

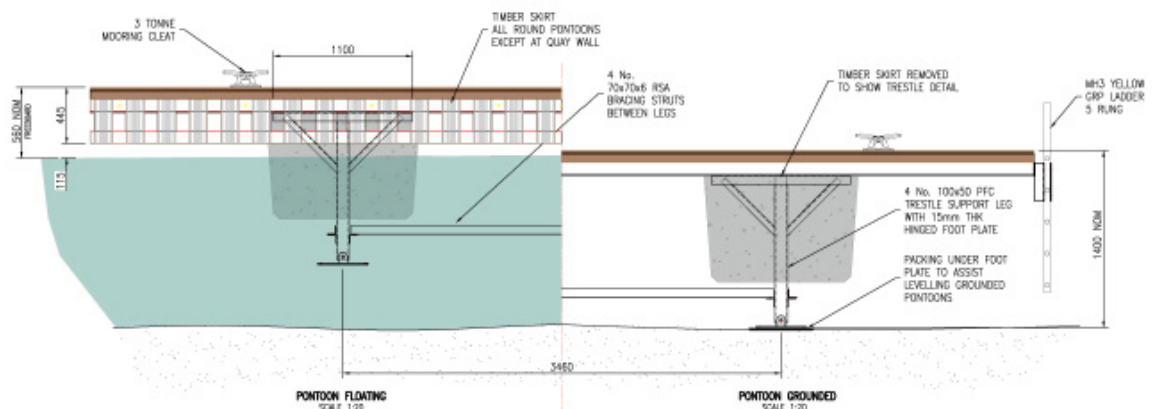
LEGS FOR FISHING BOAT PONTOONS

Fishermen's Dock, Padstow Cornwall

In 2019 Walcon Marine implemented a novel solution for the Fishermen's Docks in the Outer Harbour of the fishing and tourist town of Padstow, Cornwall. Aside from the Inner Harbour the port itself, located on the estuary of the River Camel, dries out at low tide and Padstow Harbour Commissioners required a pontoon-based berthing system that could safely and evenly take the ground at low tide with the fishing boats alongside.

Above the waterline, the facility presents as a 120-metre line of System 21 pontoons alongside the harbour wall in the outer basin. All are decked using commercial-grade GRP mesh grating.

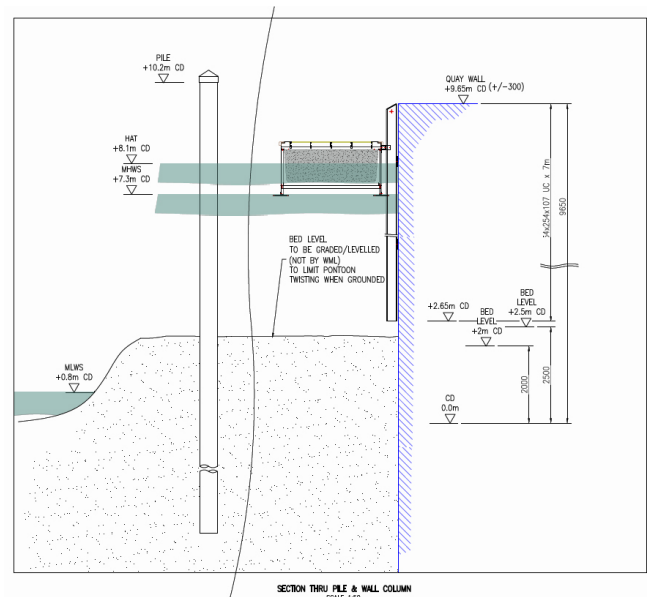
What is only revealed at low tide are the pairs of reinforced 1.4-metre steel legs with hinged foot plates that extend out below the pontoons at regular intervals, as shown immediately below.



These are designed to bear the weight of the pontoons together with foot traffic when the harbour is dried out. The harbour floor beneath the pontoons has been levelled to ensure a level surface and packing placed below each foot plate to ensure continuity.

This design ensures that the crews of the fishing boats can access their boats safely and conveniently when alongside, whatever the state of the tide.

The diagram to the right shows the end-on view with the pontoons held in place by guides on the inner edge and piles on the outside.





Additional features for these workboat-grade pontoons include an all-round timber skirt to protect the floats and three-tonne mooring cleats.

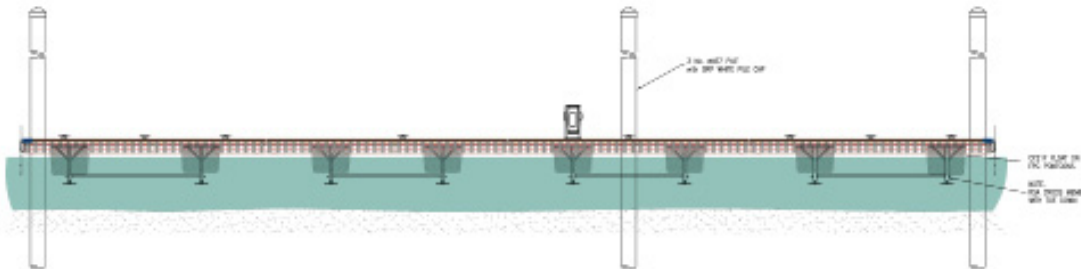
“The hard work of consultation, design and grant application had already been organised by my predecessor,” said Padstow Harbour Master Bryn Phillips.

“All I had to do was arrange installation dates with Walcon and until that stage I had no previous communication with them. From the first point of contact with James Walters until completion date, the project was conducted professionally, efficiently and effectively.

“Communication was exceptional and the whole Walcon team were a credit to themselves and we look forward to working with them again on future projects.”

While pontoons with stilts are unusual, Walcon has undertaken a number of such projects previously including for pleasure boats on tidal sections of the River Thames.

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Founded in 1963, Walcon Marine is the market leader in the design, construction and installation of marinas, yacht harbours and berthing facilities around the world. As probably the longest established and most experienced company in its field, Walcon Marine is a global organisation with manufacturing facilities in the UK, Australia and Dubai. Its pontoons are now installed in over 30 different countries on five continents.

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