

K I M O



Annual Report 2014

15 years of KIMO 1999 - 2014

NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM



Annual Report 2014

KIMO Netherlands and Belgium



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1. From the Chairman

2014 was a remarkable year. It was KIMO Netherlands and Belgium's fifteenth anniversary and there were municipal elections which led to a change in the executive board. New members of the board are Mr R.G. te Beest, Councillor of Velsen, Mrs A. van Dijk, Councillor of Heemskerk, Mr J.C. Knape, Councillor of Katwijk, and Mrs J. van Dongen, Councillor of Den Helder. Mr J. Rijpstra, the Mayor of Noordwijk, succeeds the previous Mayor of Noordwijk, Mr J.P.J. Lokker, on the board. New members of the organisation are the municipalities of Westland and Rotterdam.

2014 was the fifteenth anniversary of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium: a moment for reflection. KIMO Netherlands and Belgium is part of the international KIMO organisation. This international organisation was founded in 1990 by four municipalities in Norway, Denmark, England and Scotland. Today, it consists of around 160 municipalities in 14 countries in northwest Europe. The main purpose of the KIMO organisation is to pass the seas on to future generations in a good condition. Every country – or combination of countries – can establish a KIMO organisation. In the Netherlands this was done in 1999 by the municipalities of Velsen, Noordwijk and Den Helder. Many coastal municipalities joined their ranks over the years. Our members are municipalities with tourism, fishing, transport (harbours) and nature.

KIMO Netherlands and Belgium focuses its activities on these four areas. Internationally the KIMO organisation is involved with European projects, such as OSPAR, HELCOM, EMS (KRM), MEPC, IMO, the North Sea Conferences, etc. Research is usually carried out in cooperation with official institutions or universities in Europe. In the Netherlands we represent our members in HOV meetings, MEPC, KRM, the project plastic in seas (Fishing), annual IDON meetings, Delta works consultation, and many other areas. Every year KIMO organises one



Chairman KIMO Netherlands and Belgium, Mr.R.G. te Beest

or two conferences or study days. The past year these events discussed dock power supplies for seafaring ships, sustainable shipping, the pollution of the seas, sustainable tourism management and of course the symposium 15 years of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium. To support our aim we participate in projects or we organise projects ourselves. The most important projects that are currently ongoing are

Fishing for Litter, CleanSea, River waste discharge and the coordination of Green Deals. Recently KIMO Netherlands and Belgium has cooperated with the Ministries of Infrastructure and the Environment and of Economic Affairs to organise two Green Deals. These are the Green Deals Clean Beaches and Fishing Waste Chain. These Green Deals were signed on 20 November 2014 at the symposium on the occasion of our fifteenth anniversary. Both Green Deals are coordinated by KIMO Netherlands and Belgium.

Education and training for adults and children is an important topic within KIMO Netherlands and Belgium. That is why we provide training and involve young and old in the problems our coasts struggle with. KIMO has organised a travelling exhibition that tours the Netherlands and Belgium and explains what the seas and oceans have to offer and what the problems are that need to be solved in order to keep the waters in a good condition. This exhibition includes a half day programme at primary schools with the name "The Classroom". As part of this programme, KIMO Netherlands and Belgium also provides information at maritime colleges. At annual fairs, fish markets and beaches we point out to both adults and children the consequences of behaviour like just leaving rubbish behind in public spaces.

We have discussed the possibility with our Belgian members, of involving all the Belgian coastal municipalities in the organisation of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium. We will follow up on this in 2015. We have been invited by the Mayor of Blankenberge to organise a presentation for Belgian coastal Mayors.



