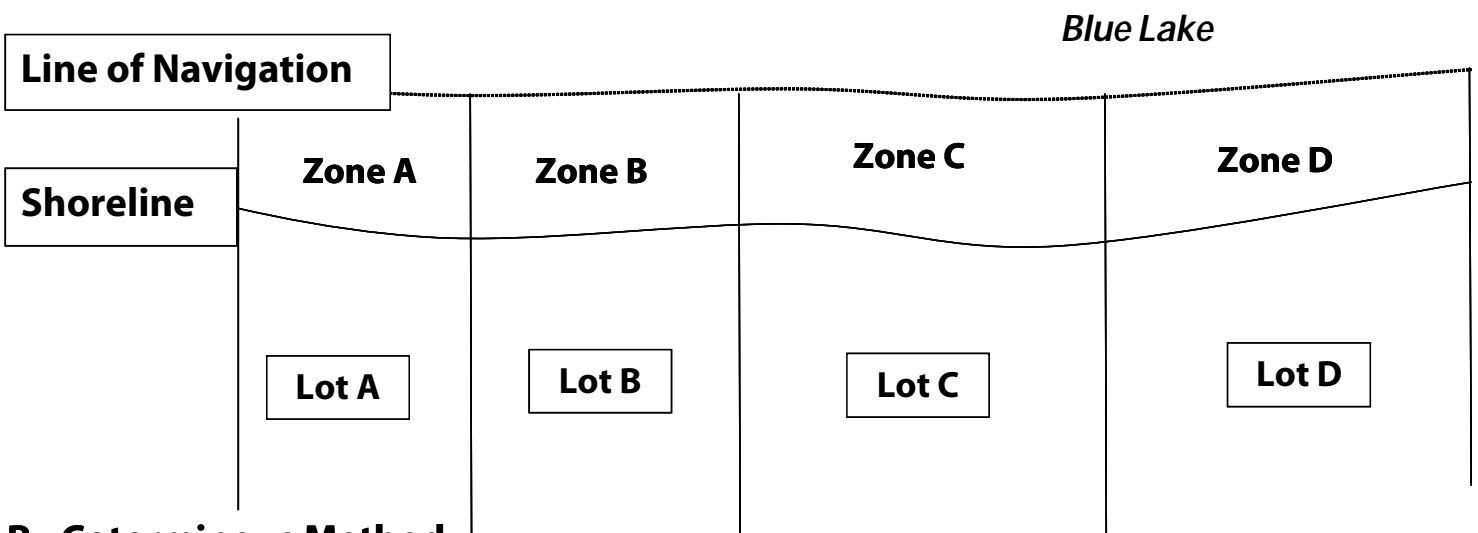




# Figure 1. Riparian Zones

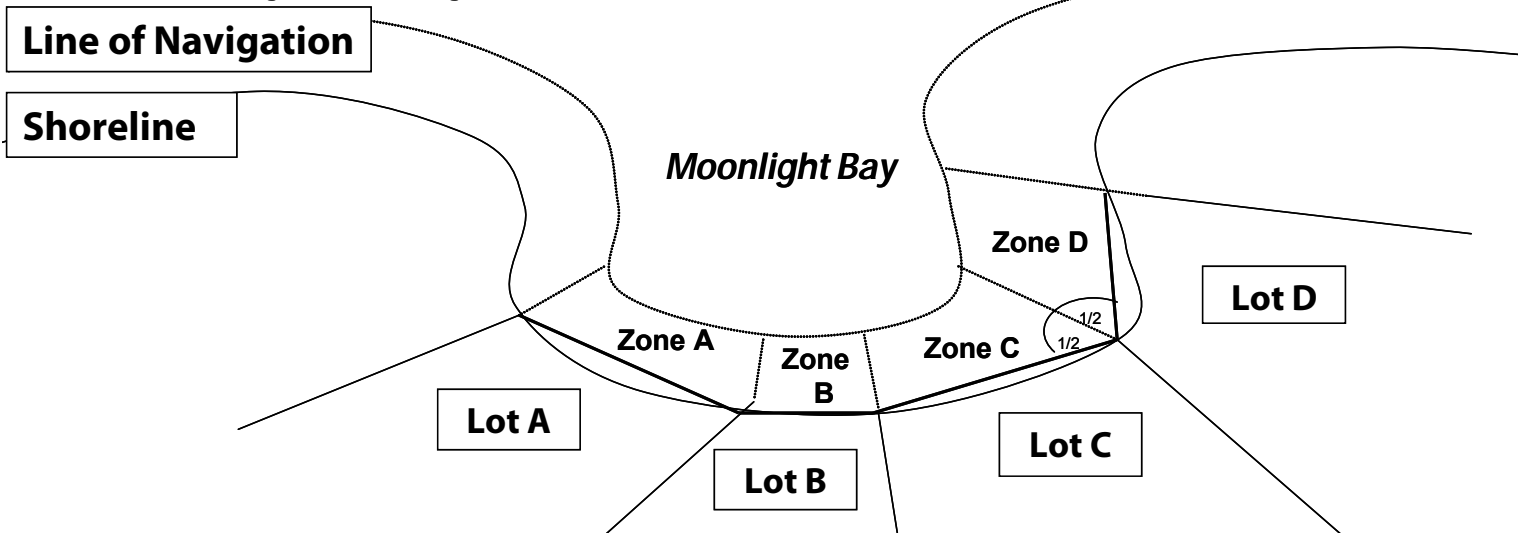
## By Extension of Lot Lines...

