

# Rules and Regulations for Blue Hill Waters and Associated Facilities

## 1. Introduction

This document identifies the rules and regulations, as adopted by the Town of Blue Hill or its Select Board, currently in effect. These rules are in addition to any other applicable state or federal statutes or regulations.

### 1.1. Other Reference Documents

Certain rules in this document refer to ***Specially Designated Areas*** (channels, turning basins, anchorage areas, and swimming areas); these areas are identified in the current “Specially Designated Areas” document, which is available from the Harbormaster, at the Town Office, or at <https://bluehillme.gov/marine>.

Terms specifically defined in the Town of Blue Hill Harbor Ordinance are shown in bold italics, and reference should be made to that ordinance for clarification of those terms.

## 2. On the Water Activities

### 2.1. Speed and Wake Restrictions

- 2.1.1. No person shall use or operate any vessel in such a way as to cause damage to or loss of property, or annoyance to other users of Blue Hill waters.
- 2.1.2. All **vessels** shall be operated in a manner so as to cause minimal wake while maintaining safe headway speed, within the following areas:
  - Blue Hill Harbor inshore of Sculpin Pt.
  - South Blue Hill mooring field
  - Canary Cove mooring field
  - East Blue Hill Harbor

### 2.2. Designated Swimming Areas

- 2.2.1. There are no designated swimming areas—in which motorized **vessels** are prohibited—at this time.

### 2.3. Anchoring

- 2.3.1. Anchoring a **vessel** within any channel, turning basin, or designated swimming area is prohibited. See ***Specially Designated Areas***.
- 2.3.2. **Vessels** shall not anchor in **Blue Hill waters** for more than seven (7) days in any fourteen (14) day period and, after having anchored in **Blue Hill waters** for seven (7) days, the **vessel** shall not anchor in **Blue Hill waters** for at least seven (7) consecutive days.

### 2.4. Channels, Turning Basins and Anchorage Areas

- 2.4.1. Nothing shall be placed in areas designated as channels, turning basins or anchorage areas which will impede navigation (or, in the case of anchorage areas, safely anchoring). In particular, no mooring ground tackle shall be placed in a ***Specially Designated Area***, nor shall moorings be placed in sufficiently close proximity to a ***Specially Designated Area*** that, in the judgment of the **Harbormaster**, vessels attached to such mooring swing into a ***Specially Designated Area***. See ***Specially Designated Areas***.

### 2.5. Abandoned and Derelict Watercraft

- 2.5.1. No person may bring into or maintain in **Blue Hill waters** any derelict **watercraft** or **watercraft** for salvage, nor may any person(s) abandon any **watercraft** in **Blue Hill waters**. This rule shall also apply to abandoned floats, fishing gear, or **aquaculture**-related materials.

### 3. Water Access Facilities (Town Wharves)

#### 3.1. Access

- 3.1.1. The Town's boat launching ramps and floating dock facilities are open to use by the public, regardless of residence.

#### 3.2. Owner's Risk

- 3.2.1. Any person(s) using Town-owned water access facilities shall do so at their OWN RISK, and such person(s) shall use appropriate safety precautions while using such facilities.

#### 3.3. Docking of Watercraft

- 3.3.1. Attended **watercraft** may tie-up to the face of Town **wharves** and floating docks for a period not to exceed one (1) hour. Unattended **watercraft** may tie-up to the sides of said **wharves** for a period not to exceed one (1) tide for maintenance issues and in case of emergencies. These time limits may be extended with the express written or verbal consent of the **Harbormaster**.

#### 3.4. Use of Ramps

- 3.4.1. The boat launch ramps at the Town **wharves** may only be used for actively launching or retrieving **vessels** and for actively loading or unloading supplies, fish, bait, etc.
- 3.4.2. However, vehicles may also use the ramp for up to 15 minutes of idle or waiting time (i.e., when not actively launching, retrieving, loading, or unloading), in total, to park/retrieve the transporting vehicle, relocate a **vessel** to/from an adjacent Town **wharf** or floating dock, etc.
- 3.4.3. Ramp users must complete their activity within 30 minutes if other users are waiting to use the ramp.
- 3.4.4. All **vessels** being launched or removed on the ramp must be on trailers or wheels to prevent damage to the ramp or pavement.

