

Best Practice: Secondary Dock for Excursion/Tour Boats



Category: Access Control/Facility Infrastructure
Location: Ocho Rios, Jamaica
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Description: A secondary pier for excursion and tour boats servicing a cruise ship terminal.

Discussion: Very often, secondary cruises or boat tours, for example for sightseeing, diving and snorkeling, fishing, or para sailing, are operated out of cruise ship terminals. At some port facilities these boats may be allowed to moor alongside the cruise ship at berth to take on passengers directly from the cruise ship. Setting aside a separate pier for such authorized vessels facilitates both better access control and the observation of the small boat's activities. It helps to prevent the possibility of an unauthorized person gaining access to the cruise ship and enables the port facility to establish an area for secondary screening of passengers utilizing such vessels if desired.

Potential Down-side: The construction costs of a new pier if one is not currently available and potential effects on existing vessel traffic patterns may be considered downsides.

Conclusion: Many cruise ship facilities may already have an existing pier that may be utilized for this purpose if it is not currently. Closing any possible gaps between the security systems in place between a port facility and an interfacing ship should be a paramount goal of both the PFSO and SSO. This low-tech mechanism greatly contributes to access control and the monitoring of restricted areas.

Cost: Construction costs may vary.