

## Taming the wild

Milford Marina Systems brings floating concrete yacht harbours to the wild Irish waters.

THE WILD ATLANTIC COASTS AND wide misty lakes of Ireland have always possessed a rare and rugged beauty in the eyes of the yachtsmen from all over the world. The problem has always been to find enough secure harbouring to allow boatmen to explore and enjoy these waters without having to concern themselves with the vagaries of the Irish weather. Whilst the waters on the coasts and broad lakes of Ireland are normally tranquil and placid, notoriously they can turn nasty, leaving the hapless sailor with no choice but to look for a secure haven.

An Irish company, Milford Marina Systems, has addressed these problems and is putting floating yacht harbours in places that hitherto were thought unsuitable... secondary locations, away from the primary Ocean swell but nonetheless locations in

which light pontoons would not survive for long.

"Using heavy, all concrete Pontoons and Breakwaters in carefully chosen sites is the answer", according to Milford Marina's Rod Calder-Potts, "clients are now seeing the sense of paying a little extra to buy heavy, robust pontoons that are designed to last in excess of 50 years with very low maintenance."

Fixed breakwaters tend to be expensive and unsightly, particularly in areas with large tides. Floating breakwaters, however, are cost effective, good looking and have the advantage of being usable as moorings.

Milford Marina Systems policy of providing long life, low maintenance yacht harbours has led them to use Seaflex rubber mooring systems wherever possible. Whilst Milford are prepared to use piles to moor their yacht harbours if the customers request, they prefer to use



ABOVE: An S.F. Breakwater showing it's mettle against the elements.

anchoring as it is less unsightly, cleaner, quieter and unobtrusive.

Milford are keen to keep close to the client right through from the design stage to completion. "It is the small things that make a yacht harbour a success and a pleasure to use, so, it is important that Milford use their experience to advise on design from an early stage".

Milford Marina Systems represent S.F. Marina Systems and Seaflex in Ireland. They are based in Cuffesgrange, Co. Kilkenny, and can be contacted by telephone at 00353(0)56-7729918, fax 00353(0)56-7729987 or by email at [highbank@eircom.net](mailto:highbank@eircom.net)

Placing anchors on a breakwater in the west of Ireland.



BELOW: An all concrete pontoon being lowered from the ship against the misty backdrop of Valentia Island.