#### 3.5. Dinghy/Skiff tie-up

- 3.5.1. A dinghy tie up privilege at the South Blue Hill finger floats may be acquired from the Town Office or the **Harbormaster**, as available. Priority for these spaces shall be:
- Resident commercial fishermen
  - Resident recreational users
  - Non-resident users

Residency shall be determined by where the applicant's boat excise tax is paid or where they physically reside.

- 3.5.2. Holders of dinghy tie-up permits may tie-up one skiff type **vessel**, not to exceed 16' **maximum length** and no more than 5.5' beam (except for vessels "grandfathered" under the Harbor Ordinance), to designated areas of Town floating docks.
- 3.5.3. All such **vessels** must be properly fendered or supplied with proper gunnel guards to protect other **vessels**.
- 3.5.4. Outboard motors must be left in a down position.
- 3.5.5. Permit holders are responsible for keeping **vessels** in a full floating condition at all times.
- 3.5.6. Any dinghy causing hazard or damage to the Town's finger floats or other dinghies may be removed by the **Harbormaster**.
- 3.5.7. Use of this space shall be entirely at owner's risk.

### 3.6. Bait and Fish Handling

- 3.6.1. Any bait, fish or fish parts to be loaded onto or off-loaded from **watercraft** must be removed immediately from any Town-owned **wharf**, floating dock, or associated parking area. Any spillage or residue shall be immediately cleaned up by the owner of the **watercraft** or conveyance involved.
- 3.6.2. Bait barge loading at the South Blue Hill Wharf shall be allowed on the North side of the **wharf** from 0400 to 0900 hours daily. During extreme weather conditions, alternative solutions may be permitted by the **Harbormaster**.

### 3.7. Large Vehicles

- 3.7.1. At the South Blue Hill Wharf facility, no tractor trailer units are allowed until structural engineering survey determines satisfactory conditions exist for that much weight.

### 3.8. Storage on Town-owned Facilities

- 3.8.1. **On Docks.** Nothing may be left unattended on floating docks.
- 3.8.2. **In Water.** Nothing may be left unattended in the waters adjacent to **wharves** and floating docks, except skiffs with permits.
- 3.8.3. **On Land.** Nothing may be left unattended on land except vehicles in marked parking spaces (see parking) without the Harbormaster's prior permission.

### 3.9. Parking

- 3.9.1. **Vessels**, trailers, vehicles, etc. shall be parked or left in such a manner as to not interfere with launching or removal of **vessels** or parking.
- 3.9.2. There shall be no overnight parking of any vehicle or trailer in the parking lots adjacent to Town **wharves** without the prior permission of the **Harbormaster**.

### 3.10. Swimming from Town Wharves, Docks, or Piers

- 3.10.1. Swimming or diving from any Town **wharves** or floating docks is at the sole risk of the individual.

### 3.11. Fishing from Town Facilities

- 3.11.1. Any person(s) fishing from Town property shall retrieve fishing gear and not impede the navigation of **watercraft** approaching or departing Town **wharves** or floating docks.

### 3.12. Damage to Facilities

- 3.12.1. Any person or persons causing damage to Town-owned water access facilities shall report the damage to the **Harbormaster** or Town officials by the most direct method, so that repairs may be made and further damage avoided.

## 4. Penalties

- 4.1.1. Penalties for violations of these Rules and Regulations shall be considered violations of the Town of Blue Hill Harbor Ordinance and shall be treated as such under Section 9 of that ordinance. The amount of any fine associated with a violation of these Rules and Regulations shall be as established by the Select Board from time to time and reflected in the current Fee Schedule, available at the Blue Hill Town Office.