For relatively straight shorelines and lot lines



## By Coterminous Method...

For curved, irregular or angled shorelines or lot lines



**Step 1:** Extend lot lines to the shoreline

**Step 2:** Connect the points found in Step 1 to create chord lines.

**Step 3:** Bisect the angles formed by the chord lines in half (shown between Lots C&D)

## WHAT ARE THE DIMENSIONS OF AN EXEMPT PIER OR WHARF?

- ✓ A pier may extend out to the 3-foot water depth, or to adequate depth for mooring a boat or using a boat lift or boat hoist. A pier may also extend out to a DNR-approved municipal pierhead line. *See Figure 2.* Contact your municipality to see whether it has a pierhead line ordinance.
- ✓ Six feet is the maximum width allowed for any portion of a pier or wharf. This width allows safe loading of gear and passengers
- ✓ Although six feet is the maximum width allowed, the pier or wharf may have an area as a loading platform up to eight feet wide. The platform must extend perpendicular to one or both sides of the pier and must be located at the waterward end of the pier. *See Figure 3.*
- ✓ Piers may be placed in a variety of configurations, including straight, or with a "T" or "L". Catwalks, finger piers or similar features may be used for access to boat slips, as long as they meet the size limits above. **A pier may not enclose or isolate any part of a waterway.**

