



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Aquatic Preserve Requirements – Single-Family Docks

December 13, 2017





Outline

- What are Aquatic Preserves?
- Where are Aquatic Preserves
- Dock Design Standards and Criteria, Siting Requirements, and Boat Restrictions



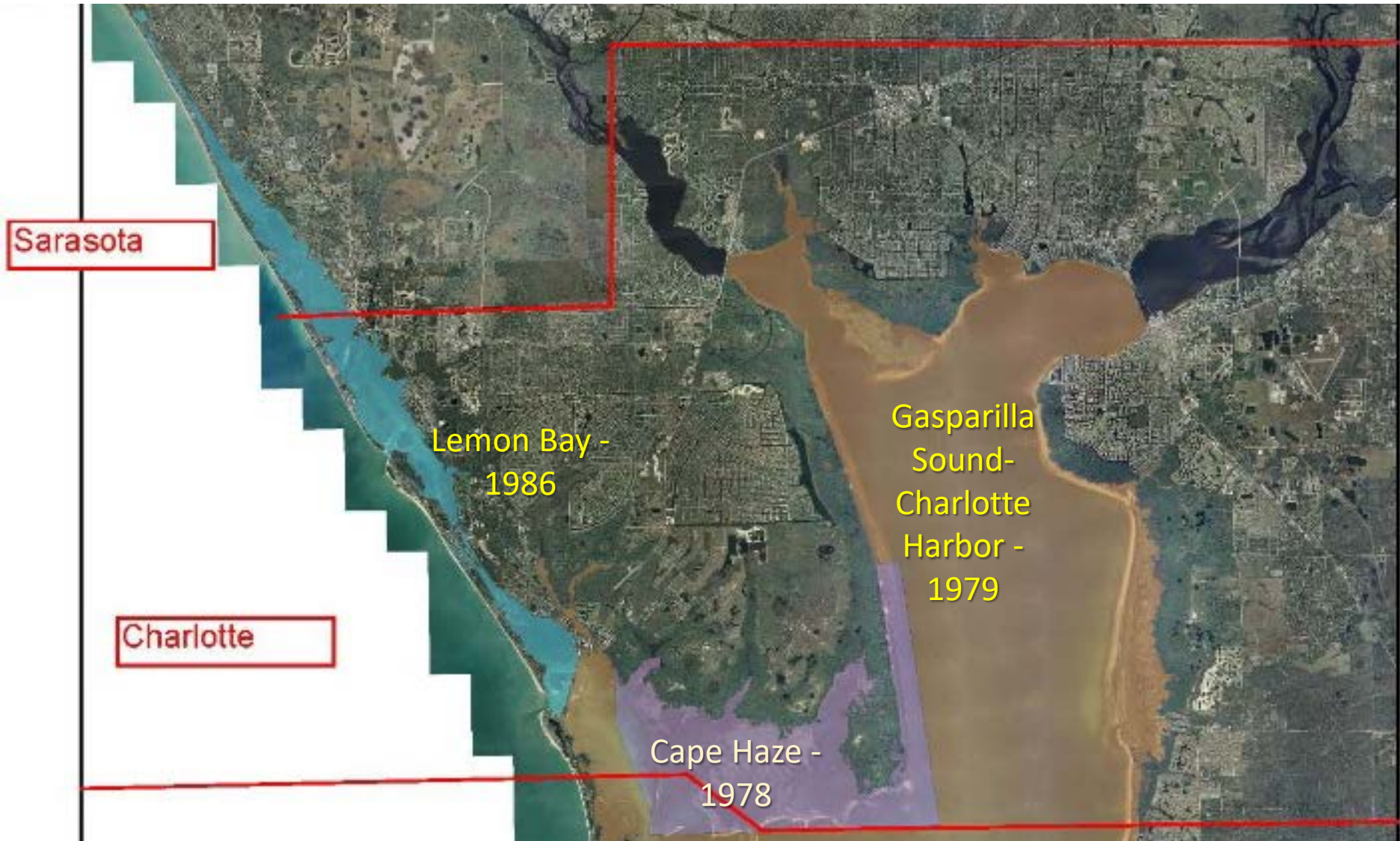
What are Aquatic Preserves?

