

# Article I. General Provisions

## § 58-1. Title.

This chapter shall be known as the "Old Lyme Harbor Ordinance."

## § 58-2. Applicability.

- A. Unless otherwise provided, each provision of this chapter relating to Old Lyme waters shall apply from the mean high water mark out to: the west from the Lyme/Old Lyme border to the middle of the Connecticut River, southerly to Long Island Sound extending 1,000 feet into the sound and east to the middle of Four Mile River. See Figure No. 4.<sup>[1]</sup>

[1]

*Editor's Note: Figure No. 4 is on file at the Town Clerk's office.*

## § 58-3. Appointment of Harbormaster.

The Harbor Management Commission shall submit to the Governor a list of not fewer than three nominees for appointment as Harbormaster or Deputy Harbormaster by the Governor, pursuant to Public Act 91-404.<sup>[1]</sup>

[1]

*Editor's Note: See C.G.S. § 15-1.*

## § 58-4. Harbor Management Fund; fee schedule.

**[Amended 5/7/2025]**

A.

In accordance with C.G.S. §§ 22a-113l and 22a-113s, a Harbor Management Fund is hereby established to provide for the costs of administering the Harbor Management Plan.<sup>[1]</sup>

[1]

*Editor's Note: A copy of the Harbor Management Plan is included as an attachment to this chapter.*

B.

The Commission shall propose a fee schedule for a permit for a mooring location or any other activity within the scope of the plan. The maximum annual fee for a mooring or anchorage shall be \$100 ~~\$200~~. The Harbormaster or Deputy Harbormaster shall collect such fee. Any fee collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into a fund maintained by the Town Treasurer of the Town of Old Lyme and shall be used for the maintenance and improvement of the harbor for the public and for expenses for personnel and equipment directly related to the function of the Commission and the Harbormaster or Deputy Harbormaster. All expenditures shall require the approval of the Commission and shall be paid by the Commission Treasurer.

# Article II. Traffic and Speed

## § 58-5. Traffic control authority.

The Old Lyme Harbormaster, Marine Patrol, and police shall have authority to control waterborne traffic as specified in C.G.S. § 15-154 and other applicable state statutes and regulations. (For further information, see C.G.S. §§ 15-127 through 15-157.)

## § 58-6. Speed and wake regulation.

A.

In accordance with C.G.S. § 15-140m, no boat shall be operated in a manner which could endanger persons or property in Old Lyme waters. In accordance with Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Regulation 15-121-B14, no boat shall be operated at a speed to exceed six miles per hour within 100 feet of shore, or a dock, pier, float or anchored or moored vessels, launching areas, marinas, or other congested areas unless taking off or landing a water-skier. Consequently, except for certain sections of the Connecticut River, speeds greater than six miles per hour are prohibited in streams, rivers and estuaries of Old Lyme waters.

Additionally, No person shall operate a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of Slow-No-Wake within 200 feet of shore, a dock, pier, float, swim zone or anchored or moored vessel. [Amended 5/7/2025]

B.

In addition, steerage speed is the maximum allowed in many areas of the Connecticut River. A current issue of the Connecticut Boaters Guide identifies those areas.

C.

No person shall operate a motorboat in excess of Slow-No-Wake in the Lieutenant River, Back River, Duck River or Blackhall River, or any flooded land, tidal flat or unnamed tributary associated therewith, east of a line running generally southward from the westernmost point of Ferry Landing State Park to the northernmost point of Great Island, then along the western edge of Great Island to Poverty Point on Great Island, then from Poverty Point to the westernmost point of Griswold Point.

For the purposes of this sub-section (C), the definition of "Slow-No-Wake" shall be the same as in RCSA Section 15-121-(A) (1) , as amended from time to time. The definition of "motorboat" shall be the same as in CGS Section 15-127. [Amended 5/7/2025]

D.

