

## DOCK CLASSIFICATION MATRIX

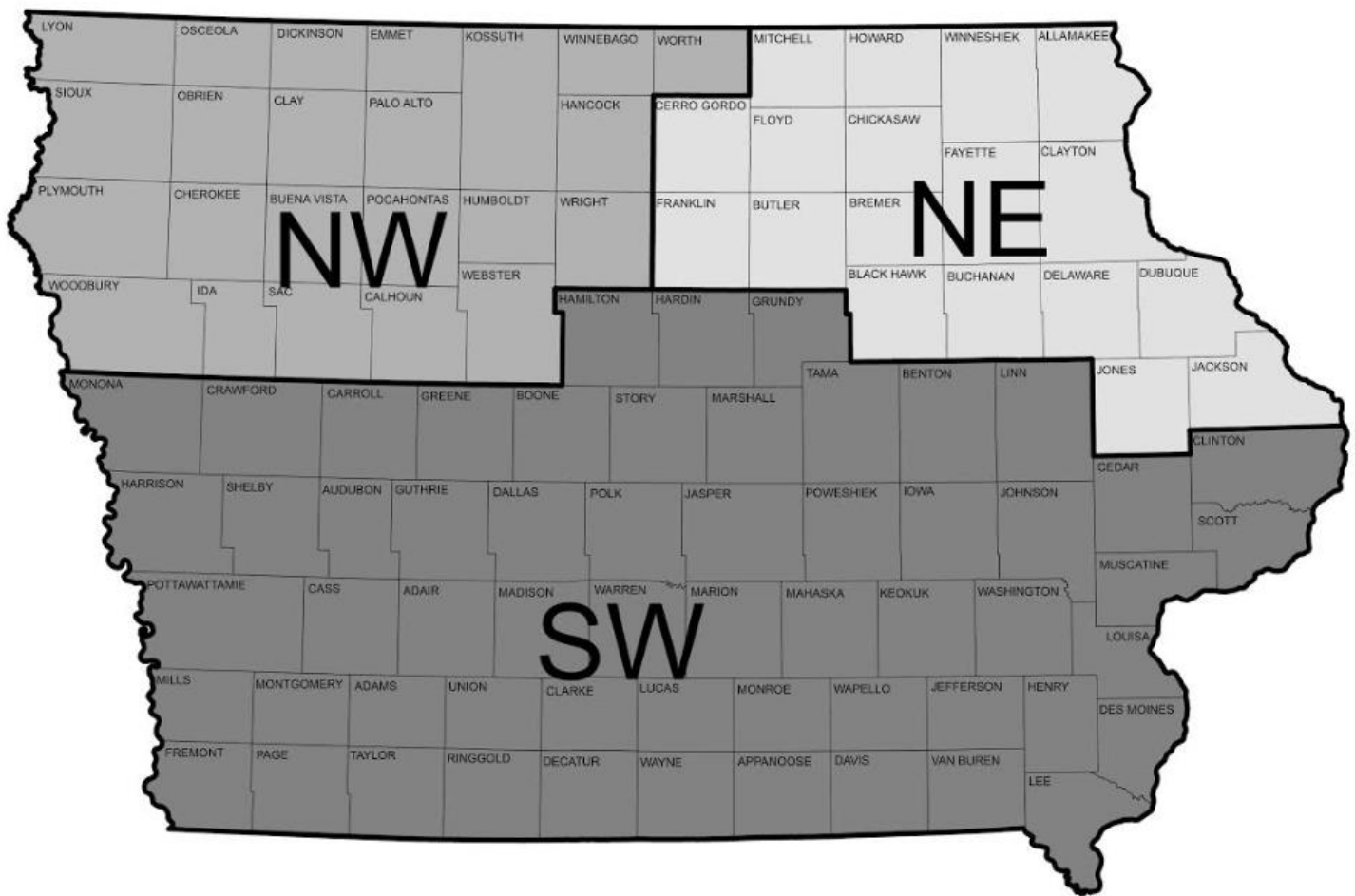
The matrix below covers the different types of docks. This matrix is not exhaustive; it is meant as a quick tool for helping determine which classification applies to your dock. A more comprehensive way to determine which dock classification is right for you is to read Chapter 16 of the Iowa Administrative Rule 571 or the overview for each dock. Please go to <http://www.iowadnr.gov/boatdocks> for more information. Below are the four classes of docks.