Aquatic Preserves are marine and aquatic areas with high quality submerged resources that have been set aside by the State Legislature for the purpose of:

“Being preserved in essentially natural conditions so their aesthetic, biological and scientific values may endure for the enjoyment of future generations” — *[Rule 18-20.001, F.A.C.]*

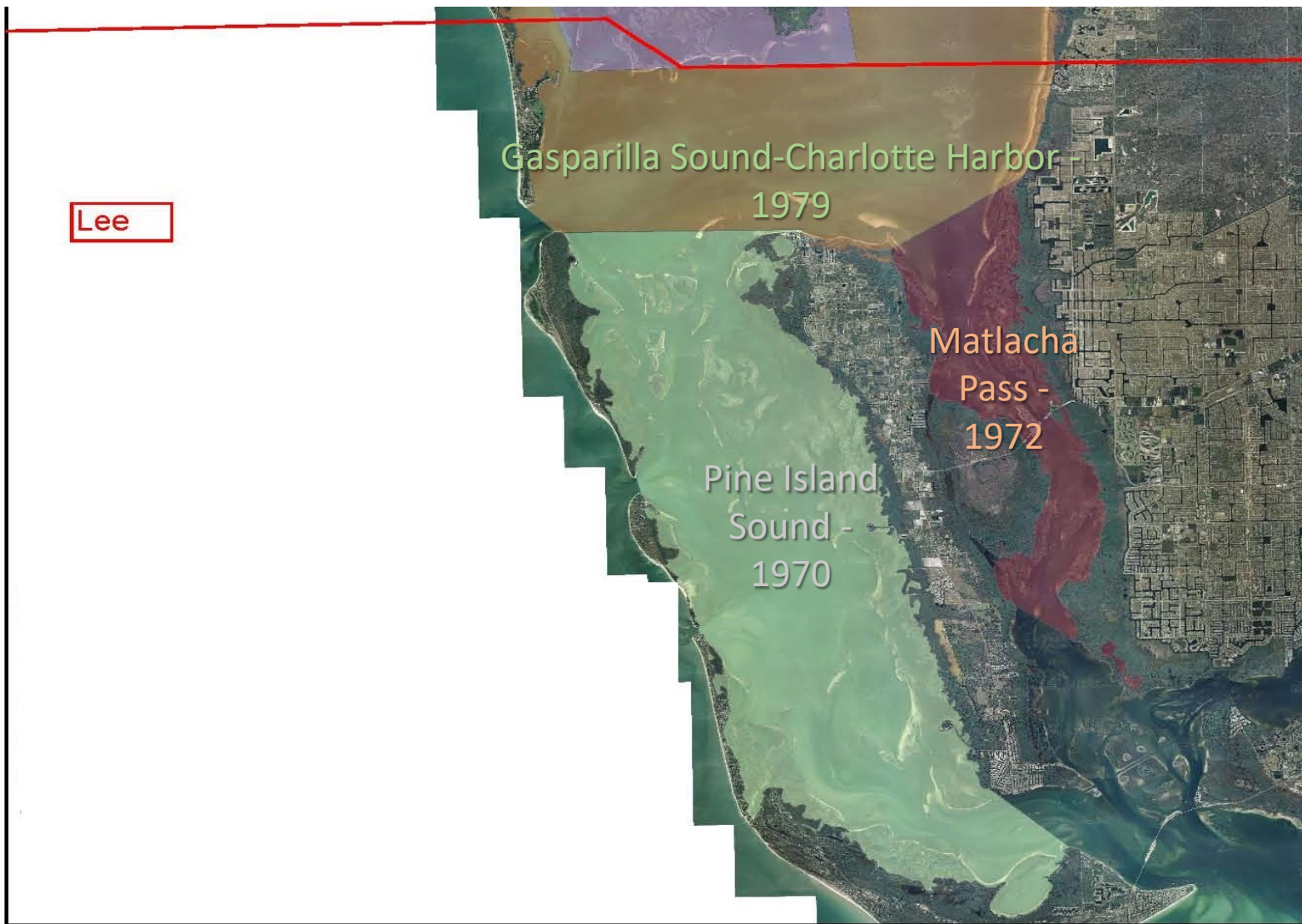


Sarasota and Charlotte County Aquatic Preserves (AP)