- a. In accordance with the 28 July 1987 stipulated agreement between the Town Of Old Lyme and the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, et al, Superior Court Judicial District of New London Docket Number CV-87-0504083S, in the area described as the 35 foot "boat lane", so called, which has a centerline of 30.5 feet from the prolongation of the westerly boundary line and 52.5 feet from the prolongation of the easterly boundary line of Lot 201 on Map 6 of the Old Lyme Assessor, the following shall apply:
  1. No person shall operate a vessel in excess of Slow-No-Wake;
  2. No person shall moor or anchor a vessel;
  3. No person shall operate a vessel the aggregate horsepower of which exceeds 35 horsepower;
  4. No person shall operate a vessel except to board or discharge passengers or allow such vessel to remain for more than 5 minutes;
  5. No person shall leave a vessel unattended for any amount of time; and,
  6. This section shall not apply to government vessels, vessels needing to land for emergency purposes, or vessels approved by First Selectperson in writing for the purpose of transporting of persons to and from shore.
- b. In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection (a) of this section, in the boat lane, so called, or in any permitted swim area adjacent to the boat lane the following shall apply:
  1. No person shall beach a vessel in any permitted swim area;

2. No person shall anchor or moor a vessel in a manner such that said vessel may encroach upon the boundaries of a permitted swim area by action of wave, wind or tide;
3. No person shall tie or otherwise affix a vessel to any line or float or other object designating a permitted swim area; and,
4. No person shall refuel a vessel.

| For the purposes of this sub-section (D), the definition of "Slow-No-Wake" shall be the same as in RCSA Section 15-121-(A) (1), as amended from time to time. The definition of "motorboat" shall be the same as in CGS Section 15-127. [Amended 5/7/2025]

## Article III. Harbor Use

### § 58-7. Enforcement authority.

- A. The Old Lyme Harbormaster, Marine Patrol, and police shall have the authority, as enforcement agents, to carry out harbor management directives and enforce all provisions of the Harbor Management Plan,<sup>[1]</sup> including this chapter.

[1]

*Editor's Note: A copy of the Harbor Management Plan is included at the end of this chapter.*

### § 58-8. Penalties for offenses.

[Amended 4-30-2025]

- A. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of \$60 ~~\$150~~ unless it is a continuing violation, in which case the fine may be \$60 ~~\$750~~ per day.
- B. Any person who violates § 58-6 C, § 58-6 D, § or 58-31 shall be subject to a fine of \$150 for the first offence, \$250 for the second offence and \$350 for each offence thereafter.

[Amended 5/7/2025]

### § 58-9. Liability.

Any person using Old Lyme waters or its maritime facilities shall assume all risk of personal injury or damage or loss to property, and the Town of Old Lyme assumes no risk on account of fire, theft, act of God, or damages of any kind to vessels within the harbor or maritime facility.

### § 58-10. Swimming.

Swimming is prohibited in all channels and fairways.

### § 58-11. Waterskiing.

Waterskiing is prohibited in all areas where speed in excess of six miles per hour is prohibited. (See § 58-6.)

## § 58-12. Fishing.

Per state regulations, no fixed fishing gear is permitted within Coast Guard designated navigation channels. No fixed commercial fishing gear is permitted within channels or fairways if it interferes with navigation. No fishing is allowed within areas bounded by swim lines. Refer to state regulation 26-142a-3a(d).

## § 58-13. Underwater diving.

Recreational/scuba diving is prohibited in all channels, fairways, turning basins, mooring areas, anchorages and swimming areas except for the purpose of hull work and mooring inspections. A clearly visible red flag with a white diagonal should be used.

## § 58-14. Use of vessel as abode.

The use of vessels in Old Lyme waters as permanent or long-term (i.e., exceeding one month) abodes is specifically prohibited. Sleeping aboard vessels is allowed as a secondary use to the vessel's principal commercial or recreational use. Temporary exceptions to this for unusual circumstances may be allowed at the discretion and by permission of the Harbormaster.

## § 58-15. Piers.

New piers must have a setback from a channel, fairway, designated mooring area, or designated anchorage equal to the beam of a vessel using the pier or 15 feet, whichever is greater. (Additional federal guidelines apply, particularly next to a federal navigation project.) Consideration must be given to the intended use; access to a pier must not infringe on rights of others or on designated mooring areas.

