

Plastic Fendering System

The Plastic Fendering System was designed and installed at the Nashville Avenue Wharf "C" Terminal at the Port of New Orleans to protect the wharf from ships and barges by absorbing the berthing energies of the vessels. The system's principal components consist of 10x12 wale beams and 16" diameter piling manufactured from a composite of recycled plastic and fiberglass reinforcing rods. Seaward International, Inc. manufactures these products under the trademark SEATIMBER and SEAPILE . This is believed to be the first installation of these products on the Mississippi River.

The system has the strength to withstand ship and barge impacts without over stressing and deflects enough to absorb the energy needed to stop the vessel before it contacts the wharf substructure. With a coefficient of friction one quarter that of wood, combined with the non-corrosive nature of the plastic and fiberglass, the Plastic Fendering System is projected to significantly outlast wood systems.

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