

Wharf. FAC: 1512

CATCODE: 152111

OPR: AFCEC/COS

OCR: N/A

1.1. **Description.** This identifies those structures built on the shore or projecting into the water so that vessels may be moored along its side.

1.1.1. A **wharf** or **quay** is a structure on the shore of a harbor or on the bank of a river or canal where ships may dock to load and unload cargo or passengers. Such a structure includes one or more berths (mooring locations), and may also include piers, warehouses, or other facilities necessary for handling the ships.

1.1.2. A wharf commonly comprises a fixed platform, often on pilings. Commercial ports may have warehouses that serve as interim storage areas, since the typical objective is to unload and reload vessels as quickly as possible. Where capacity is sufficient a single wharf with a single berth constructed along the land adjacent to the water is normally used; where there is a need for more capacity multiple wharves, or perhaps a single large wharf with multiple berths, will instead be constructed, sometimes projecting into the water. A pier, raised over the water rather than within it, is commonly used for cases where the weight or volume of cargos will be low.

1.1.3. Smaller and more modern wharves are sometimes built on flotation devices (pontoons) to keep them at the same level as the ship, even during changing tides.

1.2. A defined facility standard is not currently available for this CATCODE. By default, all requirements are user justified until a standard is established or adopted.