## § 58-16. Races, regattas and exhibitions.

No power boat parade, regatta, race, tournament or exhibition shall be permitted in Old Lyme waters except as authorized by the United States Coast Guard. The Harbor Management Commission will provide comments and/or recommendations.

## § 58-17. Fireworks.

No fireworks shall be detonated on Old Lyme waters within 1,000 feet from shore.

## § 58-18. Swim lines and markers.

Any individual, association or nonmunicipal entity desiring to place markers to designate a restricted swimming area or slalom course shall apply to the Department of Environmental Protection, having first obtained signed approval from the Old Lyme First Selectman who will consult the Harbor Management Commission.

## Article IV. Anchoring, Mooring and Security of Vessels

### § 58-19. Placement of moorings.

[Amended 12-14-1998]

It shall be a violation of this chapter to place any mooring in Old Lyme waters without a permit from the Harbormaster. The mooring may be removed by the Harbormaster or his delegate at the owner's expense and subject to penalties, as set forth in Article III, § 58-8 of this chapter.

### § 58-20. Anchoring.

[Amended 12-14-1998]

It shall be a violation of this chapter to leave an anchored vessel of 20 feet or more in length unattended overnight in Old Lyme waters. Vessels in distress are excepted from this prohibition, but, as soon as practicable, the person in charge shall report the situation to the Harbormaster. A designated transient anchorage, for approximately six vessels, is located between Goose Island and Calves Island. See Figure No. 3.<sup>[1]</sup> Disputes within this area are to be resolved by the Harbormaster.

[1]

*Editor's Note: Figure No. 3 is on file at the Town Clerk's office.*

### § 58-21. Obstructing channels.

It shall be a violation of this chapter knowingly or willfully to obstruct the free use of any channel or fairway within Old Lyme waters. Refer also to C.G.S. §§ 15-133(b) and 15-140d.

### § 58-22. Rafting.

[Amended 12-14-1998]

Rafting of three vessels on a single mooring will only be allowed providing it does not interfere with adjacent single moorings or anchorages. Owners or operators of rafted vessels may go ashore but shall not leave the raft unattended and shall be available to tend to the vessels in the event of heavy weather. Rafting of more than three vessels is prohibited.

### § 58-23. Correcting an unsafe mooring/anchoring situation.

[Amended 12-14-1998]

If any vessel shall be found, in the judgment of the Harbormaster, to be anchored or moored within Old Lyme waters in an unsafe or dangerous manner, or in such a way as to create a hazard to other vessels or to persons or property, the Harbormaster shall order and direct necessary measures to eliminate such unsafe or dangerous condition. Primary responsibility for compliance with such orders and directions shall rest with the owner of the improperly anchored or moored vessel or his authorized agent. In an emergency situation, the Harbormaster or his delegate, without liability, shall board such vessel and cause the improper situation to be corrected, and the owner of the vessel shall be liable for any costs incurred in effecting such correction and be subject to penalties as set forth in Article III, § 58-8 of this chapter.

## § 58-24. Dangerous or disabled vessels.

[Amended 12-14-1998]

Any vessel that enters Old Lyme waters in a disabled condition, or any vessel within Old Lyme waters which becomes disabled, shall immediately become subject to the orders and directions of the Harbormaster and subject to penalties as set forth in Article **III**, § **58-8** of this chapter, and it shall be unlawful for any person to fail or refuse to comply with the Harbormaster's orders or directions with regard to the disposition of such vessel.

## § 58-25. Mooring plan regulations.

A.

Mooring plans. Any plan of mooring areas and of segregation of vessels by types and length, in the interest of vessel safety and maximum use of available anchorage areas, shall conform to mooring plans prepared and made available by the Harbor Management Commission.

B.

Dedicated mooring areas. Some areas of Old Lyme waters are designated mooring areas and have specified mooring locations determined in order to provide for the best and most efficient arrangement of vessels. However, waterfront property owners may exercise their riparian rights for use of the waters which may have an effect on the arrangements within a designated mooring area.

C.

