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Seaseal - a new Swedish innovation for the protection of the world's ports

Coastal cities around the world are threatened by recurrent flooding due to the rising sea levels. Within some few hours billions in damage can be the result of the "storm surge" that accompanies many storms. That was what happened when Katrina hit New Orleans and when Sandy struck New York. But also ports in other continents are affected, among those the Swedish towns of Gothenburg and Uddevalla.

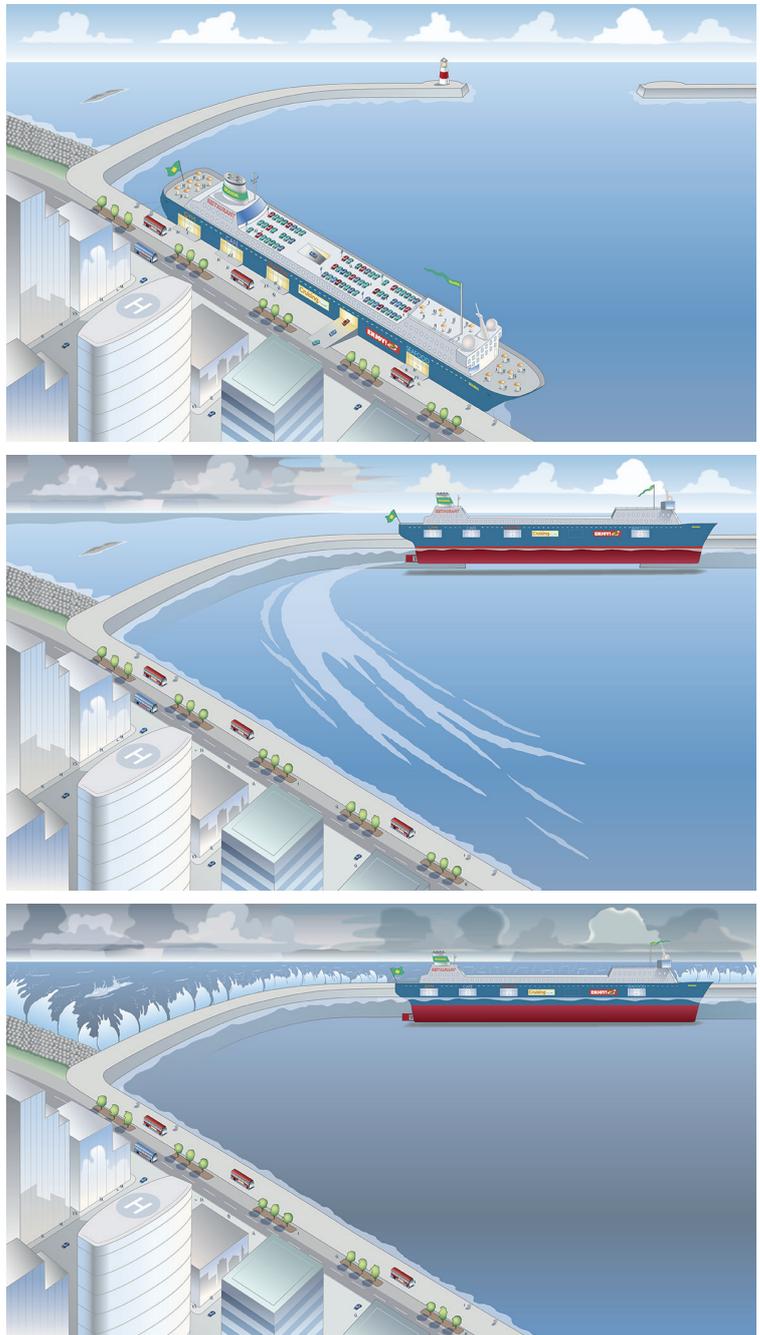
There are solutions, with giant sluice gates that close off the harbour entrance before the water rises, but such are terribly expensive. Gothenburg has estimated the costs for such a solution to more than 1 billion EUR.

But now a cheaper solution is in sight. By using a purpose designed ship as a sluice gate the mechanical gates can be spared, which means a significant cost reduction. When a storm is approaching the ship heads for the harbour entrance and is submerged onto a sill on the sea floor. After the storm surge has passed the ship is again pumped dry and can return to its ordinary quay berth.

However, the main cost reduction is that the ship can be used for other purposes during the perhaps 364 days a year when there is no risk that a storm surge will come. With the square metre prices applicable to the central parts of a port city the major part of the costs for the ship can be covered by rental incomes from on board restaurants, cafes, car parkings, gyms etc.

The concept Seaseal has been developed and patented by Sigurd Melin. He is the father of the Boxwall and the Tubewall, mobile flood barriers that are now sold internationally by the company NOAQ.

Uddevalla is one of the cities that is already repeatedly flooded by storm surges. The city has therefore decided to investigate the Seaseal concept and has now been granted 60 000 EUR from the EU programme Leader Södra Bohuslän for a feasibility study. See www.leadersodrabohuslan.se/godkant_projekt/seaseal.



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