APPENDIX E: Dock Construction Guidelines in Florida for docks or other minor structures
constructed in or over submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), marsh, or mangrove habitat
(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/National Marine Fisheries Service, August 2001)

Note: These conditions may be subject to revision at any time. It is our intention that the most
recent version of these conditions will be utilized during the evaluation of the permit application.

Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

1. Avoidance. The pier shall be aligned so as to minimize the size of the footprint over
SAV.

2. The height of pier shall be a minimum of 5 feet above Mean High Water / Ordinary High
Water (MHW/OHW) as measured from the top surface of the decking.

3. The width of the pier is limited to a maximum of 4 feet. A turnaround area is allowed for
piers greater than 200 feet in length. The turnaround is limited to a section of the pier no
more than 10 feet in length and no more than 6 feet in width. The turnaround shall be
located at the midpoint of the pier.

4. Portions of the pier over SAV shall be oriented in a north-south orientation to the
maximum extent that is practicable.

5. If possible, terminal platforms shall be placed in deep water, waterward of SAV or in an
area devoid of SAV.

   a. If a terminal platform is placed over SAV areas and constructed of grated decking,
the total size of the platform shall be limited to 160 square feet. The grated deck
material shall conform to the specifications stipulated below. The configuration of
the platform shall be a maximum of 8 feet by 20 feet. A minimum of 5 feet by 20
feet shall conform to the 5-foot height requirement; a 3-foot by 20-foot section may
be placed 3 feet above MHW to facilitate boat access. The long axis of the platform
should be aligned in a north-south direction to the maximum extent that is practicable.

   b. If the terminal platform is placed over SAV areas and constructed of planks, the total
size of the platform shall be limited to 120 square feet. The configuration of the
platform shall be a maximum of 6 feet by 20 feet of which a minimum 4-foot wide by
20-foot long section shall conform to the 5-foot height requirement. A section may
be placed 3 feet above MHW to facilitate boat access. The 3 feet above MHW
section shall be cantilevered. The long axis of the platform should be aligned in a
north-south direction to the maximum extent that is practicable. If the 3-feet above
MHW section is constructed with grating material, it may be 3 feet wide.

6. One uncovered boat lift area is allowed. A narrow catwalk (2 feet wide if planks are
used, 3 feet wide if grating is used) may be added to facilitate boat maintenance along the
outboard side of the boat lift and a 4-foot wide walkway may be added along the stern.
APPENDIX E: Dock Construction Guidelines in Florida for docks or other minor structures constructed in or over submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), marsh, or mangrove habitat (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/National Marine Fisheries Service, August 2001)

- The catwalk shall be cantilevered from the outboard mooring pilings (spaced no closer than 10 feet apart).

7. Pilings shall be installed in a manner which will not result in the formation of sedimentary deposits (“donuts” or “halos”) around the newly installed pilings. Pile driving is the preferred method of installation, but jetting with a low pressure pump may be used.

8. The spacing of pilings through SAV beds shall be a minimum of 10 feet on center.

9. The gaps between deck boards shall be a minimum of ½ inch.

Marsh

1. The structure shall be aligned so as to have the smallest over-marsh footprint as practicable.

2. The over-marsh portion of the dock shall be elevated to at least 4 feet above the marsh floor.

3. The width of the dock is limited to a maximum of 4 feet. Any exceptions to the width must be accompanied by an equal increase in height requirement.

Mangroves

1. The width of the dock is limited to a maximum of 4 feet.

2. Mangrove clearing is restricted to the width of the pier.

3. The location and alignment of the pier should be through the narrowest area of the mangrove fringe.