Mooring records. The Harbormaster shall keep a description of all moorings, their locations, and the permittee's name, whether a commercial entity or private individual, home and business addresses and telephone numbers, and the date the mooring was inspected and set. For private moorings in the designated mooring areas, the name, type, length, beam and draft of the vessel to be moored thereto and its **Connecticut Registration** or **Connecticut Certificate of Decal** shall be recorded. The Harbormaster will maintain a record of annual lessees of commercial moorings. All moorings shall be identified by a permit number assigned by the Harbormaster at the time the mooring permit is issued. The Harbormaster shall present reports to the Harbor Management Commission as requested.

(Amended 5-7-2025)

D.

Mooring Assignment Committee. This advisory committee shall be elected by the Harbor Management Commission and shall consist of three members of the Commission plus the Harbormaster as an ex officio nonvoting member. The Committee shall elect its own Chairman. This Committee's responsibility shall be to advise the Harbormaster and to monitor placement of moorings to ensure that all mooring assignments are made in conformance with the policies of this plan and the provisions of this chapter.

E.

Assignment of mooring space in the designated noncommercial mooring area.

[Amended 12-14-1998]

(1)

All assignments of mooring space in the designated noncommercial mooring area shall be made by the Harbormaster upon written application therefor by any person or persons, partnership, sole proprietorship, or any corporation or other organized group recognized by and registered with the State of Connecticut or the Town of Old Lyme. However, application from entities whose principal assets consist of the mooring applied for and a boat shall not be accepted. If the available mooring space is

more than adequate for a vessel, the owner of such vessel shall nevertheless be granted that space which shall be temporary and the vessel so assigned will be moved to a more appropriate space within the aforesaid area at the first available opportunity.

(2)

If the applicant shall refuse the grant of a mooring space when offered or owns no vessel within 30 days of the grant of the application, the application shall be redated as of the date of refusal and the applicant's name moved to the bottom of the appropriate list of applicants.

(3)

Mooring permits shall be limited to one per household, corporation or organized group, unless, on or after June 1, appropriate mooring locations are unassigned and only until such time as a valid application, considering depth of water, size and type of vessel, is made by an applicant for an initial mooring. (The original permittee will be given 30 days' notice.)<sup>[1]</sup>

[1]

*Editor's Note: Original § 27F, Initial Assignment, which immediately followed this subsection, was rescinded 12-14-1998.*

## § 58-26. Mooring permits.

A.

**Waterfront property owners (shore or Connecticut River).** Permit will be granted if mooring circle is within side reference lines (see Figure No. 5).<sup>[1]</sup> If mooring circle extends beyond side reference lines, a permit may be granted depending on use of adjacent area (see Figure No. 6).<sup>[2]</sup> The applicant must indicate requested distance from mean high water line as well as probable vessel size. However, beachfront property owners may apply for a mooring permit without the requirement to define the vessel. This is done to allow landlords to rent property with the assurances that a boat may be moored offshore in front. Mooring tackle description must be included in the application and should conform to the minimums listed in this plan considering the largest vessel to be moored. **Landlords must inform the Harbormaster of dates and vessels allowed to use the mooring. A valid registration and minimum \$100,000 liability insurance documentation must be supplied to the Harbormaster before use.** Encroachment on federal channels will not be allowed. If moorings in the designated mooring areas prohibit access to navigable waters, adjustments shall be made to grant access. If a waterfront property owner desires a mooring in front of the owned property and it would be within (or interferes with) a designated mooring area, one mooring in the designated mooring area may be granted if there is a suitable location for the displaced mooring permittee. However, the location of the mooring cannot interfere with safe use by others and may not be located beyond the halfway point to property opposite the owner's shore.

**[Amended 5-7-2025]**

[1]

*Editor's Note: Figure No. 5 is on file at the Town Clerk's office.*

[2]

*Editor's Note: Figure No. 6 is on file at the Town Clerk's office.*

B.