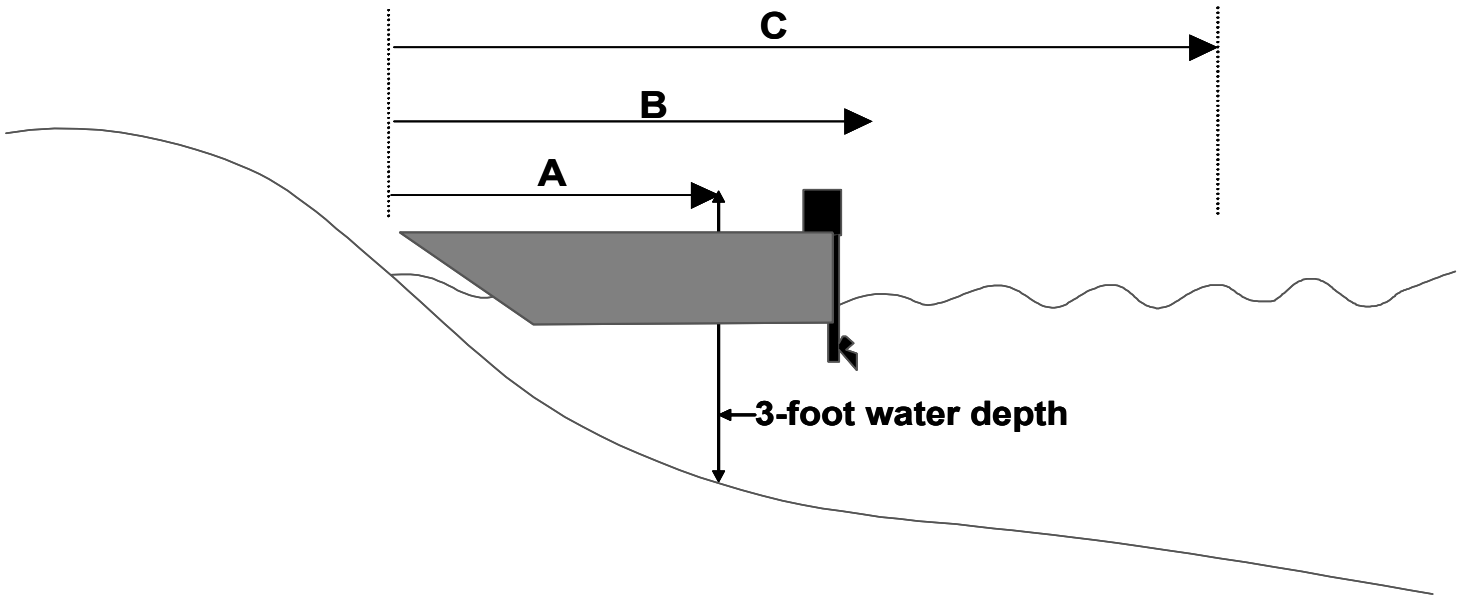
## Figure 2. Pier Length

A pier may extend into the water as far as A, B, or C - whichever is further from shore:

**A** – the 3-foot water depth

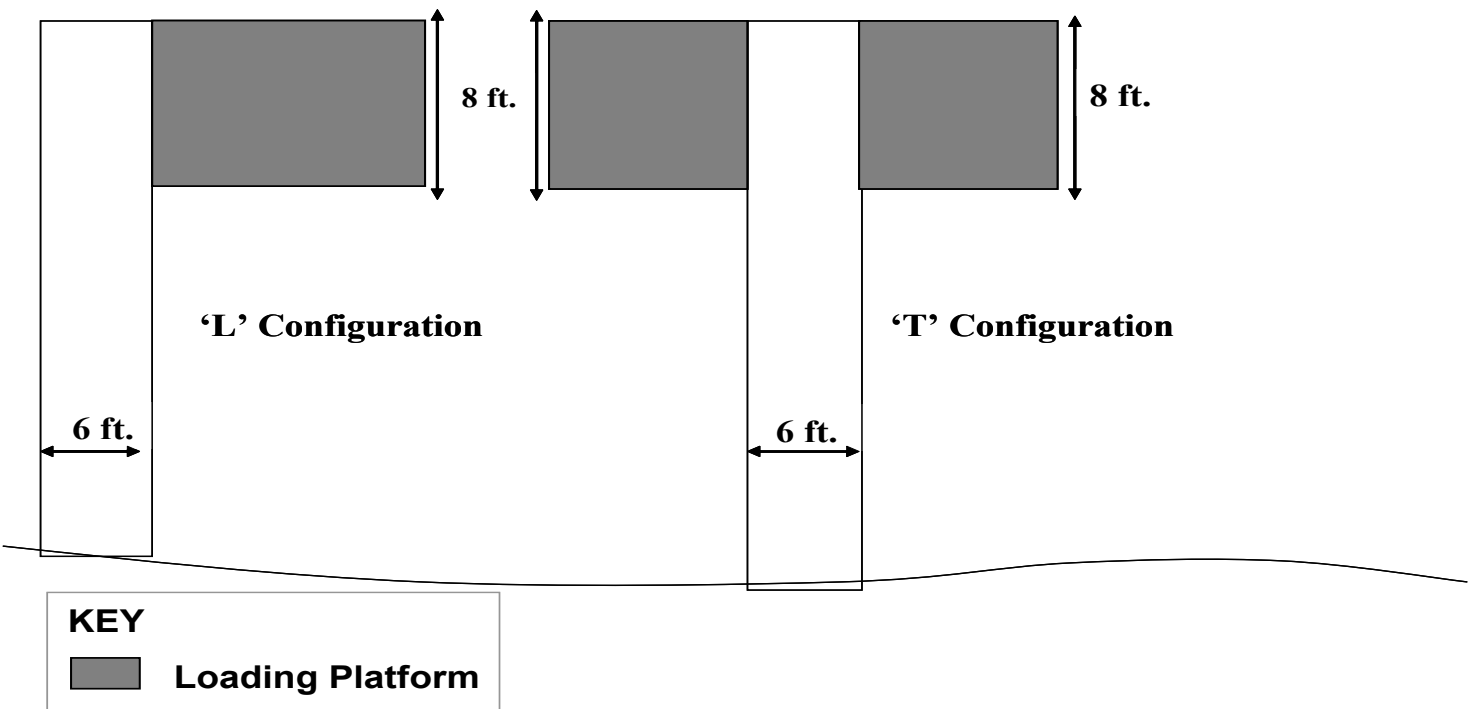
**B** – where there is adequate depth for mooring a boat, or using a boat hoist or boat lift.