- Class 1 – Standard Private Dock
- Class 2 – City or County Authorized Dock
- Class 3 – Non Standard Private Dock
- Class 4 – Commercial Dock

Dock Feature	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
Allows for a swim raft, swim platform, trampoline, mooring buoy or other structure.		X	X	X
Allows for more than one dock on the parcel.		X	X	X
Serves one shoreline <u>residence*</u> and allows up to two hoists/lifts/slips/racks – must meet all criteria of the dock rules without any exceptions (1 hoist/lift/slip/rack for each 10 ft. of shoreline, standard platform size, standard length, etc.)	X			
Serves a private property without a seasonal or permanent residence.			X	
Allows for a Common Dock serving up to three residences (adjoining shoreline properties) and allows up to three hoists/lifts/slips/racks per residence – must meet criteria of one hoist/lift/slip/rack for each ten ft. of shoreline.	X			
Serves a property that is not owned, leased or rented by dock owner.			X	X
Serves a condo unit, apartment complex or homeowner’s association.			X	
Allows one hoist/lift/slip/rack for every 10 ft. of shoreline.			X	X
Can apply for an Exception – Platform size (L or T) – any section of dock wider than 6’; Length of dock; number of hoists/lifts/slips/racks (this number includes PWC hoists, mooring buoys and all other hoists/lifts/slips/racks; Dock offset.		X	X	X
Permit fee required (permits valid up to 5 years).			\$125 every five years	\$250 every five years
Administrative fee of \$50 annually for each hoist/lift/slip/rack in excess of a total of 4 hoist/lift/slip/racks.			X	
Administrative fee of \$50 annually for each hoist/lift/slip/rack in excess of a total of 6 hoist/lift/slip/racks.				X
Maximum size limit of “L” or “T” portion (natural lakes only)	200 sq. ft./ 20 ft. or less		240 sq. ft.	
Dock lengths on natural lakes. These lengths shall be measured from the water’s edge when the dock is installed.	100 ft. or far enough so that the outer 50 ft. of the dock is in 3 ft. of water up to 300 ft.		100 ft. or far enough so that the outer 80 ft. of the dock is in 3 ft. of water up to 300 ft.	

Dock Feature	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
Dock lengths on artificial lakes or rivers. Measured from the water's edge at normal water levels.	The lesser of 50 ft. from the water's edge or one-fourth of the width of the waterway			

\*Iowa DNR staff often consult the county assessor websites when determining whether a property has a residence on it. Residences are typically identified as dwellings on the county assessor's sites. Properties without dwellings typically have Class 3 dock permits.



For additional assistance, please contact the appropriate office for the county where the dock is located:

**NW Regional Office**  
 Iowa DNR, Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery  
 122 252<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Spirit Lake IA 51360  
 Phone: (712) 336-1840  
[NWdockmaster@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:NWdockmaster@dnr.iowa.gov)

**SW Regional Office**  
 Iowa DNR, Cold Springs State Park  
 57744 Lewis Road, Lewis IA 51544  
 Phone: (712) 769-2587  
[SWdockmaster@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:SWdockmaster@dnr.iowa.gov)

**NE Regional Office**  
 Iowa DNR, Manchester Fish Hatchery  
 22693 205<sup>th</sup> Ave, Manchester IA 52057  
 Phone: (563) 927-3276  
[NEdockmaster@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:NEdockmaster@dnr.iowa.gov)