**Waterfront property owners (estuaries, river).** Permit will be granted if mooring circle is within side reference lines and does not prevent navigation. Applicant must indicate location of mooring and probable vessel size. If moorings in the designated mooring areas prohibit access to navigable waters, adjustments shall be made to grant access. If a waterfront property owner desires a mooring in front of the owned property and it would be within (or interferes with) a designated mooring area, one mooring in the designated mooring area may be granted if there is a suitable location for the displaced

mooring permittee. However, the location of the mooring cannot interfere with safe use by others and may not be located beyond the halfway point to property opposite the owner's shore.  
[Amended 12-14-1998]

C.

**Designated mooring area, commercial.** Federal and state permits are required for each mooring and the mooring locations must conform to the area identified in the Harbor Management Plan.<sup>[3]</sup> Note that transient boaters can normally be accommodated. See Subsections A and B. See Figure No. 3.<sup>[4]</sup>  
[3]

*Editor's Note: A copy of the Harbor Management Plan is included at the end of this chapter.*

[4]

*Editor's Note: Figure No. 3 is on file at the Town Clerk's office.*

D.

**Designated mooring area, noncommercial.** All vessels using this sector must be registered in Connecticut. Vessels numbered out of state and documented vessels must be registered and display a current Connecticut registration decal. Vessels must be owned by the applicant. Waterfront property owners are not limited because of the placement of a designated mooring area. See Figure No. 3.<sup>[5]</sup>  
[5]

*Editor's Note: Figure No. 3 is on file at the Town Clerk's office.*

E.

**Application forms.** Mooring application forms will be made available ~~online in the Selectmen's Office at the Old Lyme Town Hall up until February 1 between January 15 and February 15~~, renewals will have first priority. After February 15, applications will be considered based on the date of receipt of a complete application  
[Amended 05-7-2025]

F.

**Fees.** Granting of mooring permits shall require a non-refundable application fee as set by the Harbor Management Commission.

[Amended 12-14-1998]

G.

**Mooring placement.** When an applicant has registered for a mooring, the Harbormaster shall assign a place and number for a specific location. The applicant shall mark the mooring float with the applicant's last name, ~~permit number~~ and weight of ~~mushroom~~ anchor, all in two-inch letters of contrasting color.

[Amended 05-7-2025]

H.

**Permit dates and transferability.** All mooring permits issued are valid from ~~issue March 1 to the last day of February~~ December of the year issued. No mooring permit within the designated mooring area shall be transferable except within the owner's immediate household. The Harbormaster may permit the temporary use (i.e., normally less than one month) of a mooring by another vessel upon written request by the holder of the permit in the designated mooring area.

(Amended 05 -7 -2025)

I.

**Registration of mooring space; previously registered boats.**

(1) Any person who, during the immediately preceding year, was a permit holder shall have between January 15 and February 15 of the following year to apply for renewal of a permit. All applications for renewal of the permit shall contain the information noted in preceding subsections and shall be accompanied by the application fee. Applications shall be completed online by February 15. Failure to submit an application for renewal of a permit by February 15 shall result in a loss of mooring space. This application may be made in person in the Selectmen's office under the same time constraints.

[Amended 4-30-2025]

(2) If a permit holder is temporarily without a boat while planning to acquire an alternative, he may apply to the Harbormaster to retain his mooring space for a period of 30 days.

(3) Relocation application. A registered holder of a permit in the designated mooring area who desires to apply for a different mooring space for a different boat shall file a relocation application containing the appropriate information along with the existing mooring space registration number.

J.

**Request for new space.** All requests for new mooring space shall be made by an application containing the information noted in the preceding subsections and the application fee.

K.

**Waiting list.** The Harbormaster shall cause to be posted in the Old Lyme Town Hall a list showing the names of persons desiring private mooring space in the designated mooring area and the date of application, the area in which such space is desired, and the size of the vessel for which such mooring space has been requested. The aforesaid list shall be compiled from all persons making application for new mooring space or for relocation.

L.

**Forfeiture of mooring space.** Except as otherwise noted, any registered mooring permittee shall be deemed to have forfeited his registered mooring space by reason of the following:

- (1) Removal of mooring and notification to the Harbormaster that the space is available.
- (2) Failure to re-register for such space by February 15 of any season or failure to replace any piece of the mooring not complying with the mooring standards within 30 days of notice to the applicant by the Harbormaster.
- (3) Failure to resurface or replace mooring within 30 days after being advised by the Harbormaster that the mooring buoy is down.

