Eligibility Criteria for 4/40 Docks:**

- 1) The total surface area of all dock components cannot exceed 220 square feet as calculated waterward of the mean high water line;
- 2) The dock cannot extend further waterward than the distance to a depth of - 4.0 feet mean low water or a distance of 40 feet from mean high water, whichever is shortest (tie-off pilings may extend beyond such distance);
- 3) Fixed pier portion shall be no wider than four (4) feet;
- 4) The waterwardmost floating component of such 4/40 dock shall be no greater than 100 square feet in surface area and must be securely anchored in place;
- 5) Up to a 30 square foot ramp landing float can be used in addition to such 100 square foot float;
- 6) No floating components are allowed over tidal wetlands; the lowest horizontal member of the fixed pier must be at least 5 feet off the tidal wetland surface; **piles are located outside of tidal wetlands and any fixed pier located over tidal wetlands shall be less than 100 sq. ft;**
- 7) Boat-lifts, hoists and davits are allowed but cannot extend beyond 40 feet;
- 8) The dock or any vessel moored or docked thereto, shall not interfere with access to any other riparian or littoral property;
- 9) **If in the Connecticut River**, the dock cannot interfere with existing drift net shad fisheries; and

10) A **Non-conforming Dock** is allowed if water depths are equal or greater than -4.0 feet mean low water at a seawall or bulkhead at the site. Such Non-conforming Dock shall consist of a 40 square foot platform, a ramp situated parallel with the wall, and a floating dock of no greater than 100 square feet.

**Additional Eligibility Criteria for Access Stairs:**

- 1) The access stairs cannot include any support piles, footings or landings on or over tidal wetlands;
- 2) The access stairs affixed on the waterside of a wall, revetment or bulkhead shall be oriented parallel to the structure;
- 3) The access stairs shall be no wider than 4 feet, except for a landing step that shall be no wider than 5 feet; and
- 4) No part of the access stairs shall extend further than 6 linear feet from the toe of the existing wall, revetment or bulkhead.

**If you have any general questions regarding this general permit activity, please call the Land and Water Resources Division at (860) 424-3019.**

**Non-compliance with the general permit may subject you to enforcement actions, including but not limited to, the collection of penalties, issuance of a Notice of Violation or Order and/or the revocation of coverage under the general permit.**