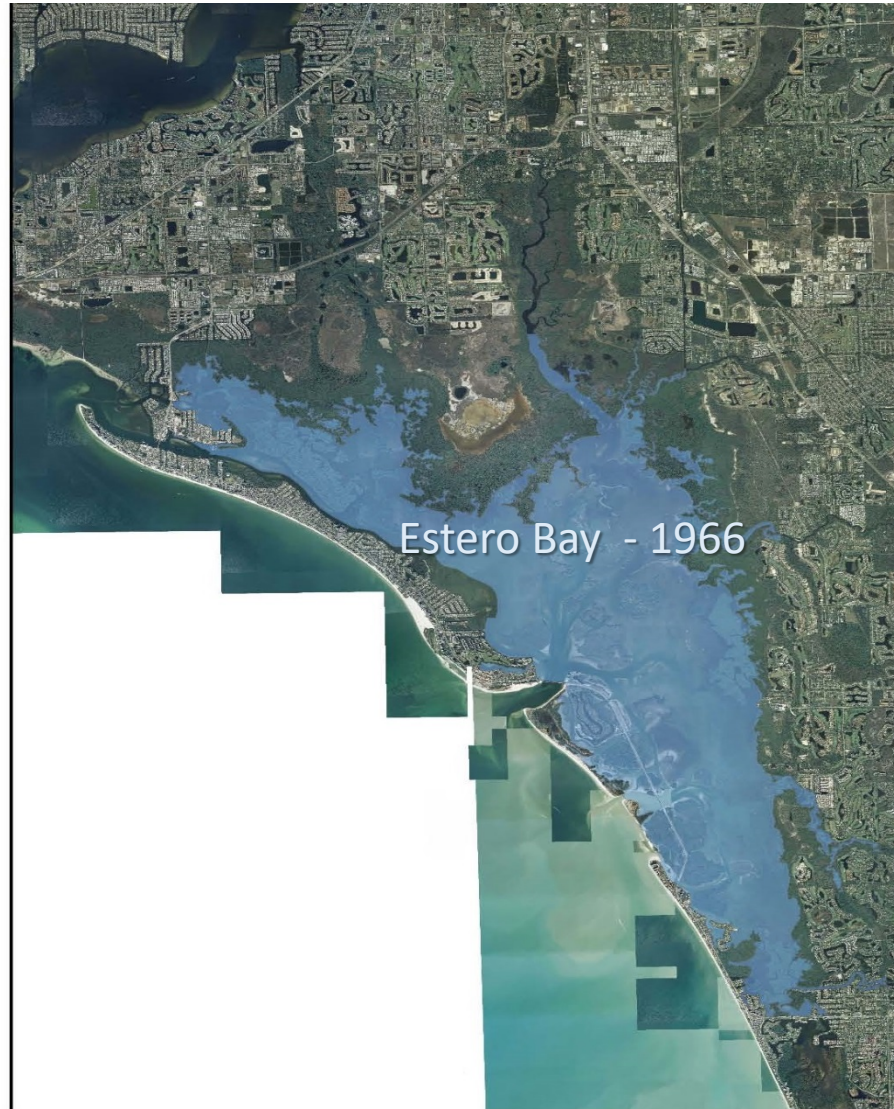


Lee County Aquatic Preserves





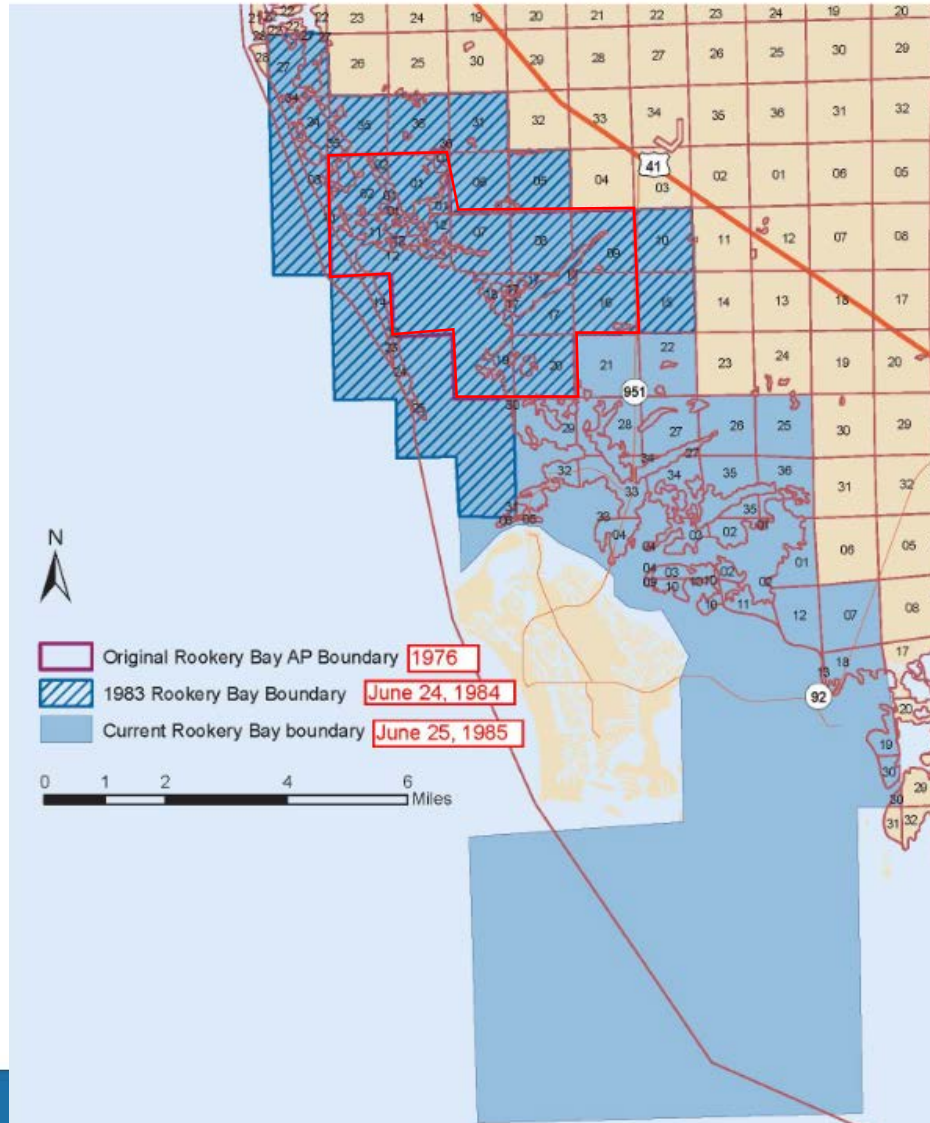
Lee County Aquatic Preserves





Collier County Aquatic Preserve

Historic Boundaries of Rookery Bay Aquatic Preserve





Monroe County Aquatic Preserve





Private Residential Single-Family Dock

A dock used for private residential or leisure purposes for a single-family residence, cottage or other such single dwelling unit and which is designed to moor no more that two boats.

a = singular = one dock

two boats

Dock means a fixed or floating structure, including moorings, used for the purpose of berthing buoyant vessels either temporarily or indefinitely





Dock Design, Siting Criteria, and Boat Restrictions

- Chapter 18-20.005, F.A.C., provides several criteria that must be met for all docks and single family docks. This includes:
 - Limitations on how far into the waterbody the dock can extend and where it should be located along the shoreline
 - Physical design criteria:
 - Access walkway dimensions
 - Terminal platform dimensions
 - Elevation requirements
 - Board spacing and decking requirements
 - Boat restrictions:
 - Number of vessels
 - Draft Limitations



Location Siting [Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]

Design the location of the dock to **avoid** seagrasses or other submerged resources





Dock Design Standards and Criteria in AP [Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]

