
CHAPTER E - TOWN OF ORIENTAL DOCKING FACILITIES

ARTICLE I – GENERAL RULES

Section 1 – Town Docks and Permitted Docking Areas

The Town of Oriental provides dockage for recreational vessels at these locations on a first come, first served basis:

A. Overnight Docks

- (1) Town Dock #1 - Hodges Street Right of Way/Raccoon Creek Refer to Article III, Sec 2D, (October 1-July 31 ONLY)
- (2) Town Dock #2 – South Avenue South Terminus – Town Property/Raccoon Creek

B. Day Docks

- (1) Hodges Street Bulkhead West Side – Hodges Street/Raccoon Creek West of Town Dock #1 as indicated by sign
- (2) Dinghy Dock – South Water Street, South Terminus/Smith Creek
- (3) Small Boat/Paddle Dock – Midyette Street, South Terminus/Smith Creek
- (4) Hodges Street Bulkhead East Side- Hodges Street/Raccoon Creek East of Town Dock #1 to eighteen feet (18’) East of TD#1 to bulkhead as indicated by signs.

Section 2- Emergency Docking

Hodges Street Bulkhead – Hodges Street Right of Way/Raccoon Creek East of Town Dock #1 as indicated by signs. No vessel shall be tied or otherwise attached to any public dock or other public docking facility maintained by the Town of Oriental unless tied to provided pilings or cleats.

Section 3 – No Charge

Boaters are welcome to use Oriental’s docks for no charge. We do ask that boaters follow our rules and time limits to allow all boaters equal access to our public docking facilities. Vessel owners are responsible for any damage to Town property.

Section 4 – Attaching Vessels

No vessel may be tied to a fence, rub rail or other component not expressly designed for securing a vessel. NO Mediterranean Mooring.

Section 5– Fairway to be Maintained

A safe and adequate fairway for ingress and egress of vessels from the town’s public docking facilities must be maintained as well as not impeding access by boats to adjacent private docks must be maintained at all times.

Section 6–Rafting

Rafting of vessels is prohibited for vessels tied to the town’s public docking facilities except when waived on such special occasions as specified by the Board

of Commissioners which will be indicated by covering the "No Rafting" sign for the duration of the event.

Section 7 –Open Fires

Open fires on any dock or bulkhead provided by the Town of Oriental for docking vessels or on any vessel docked thereon are prohibited.

Section 8 – Generators

No generators may run while docked at Town facilities.

Section 9 – Named Storms

Oriental requires that boaters remove their vessels from Oriental Docks once a hurricane watch or tropical storm warning is issued until docks have been declared safe for use during the many named storms that come through this area. This policy helps the Town of Oriental minimize damage to our docking facilities.

Section 10 – Private Use

The Oriental Town Board may at times reserve one or more of Oriental's Docking Areas for a use associated with a local event. The request must be made at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the Board's Regular Monthly Meeting closest to the event, but it would be best to make the request far earlier, preferably months in advance.

Section 11 – Commercial Vessels

Commercial vessels of any size, other than those of recreational charter fishing groups, tow boat companies, recreational charter boating groups or recreational boat rentals, are prohibited from using the Town Docks for overnight stays.

Section 12- Maintenance and Repair

No maintenance/painting/sanding or repair of vessels may make use of Town property, to include town owned docks or town owned land adjacent.

ARTICLE II – OVERNIGHT DOCKING AREAS

Section 1 – Larger Vessels and Overnight Docking Areas

These docking areas are designed for larger vessels and cruising vessels with crew accommodations. Any vessel of any size that needs to tie up or wishes to stay overnight is welcome to tie up in the Overnight Docking Areas. Commercial vessels must register with the Town and have current insurance information on file. The following areas provided by the town for docking of vessels, including overnight dockings:

- A. Town Dock #1 October 1-July 31 ONLY-Refer to Article III, Section 2D
- B. Town Dock #2
- C. Hodges Street Waterfront Bulkhead/Raccoon Creek West of Town Dock #1 as indicated by sign

Section 2 – Duration of Stay

Boaters are welcome to stay at Oriental's Overnight Docking Areas for up to forty-eight (48) hours within any 30 day period. 48 hour limit is a combination of dockage on all Town Docks.

Section 3 – Emergency Extension of Stay in Overnight Permitted Areas

If a vessel or crew declares an emergency that makes moving the vessel unsafe for those aboard or otherwise unsafe, or if a passenger on any vessel has called for emergency medical care, that makes it impossible to move the vessel, they should notify Oriental Town Hall at the number on the signs as soon as possible.

Section 4 – Attaching vessels

Vessels must be secured bow-and-stern and spring line alongside the Overnight Docking Areas by attaching to the cleats and/or pilings provided.

