

## NH LAKES Advocacy Alert



March 21, 2015

### A PUBLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

#### We need your input on docks!

As you know, the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NH LAKES) works on your behalf, shaping public policy and legislation and participating on several committees to improve lake protection throughout New Hampshire. We spend considerable time working with the Legislative and Executive branches of state government to advocate for or against certain legislation or the allocation of state resources. And, we often work directly with state agency program leaders developing and refining lake-related management and protection programs - which is why I am writing to you today.

**NH LAKES is assisting the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) in reviewing its approach to the approval of docks on our lakes and ponds and we need your input.**

Under the current approach, state laws and rules administered by NHDES regulate the siting, construction, and repair of docks structures. Siting and construction is prohibited without a permit from the department, subject to certain exemptions and setback limitations. NHDES rules allow for certain minimum-impact dock projects to qualify for a truncated application and permitting process to provide for expedited construction or repair, as long as all necessary forms are submitted.

NHDES is exploring the prospect of implementing a dock registration system that could, for example,



NH LAKES is the only statewide, member supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting New Hampshire lakes and their watersheds.

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potentially reduce the permitting burden on dock owners and agency personnel pursuant to routine maintenance activities. For more information about NHDES permitting of waterfront structures, [click here](#).

**As a member of NH LAKES, your input is important to us.** We ask that you please take a few minutes to fill out this [short survey](#) to let us know what your thoughts are on this issue. Your input will have an impact on our guidance of NHDES!

This survey is anonymous, so please be as candid as possible. Please complete it by **April 1** - thank you!

**To take the survey, [click here](#).**

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [tobrien@nhlakes.org](mailto:tobrien@nhlakes.org) or (603) 226-0299.

On behalf of the New Hampshire Lakes Association,

**Tom O'Brien**  
**President and Policy Advocate**

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