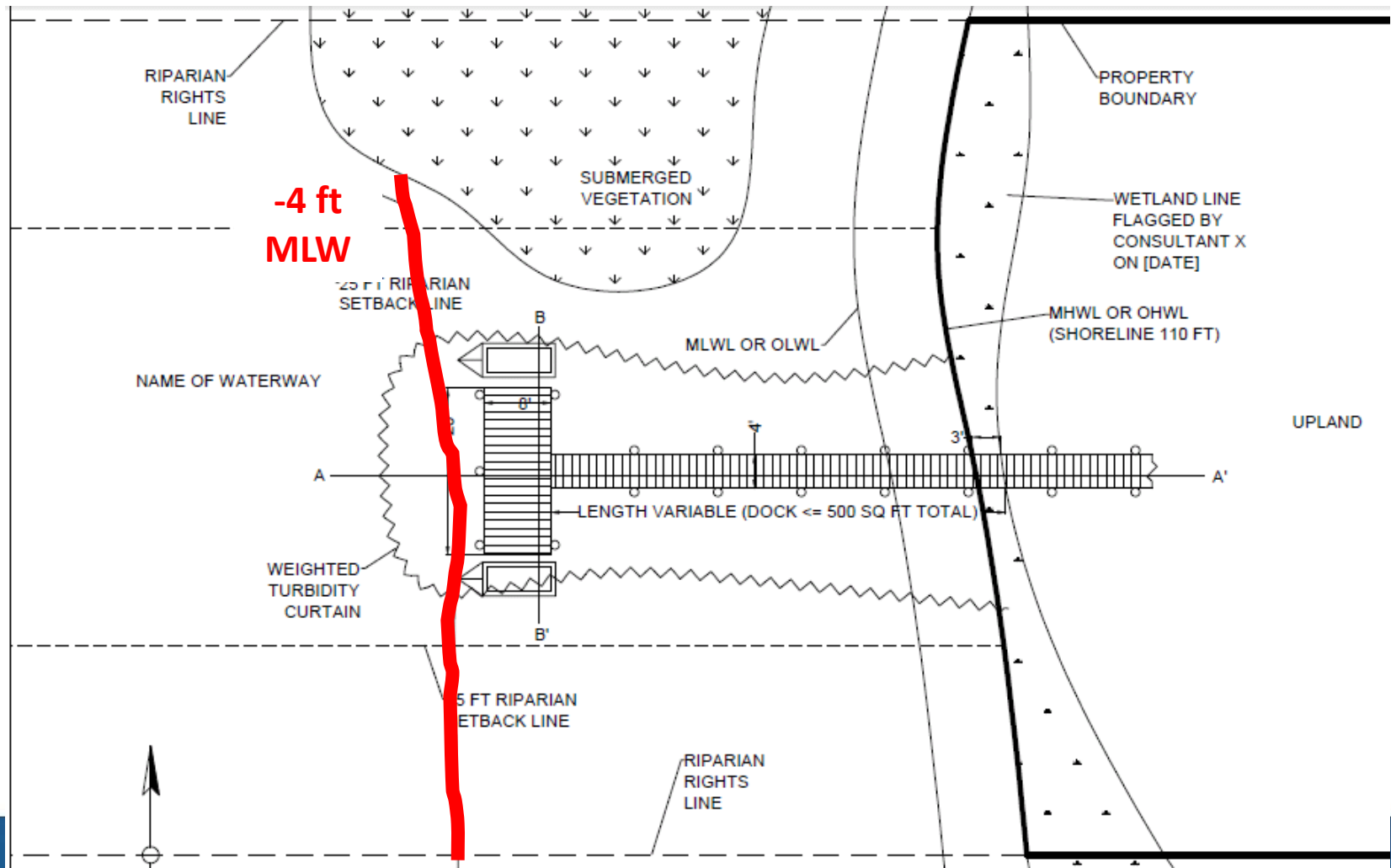
The overall dock length, can extend no farther than 20% of the width of the waterbody (MHWL to MHWL) or 500 feet, whichever is less





Dock Design Standards and Criteria in AP [Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]

