



INTERPRETATION NO. 20-001

Table 5.14-a Dimensional/Construction Standards for Docks

1. Scope

The Chelan County Shoreline Master Program Table 5.14-a provides dimensional standards for docks on the Columbia River, Lake Chelan, and other waterbodies. The standards include maximum dimensions for width, length, area, and height.

2. Purpose

The purpose behind this interpretation is to clarify for staff how to apply the design criteria provided in the table under the Columbia River, Lake Chelan, and other waterbodies.

Under the Columbia River the 'Design' section of the table gives maximum area for single-use dock float(s) that are separate from the pier and/or ramp sections. The 'Area' section states that it is equal to the maximum width and length. The 'Width' section gives separate maximum requirements for the pier and/or ramp, and floats. The 'Length' section states that the pier and/or ramp must be sufficient to extend the float to a water depth the landward edge of the float to provide safe boat moorage. It is clear reading through this section of the table for the Columbia River the maximum dimensions and there is no contradiction between the design section intent to address floats only and is consistent with the other maximum dimensions provided.

The Lake Chelan section of the table omits the 'Design' section from the dimensions criteria.

The last section of the table addresses all other waterbodies that are lakes. In this part of the table the maximum design criteria provides maximum total in square feet limits for single-use and joint-use docks, but does not state if this is the total area for the floats, pier and/or ramps, or all parts combined. The 'Area' section states the maximum is equal to the maximum width and length. The 'Width' and 'Length' sections are more general to docks and does not separate the dock float(s) like the Columbia River section. As this part of the table reads for Other Waterbodies (Lakes) there is a conflict between the maximum area under 'Area' and 'Design'. The 'Length' section is specific that docks need to reach a water depth of 12 feet. The total length to get to 12 feet will vary on each waterbody or portion of a waterbody. In some waterbodies that are shallow for a significant distance under a strict interpretation would require a large number of docks to obtain Shoreline Variances. The intent of a Shoreline Variance is to address unique circumstance outside the property owners' control and should only be used for conditions that could not be addressed under the general criteria of the SMP.

3. Interpretation

Table 5.14-a of the Chelan County Shoreline Master Program addressing dimension/specification for Other Waterbodies (Lakes) unintentionally omitted the exception for pier and/or ramps for the design criteria. The language for the design criteria for Other Waterbodies (Lakes) section should reflect the verbiage within the Columbia River section, as follows:

Single-use dock float(s), separate from pier and/or ramp sections, shall not exceed 8' x 20' or a total of 160 square feet

Joint-use dock float(s), separate from pier and/or ramp sections, shall not exceed 8' x 40' or a total of 320 square feet

This interpretation was made in consultation with the WA Department of Ecology consistent with WAC 173-26-140.

Approved by:



Dave Kuhl
Director of Community Development



Effective Date