## § 58-27. Specification of moorings.

Moorings must meet or exceed the minimum requirements as set forth in the Minimum Mooring Tackle Specifications.<sup>[1]</sup> It should be recognized that these standards are also used for mooring spacing.

[1]

*Editor's Note: See the table included at the end of this chapter.*

## § 58-28. Abandonment of mooring.

Any permit holder who owns his mooring tackle and is abandoning his mooring space may offer to sell the mooring tackle occupying such space to the next person assigned the same. If such mooring tackle is not sold, it shall be removed by such permit holder. Failure of the permit holder to remove such tackle shall constitute the abandonment thereof, and such tackle may be removed by the Harbormaster at the expense of such permit holder thereof. The moving of any mooring to assigned space shall be at the applicant's expense and only with prior written approval of the Harbormaster.

## § 58-29. Inspection procedure.

A.

Mooring tackle shall be inspected before initial placement, and no permit shall be issued for the vessel to be moored thereat unless the application is accompanied by a certificate of a qualified inspector that such mooring has been inspected by him within the preceding 24 months and that it complies with the minimum mooring standards established hereby.

[Amended 12-14-1998]

B.

All moorings are subject to periodic inspections by the Harbormaster or his delegate who may require hauling, repair or replacement for worn or defective tackle.

C.

Qualification of inspectors.

(1)

Any person upon application to the Harbormaster and demonstration to him of his familiarity with the rules and regulations of the Town relating to mooring inspection shall be considered for approval as a qualified inspector. Such approval may be revoked by the Harbor Management Commission if it shall appear that the inspector has failed to exercise due diligence in performing his duties as inspector.

(2)

All inspections will be filed with the Harbormaster on the official mooring inspection form.

D.

Appeals. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Harbormaster may appeal to the ~~DOT Bureau of Water Transportation~~ **CT DEEP**.

(Amended 5-7-2025)

[1]

*Editor's Note: Original § 31E, Removal of Moorings, which immediately followed this subsection, was rescinded 12-14-1998.*

## § 58-30. Removal of moorings.

[Added 12-14-1998]

All mooring tackle ~~must be removed by December 1 of odd numbered years and may not be put back in until the following March 1 and only after inspection. inspections expire at the end of December of odd years and may not be used until passing inspection.~~ Moorings not ~~pulled~~ inspected in accordance with this section by May 31 of an inspection year will be considered abandoned.

(Amended 5-7-2025)

## Article V. Sanitation

### § 58-31. Discharge of refuse.

A.

It shall be a violation of this chapter to discharge any untreated (or improperly treated) sewage, refuse or waste matter, petroleum product or by-product, paint, varnish, dead animals, or debris within Old Lyme waters.

B.

No person shall operate a marine toilet at any time so as to cause or permit to pass or to be discharged within Old Lyme waters any untreated sewage or other waste matter contaminant of any kind. Furthermore, marine sanitation devices **overboard discharges** must be securely sealed.

(Amended 5-7-2025)

## Article VI. Safety

### § 58-32. Defective or dangerous conditions.

Whenever any buildings, structures, or floating facilities within Old Lyme waters are found to be defective or damaged so as to be unsafe or dangerous to persons or property, they shall be rendered safe or no longer dangerous by the owner within a reasonable time.

## Article VII. Terminology

### § 58-33. Definitions and word usage.

A.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**ANCHOR (v)**

To secure temporarily a vessel to the bottom within a body of water by dropping an anchor or anchors from the vessel.

**BERTHING**

Berthing space for one or more vessels alongside a pier or other structure.

**BOAT**

A ship, vessel, or any other type of watercraft, including but not limited to jet skis.

**BULKHEAD**

A structure built parallel, or nearly so, to the shore at the interface of the land and water.

