



**Managing Small Docks and Piers**  
**Held at the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve**  
**Environmental Learning Center**  
**August 24, 2006, Collier County, Florida**

Rookery Bay Coastal training hosted the Managing Small Docks and Piers workshop created by the NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science. More than 50 people from diverse professions such as code enforcement, permittees, marina operators, dock builders and environmental managers attended the full day session. Seven guest speakers covered the environmental, aesthetic/visual, navigational, public access, regulatory and best practices of small dock and pier siting and management. The workshop had 54 participants with 49 or 91% completing evaluations.

Below is a summary of the evaluations collected at the conclusion of the training program. Each response box includes both the number of people who responded to that question and that number converted to a percentage, separated by a dotted line. Please contact Tabitha Stadler, Coastal Training Coordinator at Rookery Bay for more information about this summary at 239-417-6310 extension 209 or [Tabitha.stadler@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Tabitha.stadler@dep.state.fl.us).

**A. General Information**

Survey Question	Local Gov't	County Gov't	State Gov't	Federal Gov't	Private Business	Other
How would you characterize your profession or professional affiliation?	13/49	14/49	10/49	3/49	9/49	0
	27%	27%	21%	6%	19%	0

**B. Logistics: Please rank the following activities**

	Low		Medium		High	Did Not Answer
General Content	0	0	1	20	26	2
	0	0	2%	41%	53%	4%
Speakers	0	1	4	20	21	3
	0	2%	8%	41%	43%	6%
Power Point Presentations	1	0	4	27	14	3
	2%	0	8%	55%	29%	6%
Handouts Provided	0	1	4	14	27	3
	0	2%	8%	29%	55%	6%
Workshop Organization/ Format	0	0	1	14	31	3
	0	0	2%	29%	63%	6%
Networking Collaboration	0	1	2	14	29	3
	0	2%	4%	29%	59%	6%

### C. As a result of this workshop

Survey Question	Yes	No	Unsure
Did you have an increased scientific understanding of the environmental impacts of small residential docks and piers?	47	2	0
	96%	4%	0
If yes will apply your new understanding in your work or professional capacity?	44	2	0
	96%	4%	0
If yes, How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To construction of docks</li> <li>• Better understanding of specific environmental impacts</li> <li>• Consultant</li> <li>• Increased outreach</li> <li>• Anything that helps the ecosystem should be considered</li> <li>• Recommend delegation to local gov't, recommend legislative adoption of ACOE jurisdiction, vote for more permit exemptions, zoning regional permit standards to shorten and streamline permit process</li> <li>• BMPs marinas</li> <li>• As a permit reviewer I'll pay close attention to applicants request to see if they should contact other entities</li> <li>• Etiolation of marsh plants under docks</li> <li>• Use resources to help in project review</li> <li>• To improve explanations</li> <li>• Public access considerations/try CanVis software</li> <li>• Environmental resource permitting</li> <li>• Permitting reviews</li> <li>• Update criteria manual of WMD-ROW permits</li> <li>• Knowledge of other agencies policies and procedures</li> <li>• To bring marina I work at into compliance if possible</li> <li>• With reviewing boat dock extensions</li> <li>• Use of materials</li> <li>• Continue collecting info and educate fellow co-workers</li> <li>• Increased scientific scrutiny of permit reviews</li> <li>• Developing county water access facilities</li> <li>• Understanding and explanation of these issues to customers/planning commission</li> <li>• Need to regulate canopies/boat houses</li> <li>• Areas of shading, visibility</li> <li>• Discussion with applicants</li> <li>• To help our residents have a better understanding of riparian rights</li> <li>• Better understanding of permitting process</li> <li>• Regulation</li> <li>• Have a better understanding of impact and how to apply</li> <li>• Develop land development code amendments, facilitate dock permitting, evaluate dock extensions</li> <li>• Applications with marinas</li> <li>• Multiple issues to incorporate in the permitting process</li> <li>• Daily inspections</li> <li>• Mooring fields, greater community awareness</li> </ul>		
If No, Why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not related to job</li> </ul>		
Survey Question	Yes	No	Unsure
Do you have an increased scientific understanding of potential navigational, aesthetic, and public access issues relating to small docks and piers?	45	4	0
	96%	8%	0

