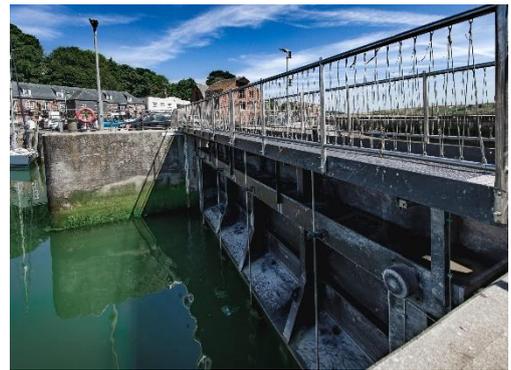


## Padstow Gate Refurbishment

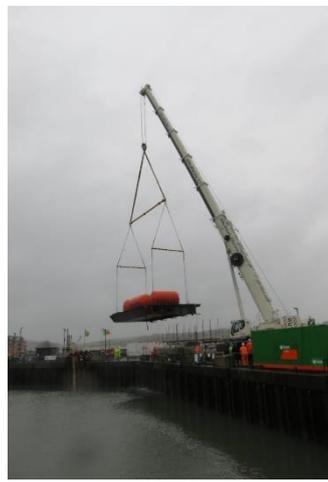
In March 2018, Padstow Gate Refurbishment project was successfully completed in time for the Easter break. Located in the busy tourist location of Padstow, the Gate forms an important part of the flood defence which protects the town from flooding, along with providing a secondary purpose of maintaining water levels within the inner harbour. Coming within budget at a project value of £835,000 the project was managed well with good project team communications to meet the Easter deadline.



The Gate was initially installed in 1988 as part of the town tidal flood scheme. It has operated on hundreds of occasions to protect the community from flooding. The Gate has performed well thanks to regular inspections and maintenance by the Environment Agency's MEICA (Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation, Control and Automation) team. However, 30 years exposure to a harsh marine environment had taken its toll on the Gate and refurbishment was required. Works involved the removal and on-site refurbishment of the 10m wide tidal Gate on the harbour quay area. This was shown to be the most efficient approach in both cost and carbon to extending the life of the Gate.



Access constraints limited the refurbishment options available and positions for heavy cranes on site. The solution was to float the Gate to a suitable location for lifting.



Maintaining flood protection throughout the works was also one of the main challenges faced. With removal of the Gate, the harbour entrance would have been open to tidal water. Metal stop logs were installed on the seaward side so that the Gate could be safely removed, and flood protection maintained. The stop logs were lifted in from a crane on the north quay, where limited access also needed to be overcome.

Due to the popularity of Padstow as a tourist attraction, times of construction were difficult to implement. It was important to both avoid negatively impacting the aesthetics of Padstow and undertaking construction works during busier times. During the summer months, Padstow is at the height of its tourist season, this also peaks during both the Christmas and Easter periods with a Christmas market appearing near the site of interest from early December. Therefore, construction had to work around the Christmas period but reach completion prior to Easter. Although these months are normally considered times of the year construction should be avoided, the scheme was implemented to perfection and avoided negatively impacting tourist numbers and experiences.