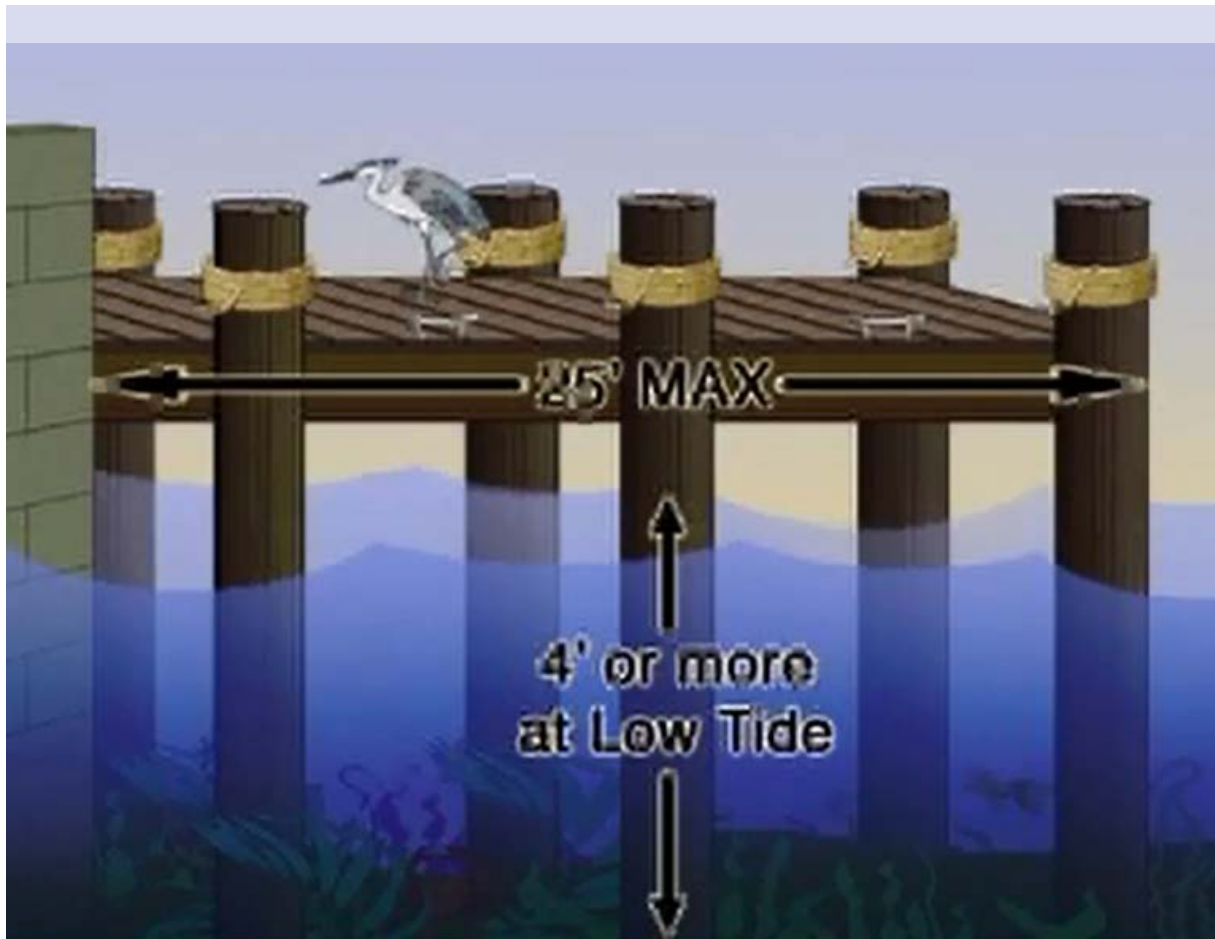
The dock shall terminate at a maximum depth of minus four (-4) feet mean low water.





Dock Design Standards and Criteria in AP [Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]

If the shoreline is seawalled, and water depth at the seawall is -4 feet mean low water, the maximum length of the dock is 25 feet.





Dock Design Standards and Criteria in AP [Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]

The access walkway, which starts at the shoreline and ends at the terminal platform, can be no wider than 4 feet.





Dock Design Standards and Criteria in AP [Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]

The terminal platform is limited to 160 square feet.





Dock Design Standards and Criteria in AP [Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]

The **terminal platform** is defined as that part of a dock or pier, including finger piers, that is connected to the access walkway, is located at the terminus of the facility and is designed to secure and load or unload a vessel or conduct other water dependent activities.