Survey Question	Yes	No	Unsure
If yes will apply your new understanding in your work or professional capacity?	41	4	0
	91%	9%	0
If yes, How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved interpretation of rules for clients</li> <li>• Right of way</li> <li>• Have a better understanding of impact and how to apply</li> <li>• Application with marinas</li> <li>• Permitting review</li> <li>• For review of permit applications</li> <li>• Educate citizens and county officials</li> <li>• When talking to boaters in outreach capacity</li> <li>• HOA restrictions to address size, color, shape</li> <li>• Construction and planning</li> <li>• Discuss with applicant</li> <li>• To improve explanations</li> <li>• Giving additional info to customers</li> <li>• Pay more attention to how a dock effects navigation with surrounding docks</li> <li>• Working w/marina to improve</li> <li>• In presentation for dock ext. approval to board of Commissioners</li> <li>• Much better understanding – will be able to pass on knowledge</li> <li>• Committee work</li> <li>• Dock review/resident inquiry/complaints</li> <li>• To learn more about public access</li> <li>• Very specific zoning guidelines</li> <li>• Boat piers on public property</li> <li>• Overseeing design of county water access facility</li> </ul>		
If no, Why Not?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not related to job</li> <li>• Not related to profession</li> <li>• Not of concern in my work</li> <li>• I am in environmental review and don't do this</li> </ul>		
	Yes	No	Did not answer
Have you increased you understanding of the regulatory requirements for small dock and pier construction and siting in Florida?	46	2	1
	94%	4%	2%
If yes, will you use your increased understanding in your work or volunteerism?	35	9	2
	76%	20%	4%
If yes, How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact all agencies in permitting process</li> <li>• Continue to avoid permitting /designing docks in favor of community access or marina</li> <li>• Better understanding of state and local permitting</li> <li>• Get decision makers involved</li> <li>• Better understanding of what other agencies are seeking to protect and why, will translate to permit</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reviews</li> <li>• Knowing all permits are approved before City permits</li> <li>• Daily work</li> <li>• Aquatic preserve issues</li> <li>• Know who reviews projects in addition to local gov't</li> <li>• Better co-op between gov. agency policies</li> <li>• Submerge land permits etc</li> <li>• We typically rely on the contractor to indicate on the site plan all state regulations this will allow us to review the dock submittal in accordance with state regulations</li> <li>• Give more informed info to public</li> <li>• Reviewing permits</li> <li>• No absolute right to dock</li> <li>• Aquatic preserve info is helpful</li> <li>• Issuing permit</li> <li>• Dock management</li> <li>• To make sure state and federal requirements are met</li> <li>• More confident in making a decision and interpreting regulatory entities – COE FDEP specifically</li> <li>• Committee work</li> <li>• Hopefully bother DEP/ACOE staff less</li> </ul>		
If no, Why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Already knew the process</li> <li>• I don't make these types of decisions</li> <li>• I don't do small docks</li> <li>• I don't do regulation in Florida</li> <li>• Not related to job</li> <li>• Not a concern in my work</li> <li>• Permitting done by consultants</li> </ul>		
Survey Question	Yes	No	Did not answer
Did you increase your knowledge of, and access to, resources relevant to your work?	40	1	8
	82%	2%	16%
If yes, what resources were most helpful?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rookery Bay</li> <li>• Impact analysis</li> <li>• Web addresses</li> <li>• Handouts and supplemental publications</li> <li>• CanVis, aesthetic and navigational considerations</li> <li>• Chain of contact, local, county, state, fed</li> <li>• Best management practices and permitting</li> <li>• State and federal permitting requirement</li> <li>• Visualization tools</li> <li>• Handouts</li> <li>• Websites</li> <li>• Website on aerials</li> <li>• Studies, websites</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Environmental websites</li> <li>• Corps and DEP explanations</li> <li>• CanVis, NOAA website</li> <li>• ALL</li> <li>• Contacts in professional/local governments</li> <li>• Dock BMPs</li> <li>• Better understanding of permitting</li> <li>• Up to date list of resources</li> </ul>		