Green Deal
Visserij



Green Deal
Schone Stranden





2. The KIMO organisation

a. KIMO International

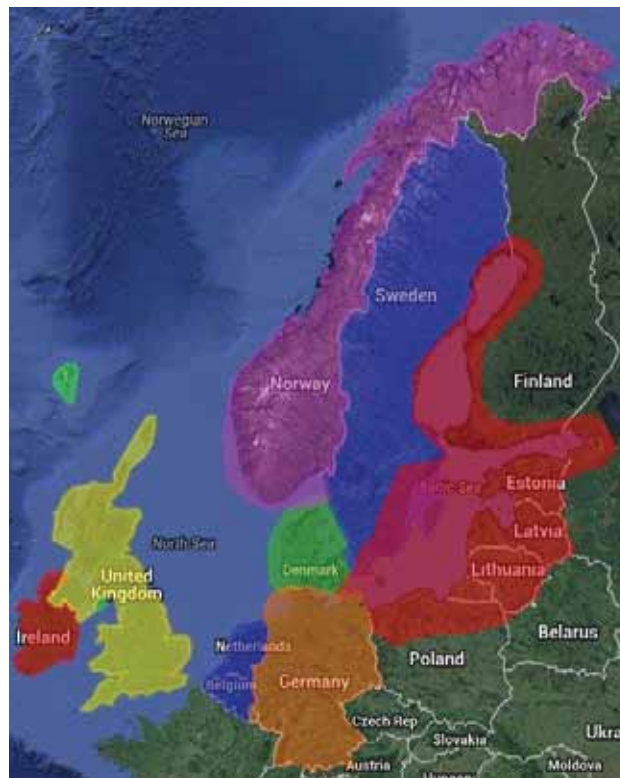
The international KIMO organisation is the parent organisation in Europe. In addition, every country organises its own, independent KIMO division. So there are various local KIMO organisations active in Europe.

After its foundation in 1990 with four municipalities the KIMO organisation has grown to include more than 150 municipalities in 14 countries. Internationally the Annual General Meeting (AGM) is the guiding and decision-making institution. The executive board leads the organisation and prepares decision-making. Every year resolutions are prepared and accepted in the AGM; these resolutions are binding for the opinions of KIMO members.

The president of the KIMO organisation is elected for two years. At the initiation of the president a junior vice president is also chosen, who works with the president for two years, after which he or she is nominated for presidency.

The departing president is promoted to senior president for two years. In this way the organisation always has a president. The international president works closely with the international secretary. During official meetings or when reaching agreements the president represents the KIMO organisation. The international secretariat represents its members at international European level. In this way the KIMO organisation is represented in Europe during the OSPAR, HELCOM, EMS, the IMO, and at the North Sea Conferences.

In addition, the international secretariat organises the annual board meetings, the general members' meeting and the coordinator meetings. They work together with the national coordinators to organise



Countries associated with KIMO International

the international meetings and resolutions. In addition to physical KIMO meetings, more and more meetings take place through Skype or Webex.

The Chairman of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium and a board member from Belgium participate in the executive board of KIMO international. The Board of KIMO has held its meetings this year in the Isle of Man and in Denmark, where the AGM and

the coordinator meeting also took place. This year the relocation of the international secretariat was discussed during the various board meetings. At the

AGM of 2014 in Denmark it was decided to create a document for the members to indicate whether they would like to house the international secretariat.

b. KIMO Netherlands and Belgium

KIMO Netherlands and Belgium was founded in 1999 as an association of the municipalities of Velsen and Noordwijk, and now, 15 years later, it has become a large organisation with 38 member municipalities with interests in the North Sea.

Members of this organisation are Dutch and Belgian coastal municipalities with shared interests in the North Sea and the coastal waters. As an organisation of local governments, KIMO Netherlands and Belgium enters discussions with other governments and organisations to realise goals in the areas of safety and the environment, and especially in the areas of recreation, harbours, nature and tourism. The executive board has held three meetings in 2014 and the general board has held two.

The aims of the KIMO organisation are as follows:

1. cleaning current pollution in the northern seas and coastal waters, preventing new pollution and working to maintain the seas and coastal waters to pass these on to the next generations in a good condition;
2. sustainable coastal and tourism policies;
3. coastal defence in relation to economic developments and sea level rise;
4. safety around the coast.

These goals are achieved through the following actions:

- informing local governments on pollution and cleaning actions;
- acting as an example for others through actions to improve the environment of the



Memberslist KIMO Netherlands and Belgium



- North Sea and coastal waters;
 - stimulating a balanced and sustainable tourism and coast policy;
 - exerting influence on national and international policy development and execution to the extent it relates to the goals of KIMO;
 - taking combined action against plans that may disturb the biological and ecological balance
- in the northern seas and coastal waters;
 - organising conferences and study days;
 - carrying out projects which fit within the framework of the goals of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium;
 - coordinating and cooperating with other KIMO organisations in Europe;
 - visiting the EU in Brussels for meetings and tenders.



