

**TOWN OF STURBRIDGE  
RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING  
TEMPORARY MOORINGS, FLOATS, RAFTS AND RAMPS**

**Section I History**

With the increased usage of our lakes and the increased building on land with lake frontage, we see a definite need to place some conditions on and regulate these types of bottom anchored structures.

Under Chapter 91, Section 10A the Harbor Master may authorize a permit for such floats, rafts and moorings. In the past there have been very few requests for permits and each one was handled individually with no formal guidelines to work from.

These lakes are fragile natural resources and must be protected and cared for or there will be nothing for future generations. We need to balance public access with environmental protection.

**Section II Jurisdiction**

A. Who needs a permit?

1. Anyone placing a float, raft or mooring into any body of water within the territorial jurisdiction of the Town of Sturbridge must have a permit.

B. Who issues the permit?

1. Floats, docks and rafts secured to the bottom with piles or permanently secured:
  - a. Permit required from the Department of Environmental Protection and/or the Conservation Commission.
  - b. Permit may be required from the Army Corps of Engineers if filling or dredging is requested.
2. Temporary floats, rafts, docks or moorings secured to the bottom with anchors or bottom moorings:
  - a. Harbor Master may issue permit under Chapter 91, Section 10A.

- b. Copy of Chapter 91, Section 10A included in these regulations.

### **Section III Procedures/General**

- A. Requests for permits for temporary floats, rafts or moorings must be accompanied by a sketch showing location, size and a description of the structure.
- B. If anyone wishes to deviate from any condition or regulation in this document or has any special circumstances, they must attach a letter explaining the reason for the deviation. The Harbor Master will make a determination from the information provided and may make a site inspection with the owner to determine the need for deviation from the regulations.
- C. All temporary structures must be removed by December first and not replaced until April first of each calendar year.
- D. Authorized Harbor Master Permits shall remain valid only if the person who has obtained a permit from the Harbor Master files with the Board of Selectmen/Harbor Master annually on or before the anniversary date of the original application.

### **Section IV Procedures/Specific**

- A. Rafts

Definition: Any free-floating dock anchored to the bottom and not connected to the shore.

- 1. No raft will be larger than 100 sq. ft. in surface space.
- 2. No raft will be located more than 25 feet from shore.
- 3. No raft will be placed adjacent to (in front of) land or another without the landowner's permission.
- 4. No more than one (1) raft will be placed adjacent to one (1) parcel of land.
- 5. Rafts will be anchored (moored) from two points with two bottom anchors to minimize swinging.

6. All chains or lines from the mooring or anchor to the raft will be two feet above the highest level of water at the location.
7. Rafts will not be painted with any creosote or oil based paint. Any copper based paint is acceptable.
8. Rafts owned by Lake Associations, by special permit could be allowed to extend more than 25 feet from the shore, as restricted in #2.

#### B. Docks

Definition: Any structure connecting to shore.

1. No dock will exceed 200 sq. ft. of surface space.
2. No dock will extend into the lake more than 25 feet.
3. No dock will be placed on or in front of land owned by another without the landowner's permission.
4. No more than one (1) dock will be placed adjacent to one (1) parcel of land.
5. Docks will be anchored (moored) at a minimum, every 25 feet.
6. All chains or lines from the mooring or anchor to the dock will be two feet above the highest level of water at the location.
7. No dock will be painted with any creosote or oil-based paint. Any copper based paint is acceptable.
8. Public access will be assured from the shorefront.

#### C. Moorings

Definition:

- a. Any place where vessels are secured other than a dock, raft or pier.
- b. The equipment and/or process used to secure a vessel, other than by anchoring, consisting of a block or anchor placed on the bed of a

body of water, to which is affixed a buoy or float, to which is affixed a pennant.

1. No part of an anchored boat shall extend more than 25 feet from shore.
2. No mooring will be placed adjacent to (in front of) land owned by another without the landowner's permission. (This does not apply to State land.)
3. No more than two (2) moorings will be placed adjacent to one (1) parcel of land.
4. Floatation:
  - a. All chain or line floatation buoys shall be clearly visible at all times.
  - b. All floatation buoys will be white with a blue stripe and clearly marked with the owner's name.
5. Scope:
  - a. All chains or lines from the mooring block or bottom anchor to the floatation buoy will be two feet above the highest level of water at the location.
6. Mooring blocks or anchors:
  - a. All blocks or bottom anchors will be of sufficient size and shape to hold the vessel fast, as determined by the Harbor Master.