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Dock Design Standards and Criteria in AP [Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]

Marginal docks, meaning docks directly adjacent to and running parallel to a seawall or bulkhead are considered terminal platform and are limited to 160 square feet.





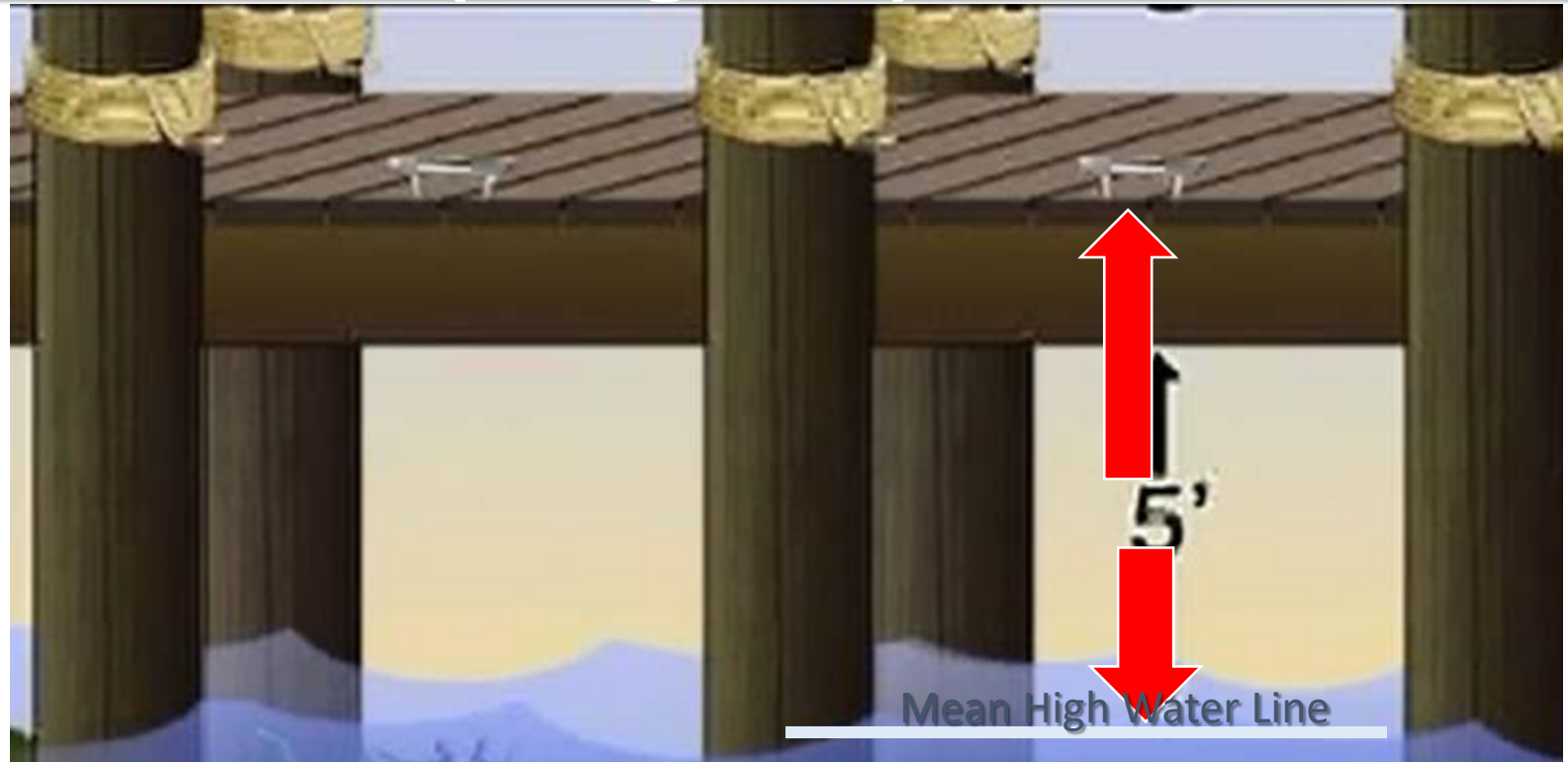
Other Construction Criteria and Limitations to Dock in the AP