ARTICLE III – DAY DOCKING AREAS

Section 1 – Definition

Public Day Docks are provided for boaters to tie up or launch small boats and dinghies.

Section 2 – Day Docks

Oriental's Day Docking Areas are:

- A. Dinghy Dock – South Water Street Terminus/Smith Creek
- B. Small Boat/Paddle Dock – Midyette Street South Terminus/Smith Creek
- C. Hodges Street Bulkhead East – Hodges Street/Raccoon Creek (only the first) 18' East of Town Dock #1 as indicated by sign.
- D. Town Dock #1 is available for 2 hour day docking only from August 1 through September 30 for recreational/charter fishing vessels.

Section 3 – Vessels Up To 21 Feet

Vessels with hulls up to twenty-one (21) feet may tie up to Day Docks, Town Dock 1 (Marina side), Hodges St. Bulkhead, and Town Dock 2 (Marina side).

Section 4 – Hours of Operation

Vessels are welcome to tie up to any of Oriental's Day Docks anytime between the hours of 5:30 AM and 2:00 AM. These hours may be altered or waived by the Oriental Town Board on occasion to accommodate various events in which case the signs will be altered accordingly.

Section 5 – Overnight Stay

Boaters wishing to leave an unattended vessel overnight at an Oriental Day Dock may do so by informing Oriental Town Hall in advance at the number indicated on the sign and provide their name, phone number, a description of the vessel, and the intended length of stay. Boaters are welcome to stay at our Day Docks for up to seven (7) consecutive nights within any thirty (30) day period.

Section 6 – Docking Directions

In most areas boats should tie up Bow and Stern. There may be areas where Bow and Stern is not used, and Bow In/Engine Down is specified to accommodate more small dinghies and tenders.

ARTICLE IV – EMERGENCY DOCKING AREA

Section 1 – Emergency Docking Area

The Emergency Docking Area is intended to be kept open and available when needed for use by the rescue vessels from organizations and agencies including the US Coast Guard, Law Enforcement, Towboat US, Fire Departments or Rescue Squad vessels.

ARTICLE V – VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

Rules are posted at www.TownofOriental.com

Section 1 – Penalties and Warnings

The Oriental Police Department shall regularly patrol and supervise all town docks.

Section 2 – Docking Area Types Will be Indicated by Signs

The Town will provide signs as described in this ordinance and insure they are well maintained and readable.

Section 3 – Warnings

A first violation by a vessel in any area except the Article IV – Emergency Short-Term Docking should incur a warning with information describing the violation.

Section 4 – Penalties

1. A warning having been issued, upon a second violation, except regarding Article IV – Emergency Short-Term Docking penalty fees, area as follows

Article I – General Rules - \$25/violation in each 24-hour period the violation continues

Article II – Public Overnight Docking Areas - \$100/violation in each 24-hour period the violation continues

Article III – Public Short-Term Docking Areas - \$25/violation in each 24-hour period the violation continues.

2. Article IV –Impeding an Emergency Response Vessel in the Emergency Docking Area - \$250

Section 5 – Unpaid Penalties

A boat that has outstanding fines may not tie up at any of Oriental’s Overnight Docking Areas or be allowed to stay overnight at a Day Dock. The Police will inform the operators of those vessels that they must either pay the outstanding fine or leave the dock immediately.

Section 6. Abandoned vessels or vessels in violation of Chapter E

Town of Oriental Docking Facilities- may be removed and disposed of by the Town at the Owner's expense.

ARTICLE VI – WATERCRAFT RACKS

Section 1 – Town Watercraft Rack Established

The Town of Oriental provides watercraft storage located near the Small Boat Dock at the Wildlife Ramp (adjacent to 300 Midyette St).

Section 2 – Watercraft Defined

Watercraft storage racks are designed to store personal, portable watercraft such as kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards. Watercraft shall not exceed 38 inches in width, or 16 feet in length. Racks may not be used to storage watercraft used for commercial purposes, or motorized watercraft.

Section 3 – Use of Watercraft Racks

Persons who wish to use a space in the watercraft racks must enter into a lease agreement on a form approved by the Board of Commissioners, and available in the Town Hall Office.

Watercraft found in the watercraft racks in violation of this section will be removed and disposed of by the Town.

Section 4 – Rules and Regulations

The Board of Commissioners shall adopt rules and regulations from time to time to regulate the use of the watercraft racks. Any violation of the rules and regulations shall result in the termination of a lease agreement, and the potential imposition of penalties and costs.

A copy of the rules and regulations shall be provided to every lessee of a watercraft rack space.