

NH MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION

Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA) Issues: Problems and Solutions

We believe there are a few fundamental problems with the CSPA and the Legislative Study Commission should look to clarify existing statute and better educate the public.

To this end, we suggest the following:

- Improve understanding and clarity of “well distributed stand”, “woodland buffer”, and seek to replace the “basil area” confusion with clear standards...
- Clarification of authority regarding State vs. Local issues – who is responsible for what and how this should be implemented...
- Clarification of dimensional regulations for non-conforming structures specifically as they relate to height, allowed expansion (additions), volume of structures (vertical expansion), and non-conforming lots of record...
- Clearer standards for commercial and public development that is dependent on access and proximity to the waters edge (such as launch ramps, bulkheads, loading docks, and other commercial structures, etc... which by their nature must be adjacent to the water)...
- Clear definition between Wetland and Shoreland regulation and protection of shorefront property owner rights...
- Improve education and outreach to the general public and municipalities...

We feel that the Commission will be best served by attempting to clarify the existing statute rather than a complete line-by-line re-write of the present language. We do not believe that a formal CSPA permit process is an efficient and practical solution.