3. The management of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium

a. General board

The general board of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium is the highest body in the organisation. They meet twice a year and make decisions that are prepared by the executive board. In the general board, all 38 municipalities hold a seat.

b. Executive board

The executive board of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium consists of ten members spread out along the Dutch and Belgian coast. KIMO Netherlands and Belgium is a management organisation of elected representatives of the population. The composition of the executive board is as follows:



Mr R.G. te Beest,

Councillor of Velsen,
Chairman KIMO Netherlands and
Belgium, member of executive
board KIMO international



Mr J. Rijpstra,

Mayor of Noordwijk,
vice Chairman KIMO Netherlands
and Belgium



Mrs M. van Dijk,

Councillor of Heemskerk,
member of executive board
KIMO Netherlands and Belgium



Mr A.J.C. van der Vlugt,

Councillor of
Goeree Overflakkee,
member of executive board
KIMO Netherlands and Belgium



Mr A. de Hoop,

Mayor of Ameland,
member of executive board
KIMO Netherlands and Belgium,
former Chairman KIMO international



Mr P. Geerinckx,

Alderman of Knokke-Heist,
member of executive board
KIMO Netherlands and Belgium,
member of executive board
KIMO international



Mr W.R. Sluiter,

Mayor of Harlingen,
member of executive board
KIMO Netherlands and Belgium



Mr T. Germonpré,

Alderman of Oostende,
member of executive board
KIMO Netherlands and Belgium



Mrs J. van Dongen,

Councillor of Den Helder,
member of executive board
KIMO Netherlands and Belgium



Mr J. C. Knape,

Councillor of Katwijk,
member of executive board
KIMO Netherlands and Belgium



Mr B. Veerman,

Secretary of KIMO Netherlands
and Belgium, coordinator KIMO
international



c. Ambassadors

KIMO Netherlands and Belgium has named two ambassadors in 2011, Ms AnneMieke Korf and Mr Karel Ockeloen. With these two ambassadors KIMO hopes to increase the accessibility and active promotion. The ambassadors can also contribute to specific projects and activities during any year.

The ambassadors report annually on their activities; their reports are concluded with recommendations for the next year.



d. Contact persons

Every member municipality has a contact person for the KIMO organisation. Contact on projects generally takes place via those contact persons. The contact persons (official meeting) meet twice a year, once in the spring and simultaneously with the general board meeting in November.

e. Secretariat

The execution of tasks is the responsibility of the secretariat of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium. The secretariat organises the meetings of the EB and GB, maintains contacts with various governments, organises gatherings and writes notes for the KIMO organisation.

The secretariat consists of three people, of whom two are full-time. The secretary is a member of the management of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium and leads the organisation. The secretary of the KIMO organisation is the first person responsible for current affairs, is the advisor of the KIMO management and is the link between other employees and KIMO members. The secretariat ensures a proper

preparation for meetings of the executive and general boards and the coordinator meeting. It informs the Chairman, the management and the contact persons in municipalities on projects and current affairs. In 2014 the secretariat has supervised various projects, which have been incorporated in this annual report.





