

Welcome to the public scoping meeting for the Proposed Replacement of the Georges Island Pier.

We invite you to:

- **Sign In**
- **View the Displays**
- **Ask Questions**
- **Provide Comments**



Source: MassGIS

Park Purpose & Significance

The Boston Harbor Islands national park area was established as a unit of the National Park System by an Act of Congress in November 1996. The islands are managed by the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership, which consists of thirteen members from various government agencies and non-profit groups.

The primary significance of the park's resources includes:

- Islands and peninsulas composed of 1,600 acres of land, archeological resources, historic sites, open space, wildlife habitats, and 35 miles of relatively undeveloped shoreline; all inside an area of 50 square miles and set against the skyline of Boston and other harbor communities
- The only drumlin field in the United States that intersects a coast, formed by the glaciers some 15,000 years ago
- Opportunities for tranquility and personal renewal, and land- and water-based education and recreation within an urban area with potential to serve visitors from around the nation.

Georges Island Pier Improvement Project

Boston, Massachusetts



Georges Island Pier

Georges Island sits in the Narrows of Boston Harbor, a 40-acre island used as a defensive post in every major conflict from the Civil War through World War II. It is part of the only glacier-formed drumlin field that intersects a coast in the US and provides both natural and historical opportunities for visitors to the island.

The Georges Island pier facility was originally designed to provide access to Fort Warren for soldiers and equipment assigned to the fort, while it was still in operation. Today, the current timber pier is over 50 years old. It remains the only point of access to the island and is the gateway to tens of thousands of visitors annually. Fort Warren and the associated pier facility are historically significant aspects of the island, which enhances the cultural experience for visitors. Georges Island is considered a gateway to Boston Harbor, and the pier facility is the gateway to the island.

The purpose of the Georges Island pier is to provide access to a culturally and environmentally rich resource in the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area. The pier is the only means of docking at Georges Island and serves as a water transportation hub for visitors exploring the Boston Harbor Islands by ferry, charter boat or private vessel. As such, replacement of the pier would enhance public access to the park as a whole.

Georges Island and Fort Warren



Georges Island Pier Improvement Project

Boston, Massachusetts



Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed action is to replace the deteriorated pier facility on Georges Island in a manner that protects the cultural and environmental resources of the Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area. The key objectives of the proposal are to accommodate present and future visitor use, preserve the historical character of the island, enhance visitor enjoyment of the island, and improve public safety.

The action is needed to:

- Replace deteriorated timber piles and wave fence with a new pier, which will enhance visitor and staff safety,
- Increase or restore the amount of space available for current uses (i.e., because the south pier and portions of the north pier are currently closed),
- Accommodate potential increased visitor use,
- Bring the facility into compliance with current design standards, including Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines and Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) requirements, and
- Reduce the escalating cost of maintenance and repair due to continued deterioration of the existing facility.

