



Programmatic General Permits for Recreational Docks in Coastal Georgia Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG.

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Q1: What is a Programmatic General Permit for recreational docks?

Programmatic General Permit 0083 (PGP83) authorizes the construction of private, single-family recreational docks in tidal navigable waters of the U.S. within the 11 coastal counties of Georgia. The permit is administered by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (Georgia DNR) [Coastal Resources Division](#) (CRD), in coordination with the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers \(USACE\) Savannah District](#). The permit is re-evaluated and re-issued every five years by the USACE and CRD.

We issue PGPs because it saves time—both for the permit applicant and for the state and federal government. It also saves money, because we avoid duplication of efforts to issue permits on similar projects. This permit process allows someone to get a permit for a recreational dock through one entity—CRD (under its revocable license program)—while also satisfying requirements for a permit from the USACE (under its permitting authority for Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act). We coordinate closely with CRD to incorporate their criteria into the permit, while also a meeting our permit criteria as it relates to impacts to federal navigation channels.

Q2: What changed in the PGP for recreational docks, issued on August 13, 2012?

The changes reduce shading under walkways by 25 percent and reduced the overall maximum length of walkways to 1,000 feet. It also restricted monorail docks to 1,000 feet, limited fixed docks to 300 square feet, and reduced the channel extension on smaller creeks to 25 percent. The table below illustrates changes in recreational dock restrictions overtime. Highlighted areas show recent changes:

	1979-1996	1996-2001	2001-2007	2007-2012	2012-2017
Walkway Max. Width	6' wide	6' wide	6' wide	6' wide	6' wide
Walkway Max. Square Feet	No restriction	No restriction	No restriction	3,000 (50% grate)	3,000 (25% grate)
Walkway Max. Length – Wood	No restriction	No restriction	No restriction	3' x 1,000' 4' x 750' 5' x 600' 6' x 500'	3' x 1,000' 4' x 750' 5' x 600' 6' x 500'
Walkway Max. Length – Grate	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	3' x 2,000' 4' x 1,450' 5' x 1,200' 6' x 1,000'	3' x 1,000' 4' x 1,000' 5' x 750' 6' x 650'
Walkway Max. Length – Monorail	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	No limit on length	1000'
Fixed Dock	576 square feet	576 square feet	864 square feet	400 square feet	300 square feet
Float Dock	288 square feet	288 square feet	576 square feet	576 square feet	576 square feet
Channel Extension	25' of 15% of channel width	40' or 25% of channel width	40' or 25% of channel width	40' or 33% of channel width	40' or 25% of channel width
Boat Hoist	Not included	12' x 25'	16' x 30'	16' x 30'	16' x 30'

Q3: Why were these changes made?

The changes were recommended by CRD to reduce environmental impacts to Georgia's marshlands. CRD is responsible for administering the states' revocable license (real estate) program and the Coastal Marshland Protection Act.

Q4: How did the Corps evaluate the proposed restrictions on recreational docks for this permit?

The permit proposal was released on April 11, 2012 for a 30-day public comment period. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, we completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate changes to our permitting program that could impact the environment. Our EA includes a cumulative impacts report completed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hollings Marine Laboratory, located in Charleston, S.C.

The cumulative impact analysis uses the latest science available to examine how recreational docks impact an array of factors. The analysis included: geography of the area; salt marsh and brackish marsh data; construction-related impacts; shading; marsh wrack; sediment re-suspension, erosion and accretion; water quality; dissolved oxygen; treated wood-constructed docks; placement of floating docks on mud flats; aquatic species; and more.

Our report concluded that recreational docks in Georgia's 11 coastal counties impact 0.02 percent of the state's coastal marshlands.

Q4: What if I want to build a dock that exceeds the PGP specifications?

Permit applicants can always apply for an individual permit from the USACE for their recreational dock project. However, they would also need to apply for a revocable real estate permit from CRD. This process generally takes more time than the PGP process.

Q5: What should I do if I need to make a repair on my existing recreational dock?

Minor repairs, routine maintenance, and upkeep of a recreational dock permitted under PGP83 is authorized. However, major repair work, renovations, or additions to the existing structure should be reported to the USACE before construction begins. For more information, contact 1-800-448-2402.

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