



August 27, 2026

*Proposed Amendments to 15A NCAC 07J .0210
Docks and Pier Replacement Rule Changes (CR-26-76)*

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Session Laws 2024-45 & 2024-53

- Session Law 2024-45 established new CAMA permit exemptions for the repair and replacement of certain docks, piers, and walkways.
- Session Law 2024-53 subsequently amended the legislation, including additional department requirements to provide mapping materials to the public.
- These amendments created a statutory exception to the CRC's repair/replacement criteria for qualifying structures damaged by natural elements, fire, or normal deterioration.
- The new legislation is currently being implemented by DCM

Permit Exemption Criteria in CAMA

What is allowed if CAMA exemption applies:

- May rebuild to pre-damaged condition and dimensions
- May increase length/width by ≤ 5 ft or 5%, whichever is less
- May increase height
- No limit on % of structural components replaced

Exemption Does NOT Apply to:

- Docks > 6 ft wide
- Platforms > 800 sq. ft. platform area
- Facilities adjacent to a federal navigation channel
- Facilities not damaged from natural elements, fire, or normal deterioration

Other applicable State & federal laws still apply



NCAC 07J .0210 – Replacement of Ext. Structures

Repair and Replacement – 07J .0210

15A NCAC 07H .0210

- (2) WATER DEPENDENT STRUCTURES. The proposed work is considered replacement if it enlarges the existing structure in any dimension, except where G.S. 113A-118(g) applies for dock and pier replacement. The proposed work is also considered replacement if:
- (a) inIn the case of fixed docks, piers, platforms, boathouses, boatlifts, and free standing moorings, moorings that do not meet G.S. 113A-118(g), more than 50 percent of the framing and structural components (beams, girders, joists, stringers, or pilings) must be rebuilt in order to restore the structure to its pre-damage condition. Water dependent structures that are structurally independent from the principal pier or dock, such as boatlifts or boathouses, are considered as separate structures for the purpose of this Rule; Rule. Maps for determining whether a property is adjacent to a federal navigation channel can be found at XXXX;

DEQ Webpage Link

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USACE Federal Navigation Channel GIS

The Department shall make maps and other information available on its website to assist landowners in identifying whether their property is adjacent to a federal navigation channel.

Per, CAMA (113A-118(g)):

(g) For fixed docks, floating docks, fixed piers, floating piers, or walkways damaged or destroyed by natural elements, fire, or normal deterioration, activity to rebuild the dock, pier, or walkway to its pre-damage condition shall be considered repair of the structure, and shall not require a permit under this Article or rules adopted thereunder, without regard to the percentage of framing and structural components required to be rebuilt. At the time a dock, pier, or walkway damaged or destroyed by natural elements, fire, or normal deterioration is repaired, the width and length of the dock, pier, or walkway structure may be enlarged by not more than 5 feet or five percent (5%), whichever is less, and the structure may be heightened, without need for a permit. The owner shall, however, be required to comply with all other applicable State and federal laws. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to docks and piers (i) greater than 6 feet in width, (ii) greater than 800 square feet of platform area, or (iii) that are adjacent to a federal navigation channel.

USACE maps link for identifying whether your property is adjacent to Federal Navigation Channel: [NC Federal Channel Adjacency](#)

[Coastal Management Rules & Regulations](#)[USACE Federal Navigation Channel GIS](#)[Coastal Development Rules](#)[NC Dredge and Fill Law](#)[Periodic Review of Existing Rules](#)[Proposed Rules](#)

USACE Federal Channel Adjacency Tool

NC Federal Channel Adjacency

Wilmington District
Navigation Channel



NC Adjacent to Federal Channel



NC Session Law 2024-53

Section 4C.11 of North Carolina Session Law 2024-53 reclassifies the rebuilding of certain coastal docks, piers, and walkways as "repair" rather than "development," exempting them from needing a CAMA permit even if more than 50% destroyed. While allowing for minor increases in width and length, these exemptions do not apply to structures over 6 feet wide, larger than 800 square feet, or located adjacent to a federal navigation channel. For complete details, see [NC DEQ SL 2024-53 Summary](#).

If the dock construction is in the adjacency area (red) shown on the map or will enter this area then the dock is considered adjacent to a federal channel and the homeowner will need to go to CAMA for input on the dock.

Use the Search (Magnifying Glass) in the upper right hand widget. Type in the address to and search to see if the property in question is adjacent to a federal channel.



Legend

Wilmington District
Navigation Channel



NC Adjacent to Federal Channel





Questions?