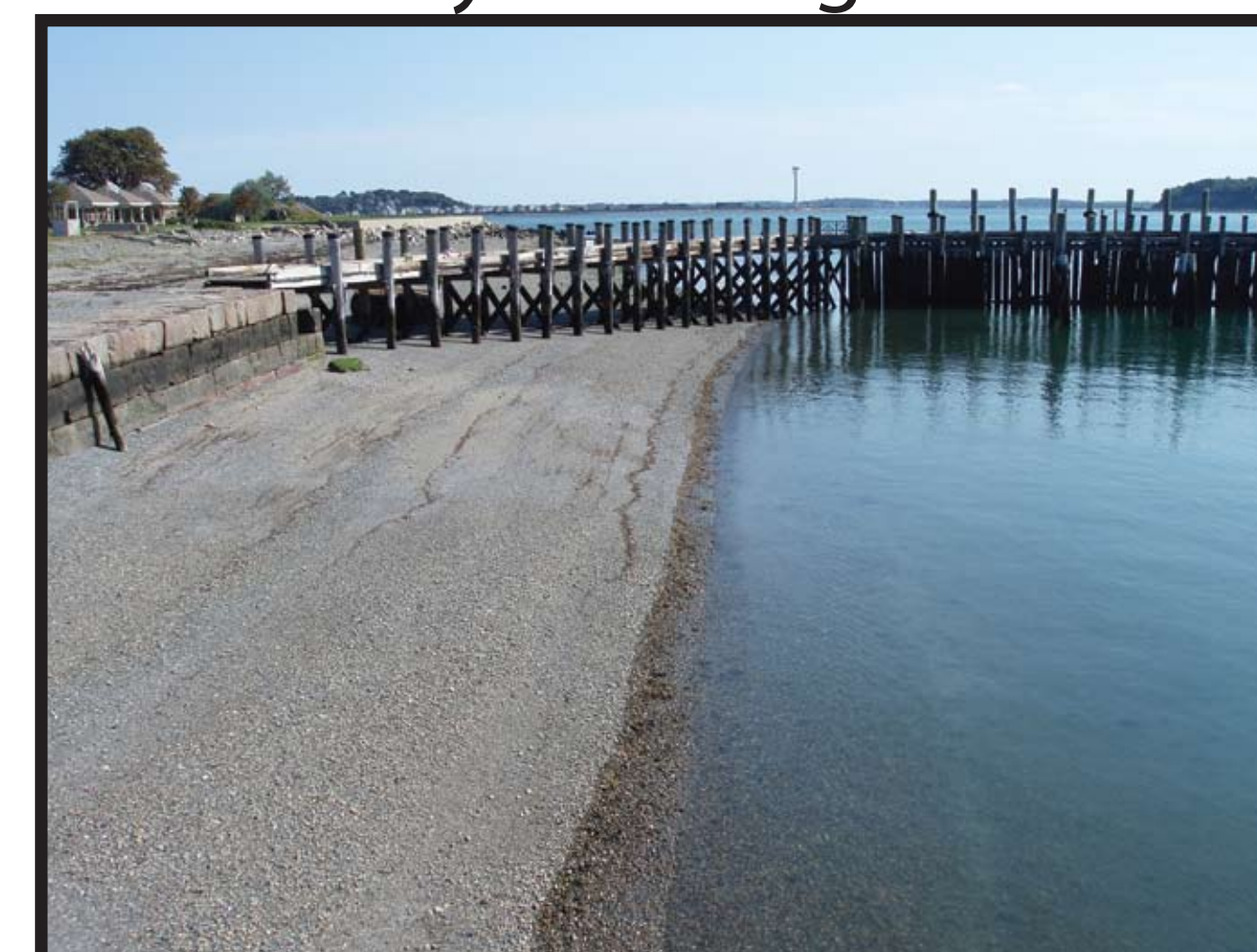
Existing Conditions



Gateway to Georges Island



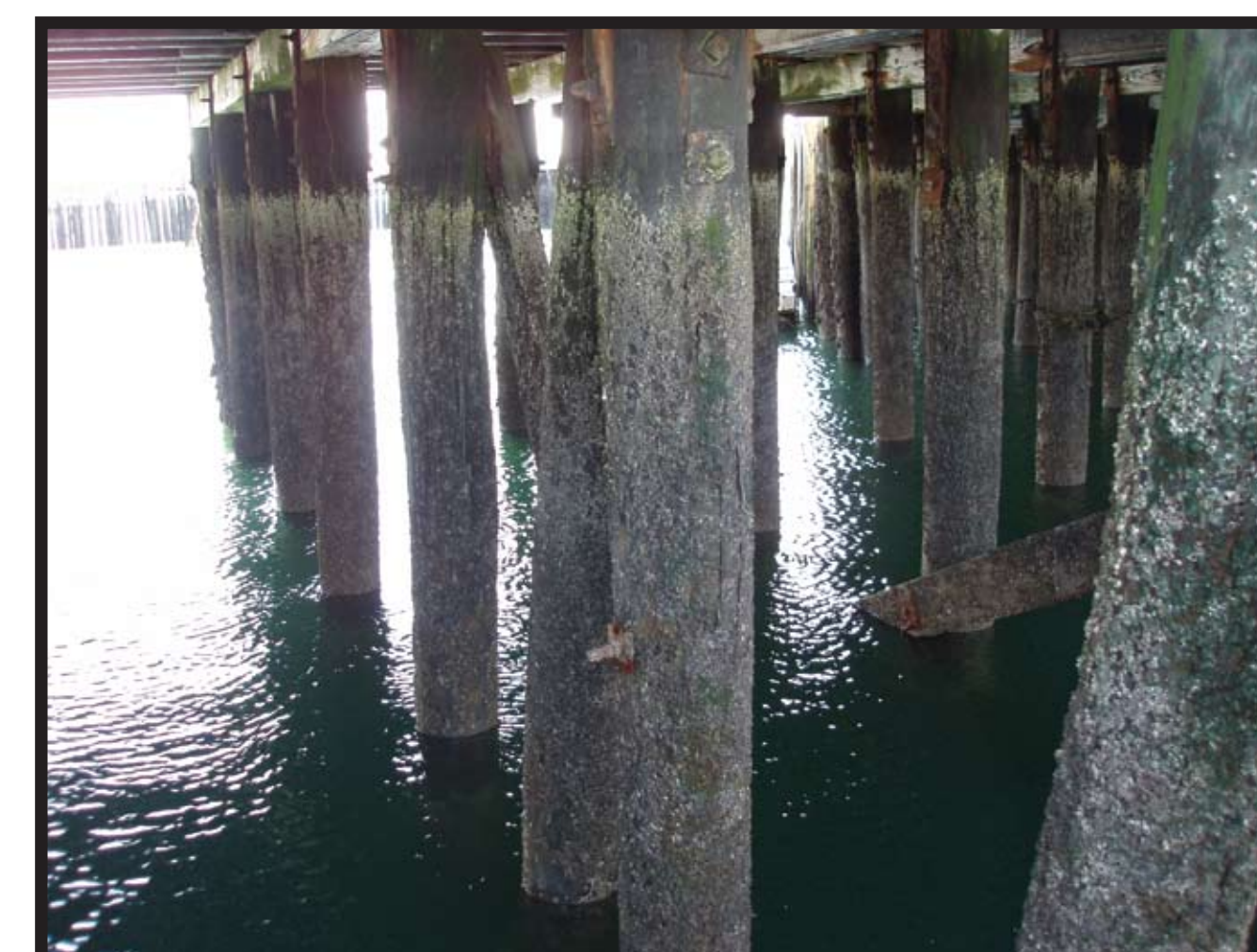
Main pier



Closed south pier



Passengers disembarking via gangway



Timber piles under main pier



Visitor departs via private vessel

Georges Island Pier Improvement Project

Boston, Massachusetts



The National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires all federal agencies to consider and document the potential impacts of management actions on the human environment. The National Park Service applies NEPA in the planning process to evaluate alternative courses of action and impacts so decisions are made in accord with the conservation and preservation mandate of the NPS Organic Act of 1916.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a NEPA document that is prepared to assist in planning and decision-making and to determine if an action has the potential for significant impact.

Public scoping meetings help to inform the public of the Park's proposed actions, solicit public input, and identify issues and concerns. All public input received will be considered during the environmental assessment.

NEPA Planning Process

Scoping Phase – Identifies issues and obtains input from the public and interested agencies and organizations early in the planning process (*We are here*).

Alternatives Development – Identifies a range of alternatives that meet the purpose and need for the action.

Preparation of EA and Public Review – Analyzes the potential environmental impacts of alternatives, and identifies the agency preferred alternative.

Decision Document – A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or if the potential for significant impacts is identified, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared.

It is anticipated that the NEPA planning process will be completed by late 2009.

Opportunities to Comment

Written Comments:

Comment Sheets are available at the sign-in table and may be turned in to any project personnel at tonight's meeting.