Slips which contain boat lifts, that do not float in the water, may be roofed if **the roof does not overhang more than 1 foot beyond the footprint of the lift and the boat** stored at the lift





Siting Requirements in AP (Seagrass) [Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]

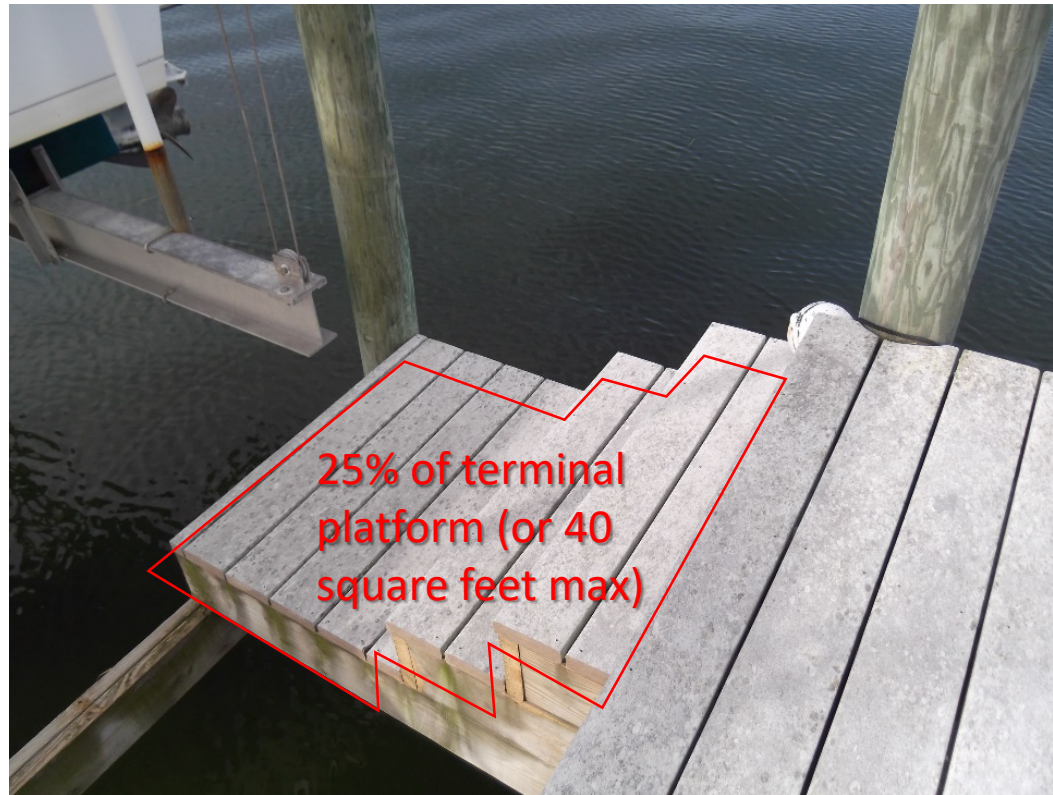


If the access walkway or terminal platform is located over resources, it must be elevated 5 feet above the mean high water line.



Siting Requirements in AP (Seagrass) [Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]

Up to 25% of the terminal platform may be lower than 5 feet for safe ingress and egress from a vessel or to access the water.





Siting Requirements in AP (Seagrass) [Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]



The material used to construct the surface shall be no wider than **8 inches** and shall be spaced a minimum of **1/2 inch** apart.



Boat Restrictions

[Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]

Two Vessels





Boat Restrictions

[Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]

There must be at least 1 foot clearance between the bottom of your boat and the submerged vegetation or other resource **at all times**





Boat Restrictions

[Rule 18-20, F.A.C.]

There must be at least 1 foot clearance between the bottom of your boat and the submerged vegetation or other resource at **all times**

This includes the Boat Mooring Location, Turning Basin, and Access Channel



More Information

- For more information about designing docks in the aquatic preserve, please use our Online Help Resource:

<http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/dworm/slerp/erphelp/mergedProjects/docksguide/Home.htm>



Examples



- How many boats?
- Does it meet the definition of a private residential single-family dock?
- Where is the terminal platform?