

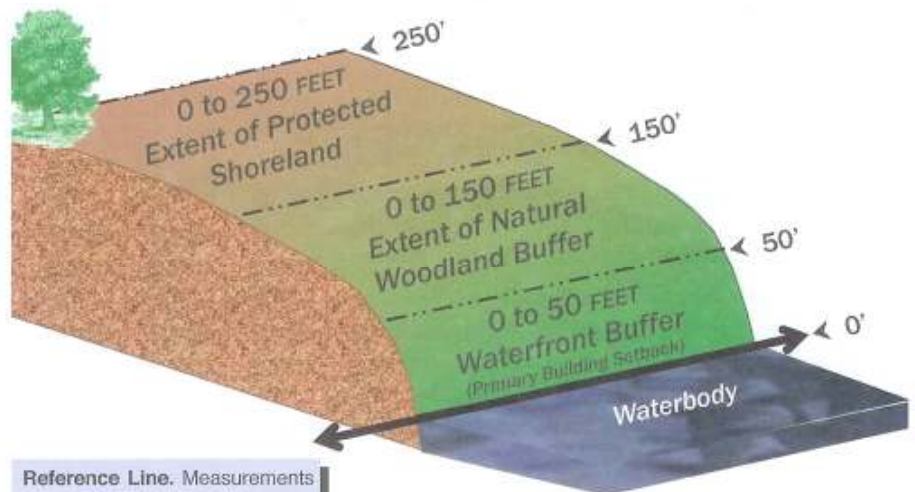
**Do you live by
a lake, river
or tidal water?**

**Then you need to
know about the
Comprehensive
Shoreland
Protection Act**

*Effective April 1,
2008,
a state shoreland
permit is required
prior to any
construction,
excavation or
filling activity
within the
protected
shoreland.*

The **Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA)** was enacted in 1991 to protect the water quality of larger water bodies by setting minimum requirements for the development and use of all land within 250 feet of the **Reference Line**. Within this area, called the **Protected Shoreland**, there are setbacks and restricted use areas that you need to know about. **Effective April 1, 2008, a state shoreland permit is required** prior to any construction, excavation or filling activities within the protected shoreland.

Note: *On-going* projects meeting certain conditions *may* be exempted from the permit requirement.



Reference Line. Measurements are made from this point.

Why should I be concerned with the CSPA?

CLEAN WATER IS AN IMPORTANT PART of New Hampshire's economy, property values, recreation and wildlife habitat. Vegetated shoreland buffers play a critical role in protecting water quality by managing stormwater to prevent erosion. Erosion can result in sediment reaching the water. This can cause:

- Harm to fish and other species and their habitat.
- Algae blooms that can result in decreased water clarity, decreased dissolved oxygen, odor, and public health problems.
- Accelerated lake aging.

Studies show that a **decrease in water quality can lead to a decrease in property values**. The CSPA allows development to occur within the protected shoreland while assuring that vegetated areas remain to help keep our waters clean.

The CSPA – protects our water, and it's the law.



NEW HAMPSHIRE
RIVERS COUNCIL