Comment Sheets and/or additional comments may be sent to:

Superintendent

Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area

Georges Island Pier –EA

408 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 228

Boston, MA 02110

Comments may be submitted electronically by following the links at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/boha>

Please Note: In order for your comments to be considered as part of this phase of the project, all comments must be received **prior to December 22, 2008.**

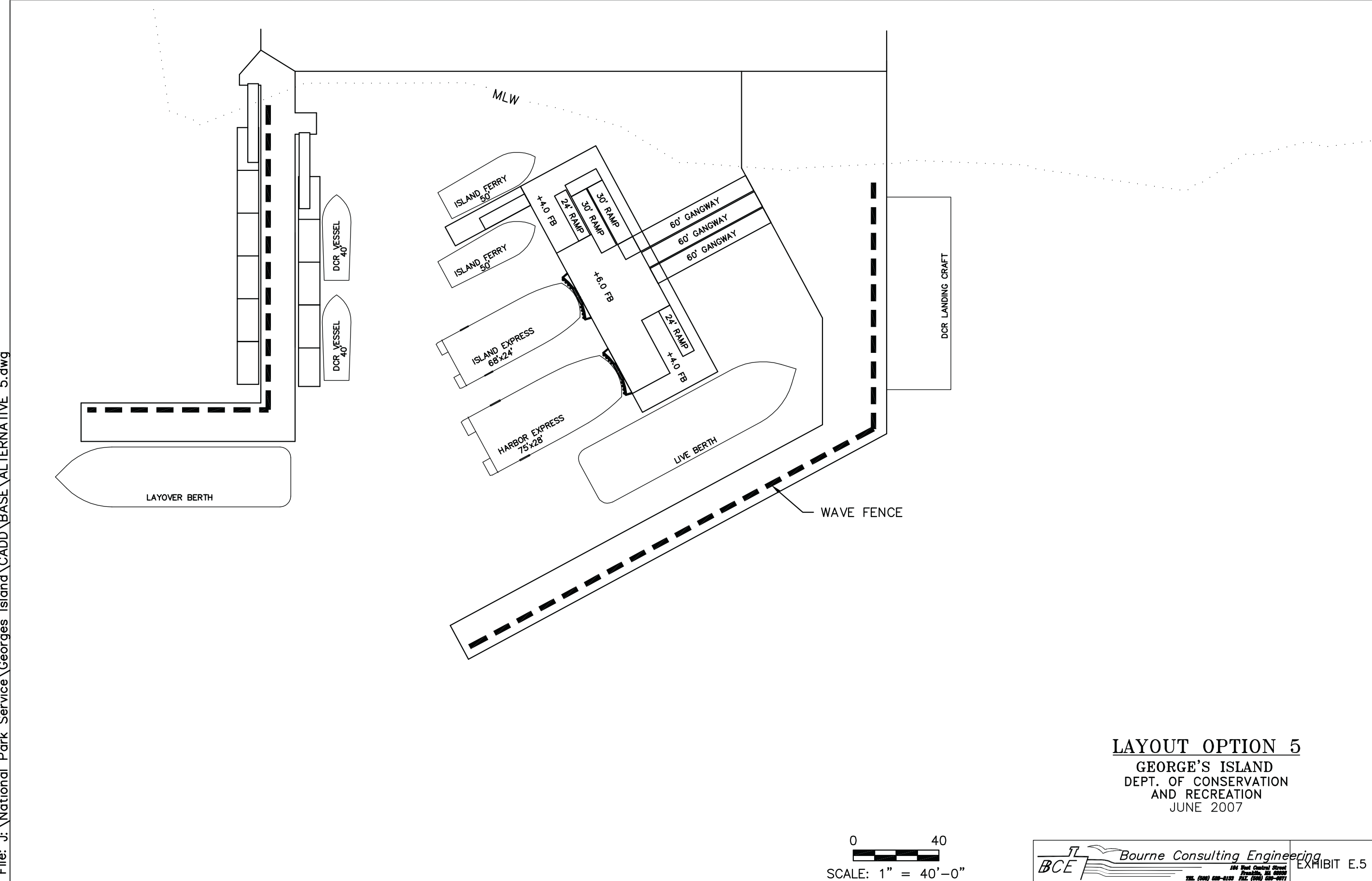
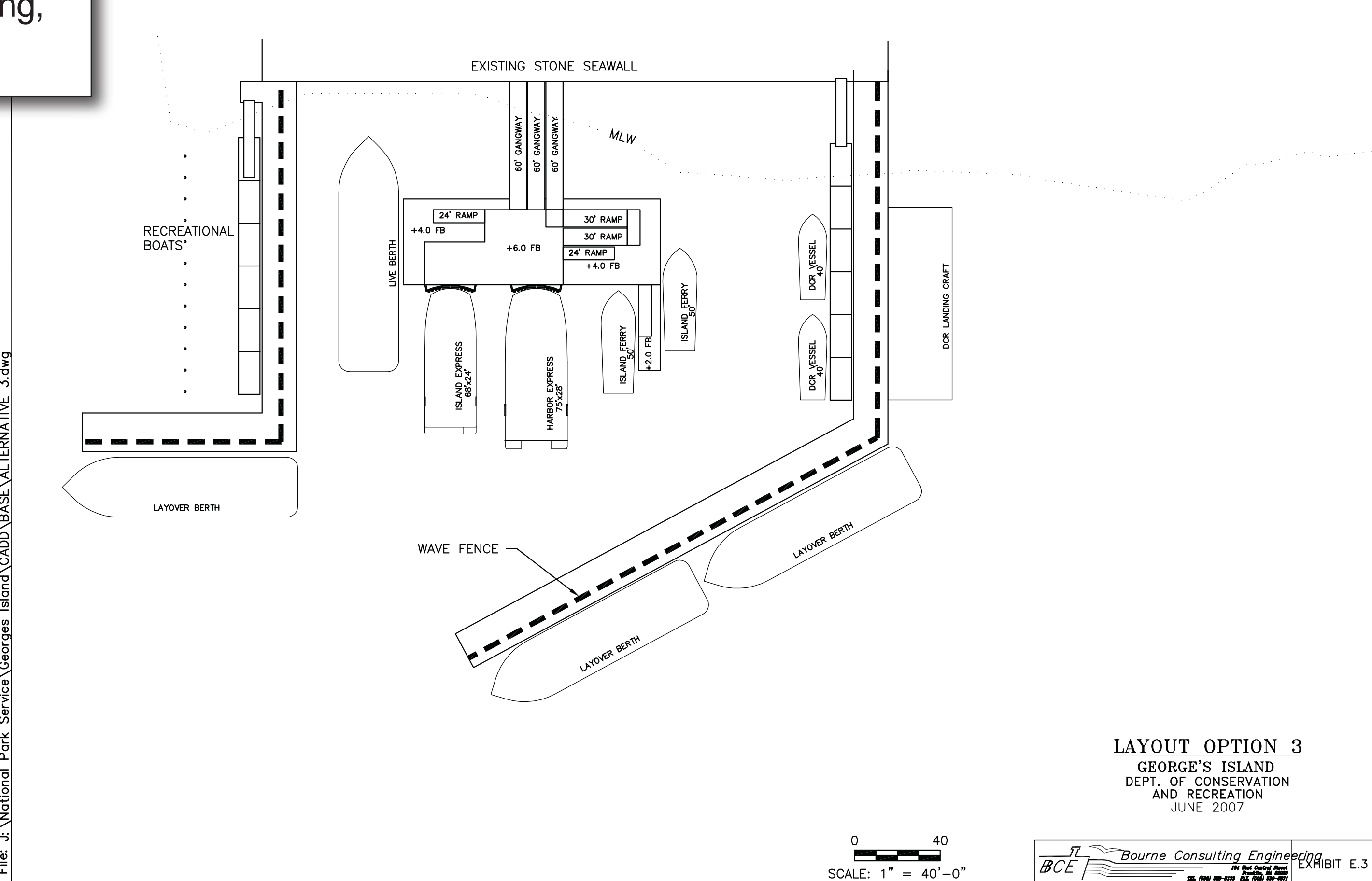
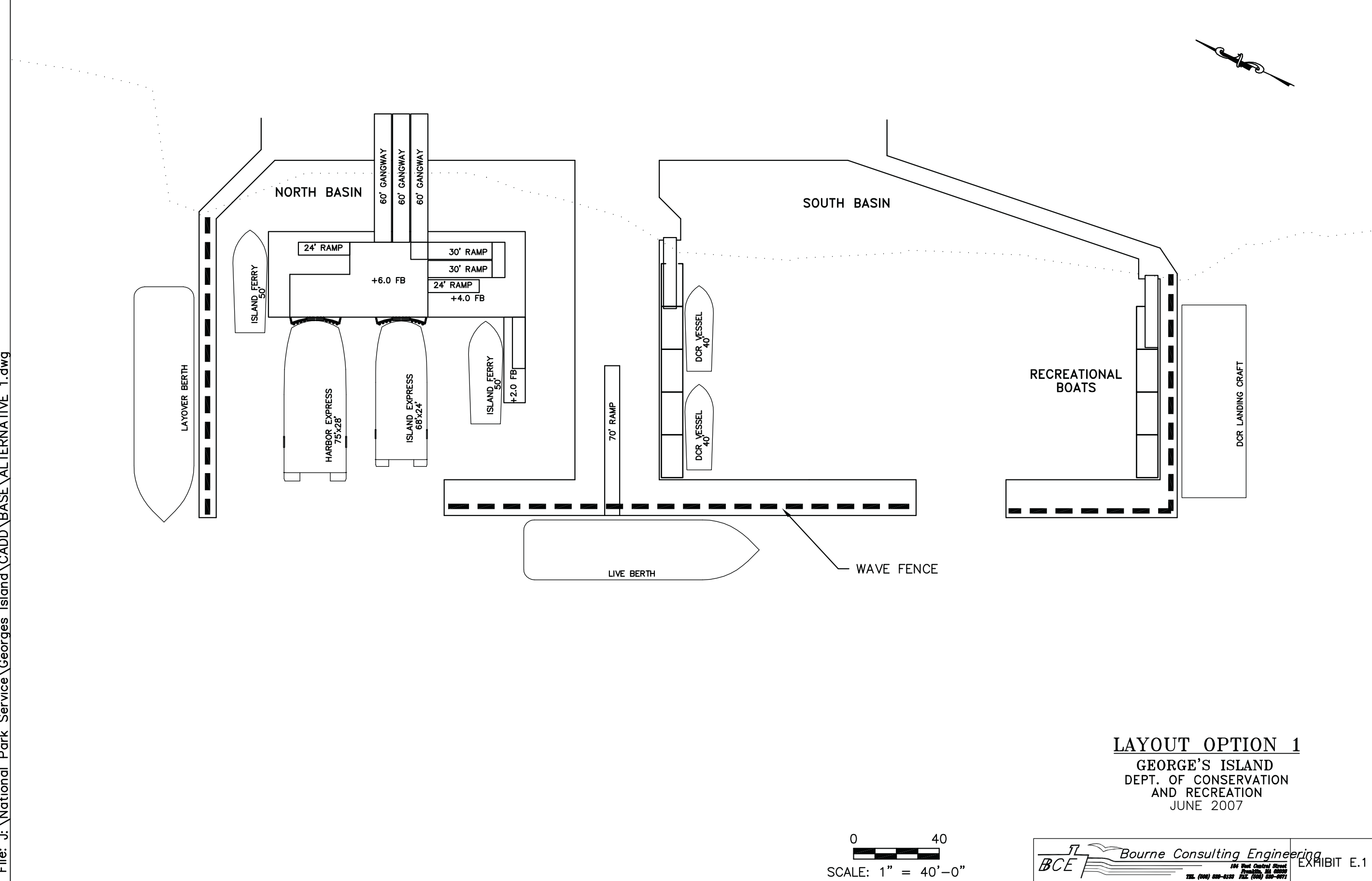
