



# AT WORK

A SELECTION OF DIFFERENT EXAMPLES FROM THE EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE OF BOSKALIS | OCTOBER 2012

## EMERGENCY LIGHT



**Each month, a colleague reports on his/her NINA activities. In this installment, superintendent Dennis de Vries shares his views with us.**

Last year I was sent to supervise a project in lovely Blaye near Bordeaux, France. There, we dredged out rock with the Nordic Giant and brought the material to the dump with the split hopper barges the Rind and the Frigg. The work was carried out on the Gironde, a river with fast currents and powerful tides. These unpredictable, strong currents also caused problems two years earlier in the last project on this river. For this project, in addition to considering the related operational risks, we felt we should also have another look at how we could improve safety for all staff on the water.

A local wholesaler of offshore equipment sold special emergency lights which we were able to clip onto our inflatable life-jackets. This tiny gadget was a welcome addition to our project PPEs, as we also planned to do crew changes in the dark and the light

automatically starts to blink when it gets wet.

Fortunately we did not need the lights for any emergency situations. However, ever since I take my light with me wherever I go and clip it to life-jackets I use in other projects. The light is small enough to take with you and has a 5-year lifetime. Though I'm not sure it really makes every project safer, in our line of work, it could definitely have a number of uses. Of course, NINA is about preventing accidents, but I still wanted to share this 'NINA moment' with you!

Dennis de Vries is curious to hear the experiences of Harke Rutgers, Boskalis Offshore project engineer. Read all about them in the next NINA At Work!

## NINA AT SCHOOL

**There are many risks associated with working in residential areas, particularly when the site is a dike that children ride their bikes over to get to school.**

This is precisely the case in the project 'Dijkversterking BAS' ('Dike reinforcement in the Bergambacht, Ammerstol and Schoonhoven area') in the province of Zuid-Holland, as project manager Carlo Tonnaer explains. "At the NINA Kick Off Meeting, we and all the other parties agreed that communication about safety is essential. So we recently visited several elementary schools in the area and will definitely do the same during the next working season."



Teacher for a day

About 175 kids, aged 11 and 12 have now learned about the 'blind spot' from truck driver Jeroen Habicht. All of them had a chance to sit behind the wheel to get a feel for what the driver actually sees, and most of all, what he doesn't. "That's the kind of experience you never forget", says planning engineer Kees Koejemans, who visited the schools along with his coworkers Martin Verhoef, Marcel Witte, Alexander van den Berg and Jeannet Middelkoop. "I told them how important it is to make eye contact with a driver or a crane operator and now they really understand why." He was struck by the students' open attitude and enthusiasm. "They told us about their own experiences and wanted to know everything about our jobs. I thought it was a lot of fun to be 'teacher for a day!'"

The SOLAS, an approved light for the Secumar jackets can be ordered through Maximo or by means of a Holland Purchase Order directed to the Customer Support Department in PPD. The item number is 6.138.853 (Seculux CFX).

