

MEMO TO BOARD OF SELECTMEN 1 March, 2011

Dear BOS:

It has come to our attention that the new concrete floating dock on the west side of the harbor is being damaged by excessive weight and the movement of lobster pots, with possible wracking occurring. This may invalidate our warrantee and creates a dangerous situation. After consultation with the three selectmen I have the following recommendations:

The slip leases are for the slips only; they do not extend any privileges to store gear or bait on any docks. Recognizing, however, that it is necessary to have bait waiting we recommend that two bait barrels be allowed, per slip, on the cement floating docks. This allows fishermen to keep two bait barrels on their boats and two on the dock, which is sufficient for daily needs. Lobster pots and other gear are not to be stored on the cement floating dock.

On the commercial side of the harbor we recommend that bait barrels be limited to one bait barrel deep along the inner side of the dock from the stairs on the south side by Jimmy Morgan's fish house to stairs on the west side, winter and summer. Area must be hosed down daily during the summer months from the fresh water hoses provided, to keep slime and debris (from the bait barrels) from building up. This is a serious safety and hygiene issue.

Nothing else – nets, pots, etc. – is to be left on the dock with the exception that anything which is being loaded on, or removed from a boat may be left on the dock for a period not to exceed three days. Further any gear that is left must be neatly stacked to allow for safe passage along the dock and bulkhead areas.

Following is the balance of a memo that we sent to you in April last year. The information and recommendations in it still pertain.

We need to clean up the whole harbor area – all the fishing gear and any boat stuff needs to be removed from docks and floats and the whole harbor front policed to remove garbage and any waste petroleum products. We would recommend that the BOS arrange to have a locked dumpster installed (no household waste!), perhaps on a temporary basis, to facilitate the clean up. The HM's office would retain the key and open/close for fishermen and/or harbor patrons.

In particular, people with fishing gear on the dock on the E side need to clear up their gear such as bait barrels and other items off the actual dock. The BOS needs to issue a clear directive about this which I can enforce. Perhaps there should be future penalties if gear is not removed. If gear and other items are placed on the bulkhead (Park and Rec's jurisdiction) or those areas are not cleaned up I would recommend that P & R either not

renew the leases or that fines be levied. All of this is a real safety – and potential liability issue – for the town.

Further, in the past we have discussed the use of the docks and/or bulkheads for small gathering and parties. I have expressed my concern about excessive drinking or loud groups – this is not often a problem, but occasionally situations arise which need to be dealt with. Further, we do not want to encourage partying on the docks in the future. The BOS needs to make a policy and empower the Police and/or the Harbor department to enforce the policy.

We encourage visitors to use and enjoy our harbor and the facilities as well as the various businesses along the harbor front. We want to maintain a family oriented harbor, and we want to make residents and visitors' experience as safe and enjoyable as possible. However my jurisdiction only extends along the dock. The bulkhead lots, the parking, and the beach are beyond my responsibility and/or jurisdiction.

Best wishes,

Dennis Jason  
Harbormaster