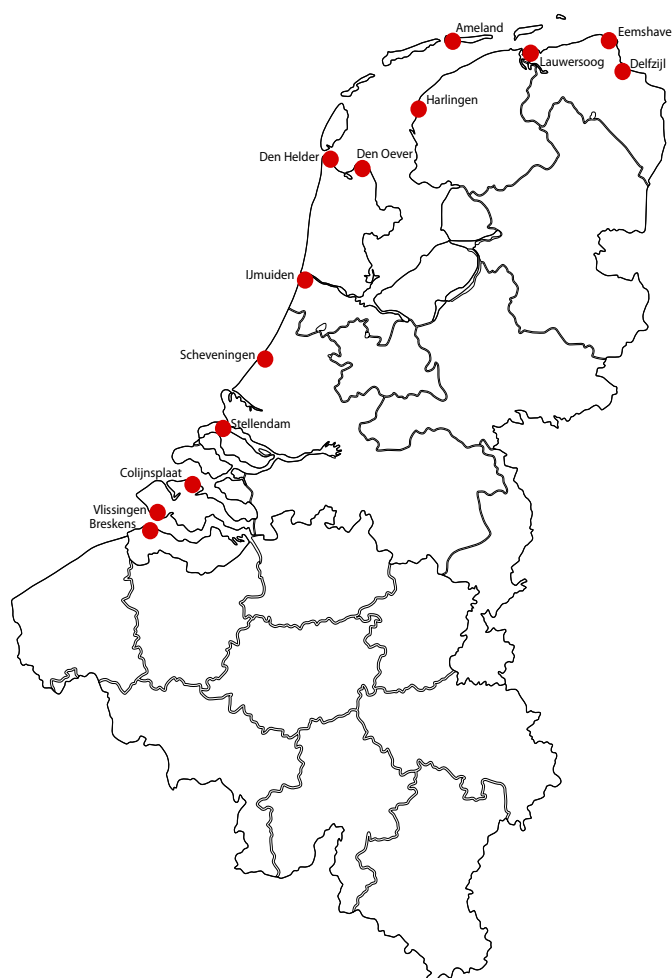
4. Projects

a. Fishing for Litter

The waste that fishermen catch in their nets when they are fishing is brought to land in the Fishing for Litter project and there it is collected, transported away, monitored and processed.

For the storage of this waste on the ship the fishermen bring big-bags with them. When they return to the harbour the fishermen – who are participating freely – place the big-bag on the quay, where it is disposed of by waste collectors. This project has collected more than 2,500,000 kg of waste over the past ten years from the North Sea, and it prevents the same waste from being constantly caught in the nets of fishermen or washing up on the beaches. Six times a year the waste from various harbours is monitored. In this way we gain insight into waste type and origin. KIMO Netherlands and Belgium records the data in a report every year and presents those reports to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment. In Europe, the Fishing for Litter project is a fixed topic in the agenda of the Oslo-Paris convention (OSPAR) and the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM). Thanks to this, the KIMO organisation is highlighting the problem of sea and ocean waste in a structured way for various governments of Europe. In the OSPAR, the member states have demanded attention for waste in relation to this project. As a result, KIMO Netherlands and Belgium are discussing the possibility of extending the Fishing for Litter project to all harbours. KIMO Netherlands and Belgium will establish a new programme in 2015.

In the twelve fishing harbours 97 ships participate in the Fishing for Litter project. They bring ashore around 300,000 kg of waste from the sea every year. The waste is weighed and monitored. More than 90% of the waste is recycled.



Ports participating in the FFL project

b. CleanSea

KIMO participates in the CleanSea project by, among other things, providing data on pollution of plastic from the North Sea. For this, we cooperate with 10 fishing vessels and their crews.

KIMO participates in the CleanSea project by, among other things, providing data on pollution of plastic from the North Sea. For this, we cooperate with 10 fishing vessels and their crews. CleanSea is a multidisciplinary research project that investigates the problems of waste in the sea from various perspectives.

- proposing innovative methods and standard protocols to facilitate and harmonise the monitoring of waste in the sea,
- presenting cost-effective management measures and policy options to achieve the aims of the KRM and other international objectives related to combating waste in the sea.



Participants in the CleanSea meeting, January 28/29 2015 in Amsterdam

The aim of the project is to offer member states and other stakeholders knowledge and methods to more effectively assess and tackle the causes and results of waste in the sea, so that the sea becomes cleaner and harmful levels of waste in the sea are a thing of the past. The project formulates policy options for this. The results of the CleanSea project are mainly relevant to

- offering an extensive characterisation and analysis of the waste problem (biological, chemical, socio-economic, legal and policy-related) in the four marine regions of Europe,

The participants of the CleanSea project expect that, based on a connection between natural and social science research and consultation with various knowledge institutes, a road map for a European Approach to Waste in the Sea can be established.

