

Seasonal Boat Shelters, Hoists, or Lifts Exemption Checklist



Certain activities in navigable waters are exempt from needing a permit under [Chapter 30](#). Use this checklist to determine if your project qualifies for an exemption.

Your proposed project is eligible if it meets **all** the following conditions:

- **Waterway Designations:** The temporary boat shelter may not be located in any waterway designated by federal, state or local government as having outstanding scenic values - [Property Lookup for Designated Waterways and Wetlands](#).
- **Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species:** This exemption does not address threatened and endangered species. Applicants are required to comply with Wisconsin's Endangered Species Law (s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.) and the Federal Endangered Species Act. To determine if the project is in compliance, visit the [NHI Public Portal](#), and enter the project area to generate an Endangered Resources (ER) Preliminary Assessment. Read the ER Preliminary Assessment carefully to determine follow-up steps, if needed.

RIPARIAN/PLACEMENT

- The boat shelter, boat hoist, or boat lift may be placed and maintained only by a riparian landowner, must be located entirely within their riparian zone of interest, and may not interfere with the right of other riparian owners. (An authorized agent or contractor may do the work on behalf of the riparian owner)
 - [Determination of riparian zones](#)
- The boat shelter, boat hoist or boat lift must be placed adjacent to a pier, wharf, or shoreline and shall be connected to adjacent uplands by a pier.
- A riparian landowner may place no more than two boat shelters or boat slips for the first 100 feet of shoreline, and one for each additional 50 feet of shoreline footage in common ownership.
- When placing multiple seasonal boat shelters, they shall be placed as close together as practicable at a single location adjacent to each property.
- A seasonal boat shelter shall allow the free movement of water underneath and may not cause formation of land on the bed of the waterway.
- A seasonal boat shelter may not interfere with public rights and may not have unreasonable adverse effects on aquatic habitat.
- A seasonal boat shelter shall comply with all applicable provisions of any municipal ordinances.

DESIGN

- A seasonal boat shelter as defined in [s. 30.01\(1c\)\(a\)](#) – defined as a structure designed to cover a boat slip or place for a watercraft - must be removed from the water between December 1 and April 1 annually.
- Unless placed in accordance with [s. 30.01\(1c\)\(b\)](#), a seasonal boat shelter may not exceed an outside dimension of 12 feet wide by 24 feet long on waters under 1,000 acres in size and may not exceed an outside dimension of 14 feet wide by 24 feet long on waters 1000 acres and larger in size.
- A boat shelter may include a roof which shall be pitched not less than one foot nor more than 2.5 feet from the roof peak to the bottom of the eaves. Only the size and number of vertical components required to support the watercraft and any roof are permitted. Storage facilities may only be included above the eaves of a boat shelter.
- A boat shelter may include temporary sides to protect a boat that has a wooden hull or is designated as a boat with significant historic or cultural value, as determined by the state, county, or local historical society. The sides must be comprised of flexible material with a minimum openness factor of 5%. The temporary sides must be placed no less than 36 inches above the water surface.

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- A boat shelter may include only a single sign necessary to identify the property and may only include lighting essential for safety and mooring. A boat shelter may not be visually intrusive as viewed against the shoreline.