

Sample Abstract Format

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ABSTRACT

Timber piles are widely used for supporting bridges, piers, wharves, and other marine structures. As they age, it becomes critical that their in situ condition be assessed so their remaining service life can be evaluated. Current inspection methods involving visual examinations and sounding tests are unable to quantitatively disclose a pile's degree of deterioration, depth of penetration, or remaining load-bearing capacity. Years of exposure to wood-decomposing fungi and weathering may have substantially decreased a pile's effective cross-sectional area, so that the pile can no longer function as originally intended. A study was conducted in which nondestructive dispersive wave propagation tests were applied to both laboratory pile models and field timber piles. ...