

## PORT32 TAMPA DOCK REPLACEMENT

Port32 Marina, located in Tampa Harbor, Florida, has a partially exposed location. “We are open to approximately 4 miles of fetch to the south-west across the deep waters of Tampa Bay”, reports Mike Vinson – General Manager of Port32 Marinas. “Every time we get a bad storm from that direction, we suffer dock and gangway damage. Our old waler-style concrete docks just can’t handle the waves”, says Mike.



*Storm damage to waler-style concrete docks, gangway, and utilities*

“What makes matters worse is that all the utilities for the western side of the marina run through these docks, which also suffer damage during the storms”, says Mr. Vinson. “The last storm was the final blow, causing total dock, gangway, and utility failure” (see above photo).

So they filed an insurance claim and started shopping for new docks. This is when Marina Technologies got involved.

“They were looking for a heavy-duty floating dock system that would resist the strong winds and waves from Tampa Bay, but also have ample room and easy access for all the utilities”, reports Bob Berry – Marina Technologies Project Development Manager. “We looked at our structural concrete docks and at our heavy-duty aluminum docks”, says Bob. “They decided on our aluminum system, which was significantly lower in cost than an all-concrete system – and offered excellent resilience to the rough-water conditions”.

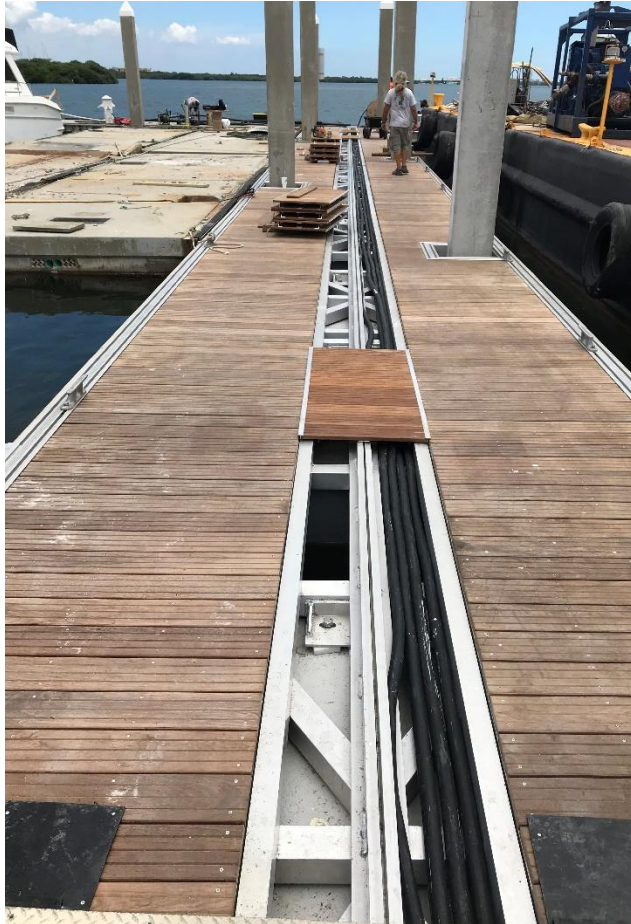
The floating docks are Marina Technologies Model D-260 aluminum docks, a high-quality aluminum framed system with Ipe hardwood decking, a large central top-access utility trough (2 ft. wide) with removeable panels, adjustable/removable cleats with unique reinforced connections, heavy-duty PVC rub-rail with unique internal aluminum backing plate, and high stability concrete floats. The docks are anchored with 18” square pre-stressed concrete piles.

Phase 1 of the project included replacing the main access dock, 12’ wide x 150’ long, and all the utilities for the western side of the marina. Utilities include new pedestals, lighting, power, water, and fire suppression. “They will replace the other portions of the marina in future phases”, reports Mr. Berry. The existing aluminum gangway was repaired and re-used.



*New Marina Technologies System D-260 aluminum docks with high-stability concrete floats*

“Because of the poor condition of the remaining existing concrete docks and wood waler, we decided to not actually connect the new docks to the old docks. Instead, we left a 1-ft gap between the two dock systems and installed an arched aluminum transition plate”, says Berry. “This method allows the two dock systems to move freely and independently during storm conditions”.



*Large central top-access utility trough*



*Arched aluminum transition plate*

The new docks were installed in the Spring of 2020. All the new utilities fit in the trough easily – making installation and future maintenance simple and fast. “The docks are performing well and have already been “tested” by several storms”, reports Bob.

Please contact us to learn more about why Marina Technologies may be the best option for your next waterfront project.

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