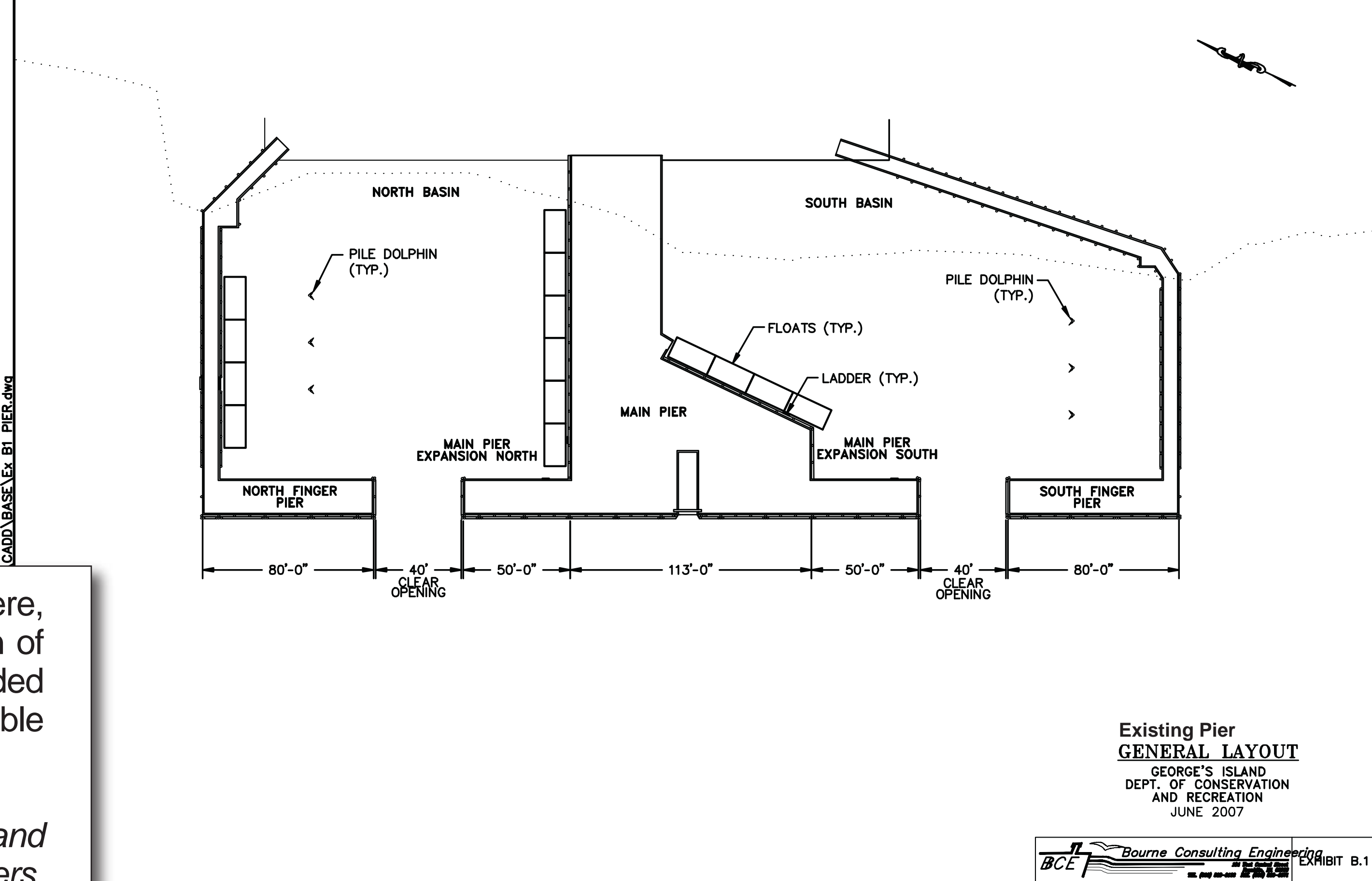
Before including an address, phone number, email address or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Georges Island Pier Improvement Project