Survey Question	Yes	No	Did not answer
Were you exposed to new perspectives, points of view or diverse opinions during this workshop	48	1	0
	98%	2%	0
If yes, do you intend to integrate your newly acquired perspectives, views or opinions?	39	2	6
	81%	4%	13%
If yes, How?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will aid decision-making under present rules for permits</li> <li>• Share information with county permitting and elected officials</li> <li>• Better understanding of agency concerns</li> <li>• Better policies, inspections and review overall impacts of docks</li> <li>• I have a better understanding of regulators</li> <li>• Keep them in mind when reviewing permits</li> <li>• Increase coordination and public awareness</li> <li>• Explain to customers/commission/co-workers</li> <li>• Build and repair dock in accordance to standards</li> <li>• Start new interagency group</li> <li>• That process is very complicated and public education is necessary</li> <li>• To better understand seagrass issues</li> <li>• Water wars advisory commission</li> <li>• Local government CAMA NOAA</li> <li>• Any way possible/compliance with all agencies</li> <li>• Share "BMPs" with other professionals and complexity of resources, access, public benefit</li> <li>• Aesthetic/visual impacts</li> <li>• Some of the concerns can be brought back to other discussions w/professionals that can make change</li> </ul>		
Survey Question	Yes	No	Did not answer
Would you recommend this training to other professionals?	46	2	1
	94%	4%	2%

Survey Question	
<p>What is the most important thing you learned in the workshop?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City needs USACOE approval for all docks</li> <li>• Types of materials to use</li> <li>• The process is still to complicated</li> <li>• That permitting is more complex than I thought</li> <li>• Better understanding of regulations – how impacts the homeowner</li> <li>• Many people unaware of need for permit</li> <li>• Increase outreach of our guidelines</li> <li>• Multitude of “eyes” looking at permits and their reason for doing so</li> <li>• Additional requirements for aquatic preserves limiting # of vessels moored including jet skis</li> <li>• There is not an agreement between agencies</li> <li>• Permitting requirements (Federal)</li> <li>• Give and take – Parameters/tradeoffs</li> <li>• Riparian rights info, BMPs</li> <li>• Regulator process requirements</li> <li>• Docks are an emotional issue and should not be treated casually on either side of the issue</li> <li>• Application of permitting process for EPA and ACOE</li> <li>• That the regulated public is not really aware of all the permitting requirements</li> <li>• Tools for management and visualization including zoning</li> <li>• Other agencies rules and regulation and areas they manage</li> <li>• The state regulation</li> <li>• Consider aesthetics</li> <li>• Morning sessions v. informative, interesting speakers, very knowledgeable</li> <li>• Environmental importance, public rights</li> <li>• Not enough scientific info to clearly direct regulatory decisions</li> <li>• Sea turtle/smalltooth sawfish construction conditions new to me</li> <li>• The extent of ACOE approvals</li> <li>• I learned and know little about docks and their impacts</li> <li>• Role of various gov’t agencies</li> <li>• Nothing: but to be fair I attended b/c I was expecting marina docks to be discussed as well as private docks</li> <li>• Clarified DEP and ACOE requirements for permitting</li> <li>• Availability of online resources</li> <li>• Some permitting is redundant</li> <li>• Permit process rational behind it are not well understood</li> <li>• Use of aesthetic considerations and visual demonstration tool</li> <li>• Better understanding of the governmental agency and their roll in the regulator programs</li> <li>• Avoid, minimize impacts then mitigate if possible is a rule across all regulatory agencies</li> <li>• Agency jurisdictional limits and permitting guidelines</li> <li>• That all local state and federal agencies are not communicating effectively. Therefore this will make my job as a permit reviewer more complicated</li> <li>• Environmental impacts of small docks down to sea grass death if affected by shading</li> <li>• Other agency regulations and affects of docks on the environment/habitat and cumulative impacts</li> <li>• DEP submerged lands/proprietary and regulatory differences</li> <li>• Better knowledge of different agencies functions</li> <li>• The agencies are all confused, good luck to all</li> <li>• State of Florida has liberal regulations compared to Northeast</li> </ul>