**C** – the municipal pierhead line *(if one is established by a local ordinance)*



## Figure 3. Pier Width

A pier or wharf can be a maximum of 6-feet wide. The pier or wharf can have up to an 8-foot wide “T” or “L” platform at the waterward end of the 6-foot wide pier. Width is the shortest horizontal distance.



## ***HOW SHOULD THE PIER OR WHARF BE CONSTRUCTED?***

- ✓ A pier or wharf may not obstruct the free flow of water or include any features which trap or accumulate aquatic plants or sediment.
- ✓ A pier or wharf must be floating or placed on piles or posts.
- ✓ Polystyrene floats must be coated or contained to resist gas, oil and abrasion. Metal and plastic drums must be free of any product residue and corrosion resistant. ***Solid piers on fill and piers on rock-filled timber cribs or similar foundations required a DNR permit, and are only authorized in specific waterways under limited circumstances.***
- ✓ Piers may be placed in a variety of configurations, including straight, or with a "T" or "L". Catwalks, finger piers or similar features may be used for access to boat slips, as long as they meet the size limits above. A pier may not enclose or isolate any part of a waterway.

## ***CAN OTHER STRUCTURES BE LOCATED NEAR THE SHORE?***

### ***Boat lifts, hoists and shelters***

- ✓ Boat shelters, which may contain a boat lift or hoist, are exempt from permitting if they meet the standards in NR 326. For example, size is limited to 12-feet wide by 24-feet long on waters under 1000 acres, and 14-feet wide by 24-feet long on waters 1000 acres or larger. Boat shelters may have a roof or canopy but may not have sides or walls, and the boat shelter – including the roof, canopy and any supports – must be removed seasonally between December 1 and April 1 to be exempt. Boat lifts and hoists can remain in place year round.
- ✓ A permanent boat shelter requires a DNR permit and must meet standards in NR 326. Permanent boat shelters are not allowed on lakes and towages less than 500 acres, or on rivers except the Mississippi River, the Wolf River (from Lake Butte des Morts to the upstream limits of the Village of Fremont), and the Fox River (from the DePere Dam to Lake Winnebago).

### ***Boathouses***

- ✓ Boathouses differ from boat shelters by having sides or walls.
- ✓ On land... boathouses above the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) are exclusively for watercraft storage and are regulated by local ordinances. Contact the municipal building inspector or zoning administrator.
- ✓ Over water... boathouse construction is prohibited waterward of the OHWM. Boathouses constructed over water prior to 1979 are allowed to remain but their repair and maintenance are restricted and require DNR approval.

### ***Mooring Buoys***

- ✓ Generally, you may place a standard mooring buoy in your riparian zone of interest within 150 feet of the OHWM without a permit from DNR. Local ordinances may require permits. Consult your municipality or local Conservation Warden for more information.

### ***Swimming Rafts***

- ✓ A riparian may place a properly anchored swimming raft or water trampoline within 200 feet of shore.
- ✓ No permit is needed for a swimming raft or water trampoline as long as the size is no greater than 200 square feet and does not exceed 38-inches in height, or is removed from the water each night.
- ✓ Swimming rafts and water trampolines placed in DNR-designated swimming areas – such as for municipal beaches or private campgrounds – may be placed without a permit and do not have to follow the size limitations.
- ✓ In all cases, the raft or trampoline must be connected to your riparian zone of interest and may not interfere with public rights in the waterway. Keep it as close to shore as possible to avoid interfering with boat traffic.

### ***For more information:***

To find brochures, permit application forms and more information about regulations for piers and other waterway activities, go to DNR's website listed below, or contact the DNR Water Management Specialist at the DNR Service Center for your county.

***<http://dnr.wi.gov/waterways/>***