Boston, Massachusetts



Previously Developed Pier Replacement Options



The options shown here, developed before the initiation of this NEPA process, are intended to illustrate a range of possible solutions.

Source: *Condition Survey and Report for Georges Island Piers*, Bourne Consulting Engineering, June 2007.

Georges Island Pier Improvement Project Boston, Massachusetts



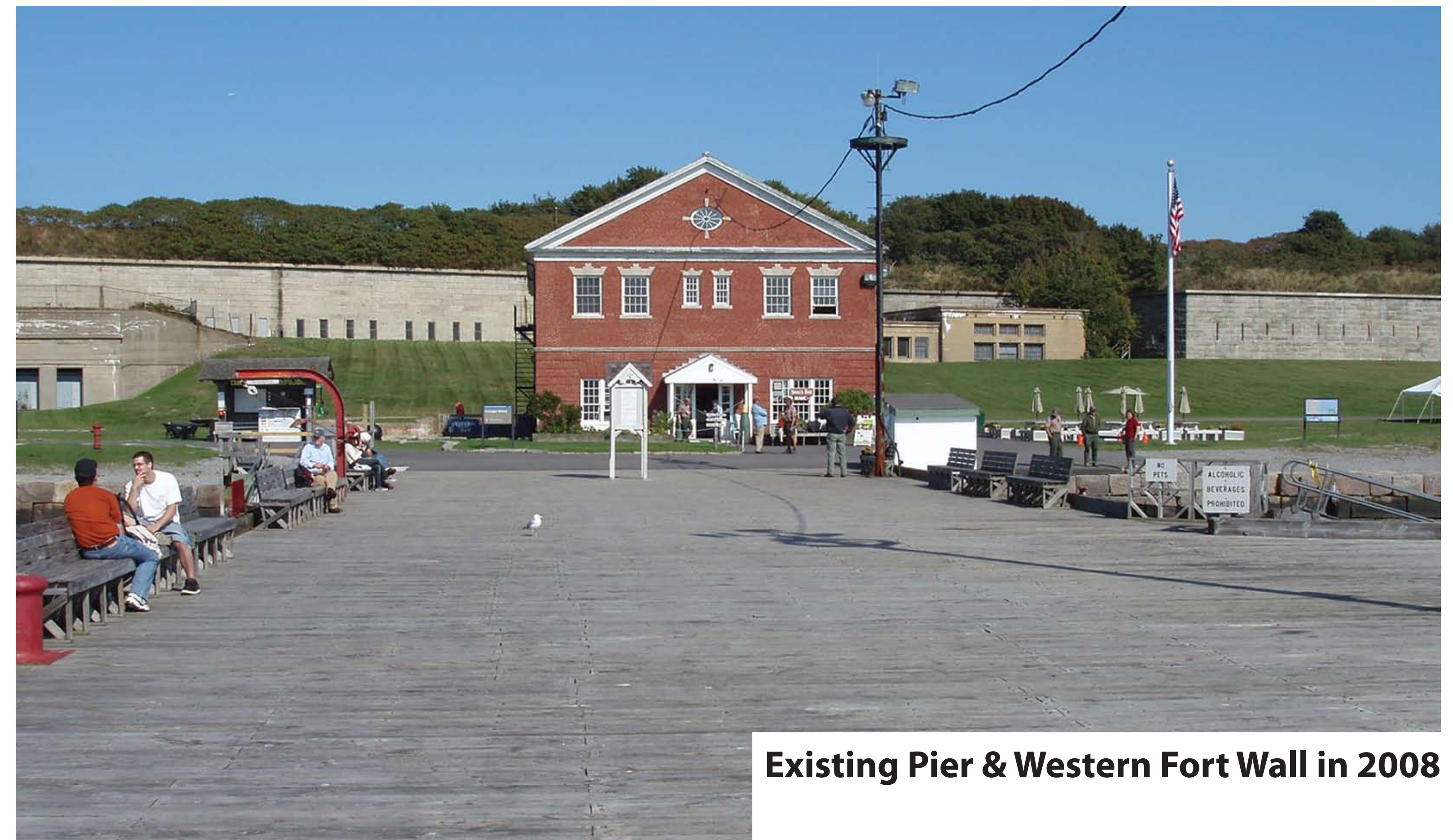
Fort Warren (Georges Island) 1958
Photo by JT O'Toole



Existing Pier & Western Fort Wall in the 1890's
Photo from National Archives



Fort Warren (Georges Island) 2005
MassGIS



Existing Pier & Western Fort Wall in 2008