Survey Question	
<p>What issues/topics would you like to see addressed in future workshops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More on permitting dock permits with the county not DEP permits</li> <li>• Agencies present criteria w/discussion all day, to help everybody understand the required course of action for a single family dock</li> <li>• Regulator 101</li> <li>• More detail on navigation and public access</li> <li>• Marinas</li> <li>• Like to see some water management districts involved in panels as well as workshops</li> <li>• Specific engineering guidelines for design of docks and marinas</li> <li>• More detail on public vs. private ownership to the mean high water line</li> <li>• Riparian rights and determination of riparian line</li> <li>• Measurement of protrusion of dock facilities into waterways</li> <li>• Boat houses</li> <li>• Construction methods and BMPs</li> <li>• Alternative designs for increasing light penetration</li> <li>• Effective mitigation for seagrass impacts</li> <li>• Riparian line examples/explanations</li> <li>• Maintenance dredging</li> <li>• Piers these can be denied within aquatic preserves – not an access issue</li> <li>• The state land rules and permitting 101</li> <li>• More on structure of org. involved</li> <li>• ACOE needs to address what needs permits through them this meeting should have dock builders attend</li> <li>• Case studies</li> <li>• More Florida oriented examples</li> <li>• Comparisons with Regional/state problems</li> <li>• We need to resolve the amount of permitting confusion</li> <li>• Continued advances with e-permitting access and more interagency agreements, streamlined process, fewer agency hands on what should be a simple process</li> <li>• Regulatory 101 sounds like a lengthy Q &amp; A issue session on this topic might be needed especially if a panel of policy makers</li> <li>• How state, federal and local gov'ts can streamline the permitting process.</li> </ul>

Survey Question	
<p>We welcome any comments or suggestions relating to this workshop or the Coastal Training Program in General.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent presentations, particularly by Ruth. Very diverse audience made for interesting discussion</li> <li>• Almost have to include a representative of USFWS due to evaluations of effects on the manatees</li> <li>• Excellent discussion between speakers and participant/attendees</li> <li>• Great food! Excellent facility. Let's get more Local professionals involved</li> <li>• Excellent program</li> <li>• Couldn't hear/understand 3 of the 6 speakers . . .employ the use of a microphone</li> <li>• Case studies of various differing situations</li> <li>• Actually no suggestions. The presenters were awesome, the room was very comfortable and the food was very good. Everyone could be understood and the audio-visual was exceptional</li> <li>• Make chart showing order in which each organization relates to each other</li> <li>• Program was well planned and implemented. Put a lot of info into an 8 hour day. Good job!!</li> <li>• Massachusetts is in the forefront – I hope Florida can adopt some of these ideas</li> <li>• When I first came to the seminar I thought “my goodness what did I get into” as I have no official environmental training. However by the end of the first hour I was so surprised to the information given and explained in such easy forms and interesting I was very happy I attended.</li> <li>• Great workshop – the amount of material was squeezed into a short time frame all these issues could be spread out over longer period</li> <li>• Thank you well worth the trip! Great facility – nice lunch</li> <li>• This program would be beneficial for other marine contractors. If any other programs are scheduled for Florida contact the FL Marine Contractors Assoc to advertise to many more contractors</li> <li>• Very well run</li> <li>• Extremely informative could have been a two day event, some speakers could have used more time</li> <li>• Visual impact of marginal interest in Collier</li> <li>• Very well organized</li> <li>• There should be one agency (or combination of existing agencies) to simplify process. Standardize permit requirements so there is one set of rules</li> <li>• In general I really enjoyed the workshop. It was very helpful to me as I am from Colorado and I don't come from a diverse background in the marine environment and coastal regulations</li> <li>• Steve Bliven's topics were not applicable – he was also quite drone</li> <li>• Excellent! Keep up the good work</li> <li>• Excellent workshop – enjoyed it!</li> <li>• Less info about visual impacts. Find out how visual impacts are regulated in regional counties and then tailor discussion to those counties.</li> <li>• Dr. Kelty showed bias against boating impacts/tenor of her presentation seemed to be “here are some reasoning you can use to say “no” to a permit application</li> <li>• Facilities at Rookery Bay are fabulous for a meeting such as this. Congrats</li> </ul>