

Best Practice: Waterside Security Exclusion Zone



Category: Access Control
Location: Throughout Jamaica
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Description: Establishing a legally enforceable security zone to exclude recreational vessels, fishing vessels, or other small craft and unauthorized vessels from areas around a ship, pier, berth, other maritime infrastructure, or shoreline.

Discussion: Waterside access to ships or sensitive infrastructure exists at many port facilities. One tool to mitigate this risk is to establish and enforce an exclusion zone around ships and other critical port facility areas. These exclusion zones should be well-marked with signs on fence lines, piers, buoys or other structures, and visible day and night. General broadcasts on marine band radios can advise boaters of the exclusion zones. Security personnel, land and waterside, should be available and empowered to enforce the security zone with fines or other control actions that serve as a significant deterrent for would-be violators. Procedures must be put in place to warn and apprehend violators. Security zones of 100-300 meters are practical and enforceable. Security zones can be enforced at all times, or only when ships are at the facility.

Potential Down-side: Additional costs might be incurred in marking and enforcing such security zones. A vigorous public outreach and educational program might be required as certain areas may be common transit zones for recreational boaters or fishermen. Cooperation with the designated authority and local law enforcement is crucial.

Conclusion: Waterside access to ships and sensitive port infrastructure is a common weakness for many port facilities. Establishing a recognized and regularly enforced security zone to prevent waterside threats reduces this vulnerability.

Cost: Costs include the purchase of patrol boats, measures to mark the zone with signs or buoys, and the costs for hiring employees or contractors to patrol the zone.