[Added 1-25-2010]

**BULKHEAD LINE**

A line seaward of which no fill or creation of land is intended to take place. The outer edge or foundation of any seawall is intended to be on or landward of the bulkhead line.

**CHANNEL**

Any water areas reserved for unobstructed movement of vessels and so noted on navigation charts. Normally it is federal and marked by buoys or other aids.

**COMMERCIAL MOORING**

A mooring intended for rental or lease along with the provision of shoreside amenities, including parking, launch service and bathrooms.

**DESIGNATED MOORING AREA**

Those areas designated by the Harbor Management Commission for moorings only.

**DISTRESS**

A state of disability or a present or obviously imminent danger which, if unduly prolonged, could endanger life or property.

**DOCK**

A structure to which any form of watercraft may be secured. Such structure may be either floating, at any depth of water, or nonfloating; not to be construed as a float used for swimming.

[Added 1-25-2010]

**EMERGENCY**

A state of imminent or proximate danger to life or property in which time is of the essence.

**FAIRWAY**

The middle 50% of any river, stream, or estuary, unless designated otherwise, or any locally designated and/or maintained water areas reserved for unobstructed movement of vessels.

**FLOATING DOCK**

A platform designed to rise and fall with the tide which is connected to the shoreline or fixed dock, pier, wharf or walkway by a ramp.

[Added 1-25-2010]

**HARBORMASTER**

The Harbormaster appointed by the Governor who has the responsibility for the general care and supervision of Old Lyme waters.

**HARBORSIDE REFERENCE LINE**

A line defining the maximum length to which docks are recommended to extend into the harbor from mean high water line. The harborside reference line may be established by a compass direction or may run between two known points on shore.

**MOOR**

To secure a vessel, other than by anchoring, by tying to a pier or other permanent structure.

**MOORING (n)**

An approved anchor and associated hardware emplaced in water in order to secure a vessel thereto on a semipermanent basis. A mooring circle has a radius of 2.5 times the depth at mean high water (the length of the chain) plus 10 feet (pennant) plus the length of the vessel.

**MOORING BUOY**

An approved float marking a mooring.

**OLD LYME WATERS**

The waters defined in § 58-2 of Article I.

**PERSON**

Includes individuals, corporations, societies, associations, and partnerships.

is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel.

**PIER**

A structure which is supported on piles or other open work supports, or may be floating, which may be located seaward of the bulkhead line. A pier includes a stake, isolated pile or dolphin.

**PIERHEAD LINE**

A line seaward of which no pier is recommended to be constructed.

**REGISTERED OWNER**

The holder of a mooring space assigned to him or her by the Harbormaster.

**SHORE**

That part of the land in immediate contact with a body of water, including the area between high and low water lines.

**SIDE FAIRWAY LINES**

Lines which define the width of the side fairway required between the boundary line of a waterfront property and any pier.

**SIDE REFERENCE LINES**

Lines extending seaward from the boundary lines of waterfront property, whose purpose is to define the water use area of such waterfront property. (Riparian boundaries are frequently determined by the courts and do not always conform to the above definition.)

**SLIP**

Berthing space for a single vessel between piers, finger floats, or pilings.

**VESSEL**

Every description of watercraft, other than a seaplane on water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation.

**WALKWAY**

A narrow structure designed for nonvehicular use.

[Added 1-25-2010]

**WATERFRONT PROPERTY OWNER**

The person(s) or entity who or which owns title to the land bordering tidal waters and who or which holds the appurtenant riparian or littoral rights to use such waters, or the owner of the riparian or littoral rights.

**WHARF**

Same as "pier."

[Added 1-25-2010]

B.

"Shall" is mandatory; "may" is permissive.

## § 58-34. Incorporation of dock standards.

[Added 1-25-2010]

The standards for docks constructed in Old Lyme waters, approved by the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, State Department of Transportation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and adopted by the Old Lyme Harbor Management Commission on July 14, 2009, shall be incorporated in the Harbor Management Ordinance.<sup>[1]</sup>

(Amended 5-7-2025)

[1]

*Editor's Note: See the Harbor Management Plan Addendum included at the end of this chapter.*