The participants of the CleanSea project are based in 11 member states and consist of 4 universities, 5 research institutions, 6 SME organisations, 1 NGO and KIMO Netherlands and Belgium, as a network of coastal municipalities. More information on this project can be found on the CleanSea website:

www.cleansea-project.eu

c. Exhibition

The exhibition Fishing for Litter/CleanSea has been exhibited in 2014 in Eemshaven, Lauwersoog, Vlissingen, Vledder and Den Helder and was moved early in January 2015 to Bio Base in Terneuzen.

During the exhibition period, tours, various lectures and meetings are organised by the organisation. For children they organise workshops, lessons and also tours of the exhibition. KIMO has expanded the exhibition and introduced themes into it to make it more structured and dynamic.

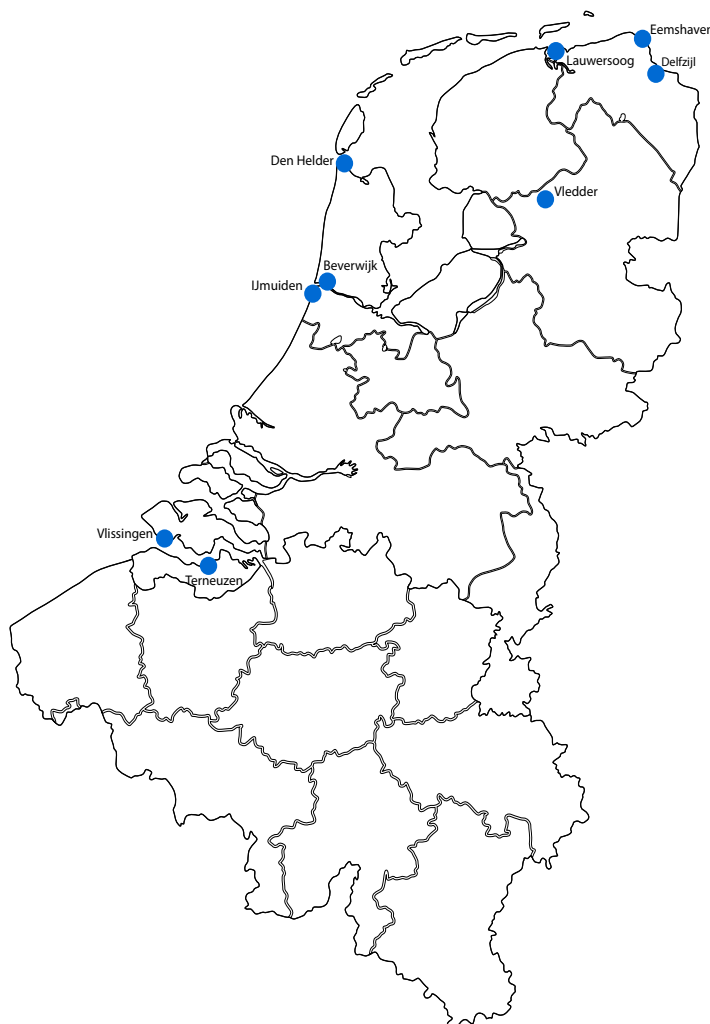
The following topics are new:

1. The Green Deal Fishing for a Clean Sea and the Green Deal Clean Beaches.
2. The Marine Framework Directive.
3. The use and waste of lead by sports fishers in the North Sea. For this we have added a display with examples of the types of lead and explanatory posters.
4. The Classroom theme is presented by means of examples, with a big explanatory board.
5. The IMARES research project relating to the Northern fulmar and pollution of the seas also has a showcase.

In 2015 the following themes will be added:

1. The loss of containers at sea
2. The CleanSea project
3. The River Waste Discharge project
4. Waste recycling

In 2015 it will be possible to visit the exhibition in the municipalities of Terneuzen, Vlieland, De Marne, Goeree Overflakkee and Katwijk.



Municipalities where the exhibition has been

Based on the experience already gained from the exhibition, KIMO Netherlands and Belgium believes that it would be best to station the exhibition for at least three months in one place. A brochure will be made for the exhibition.

d. Green Deal Clean Beaches

The coast and its tourism is an important economic source of income for municipalities and business. With the growing tourism at the coast and a changing lifestyle the litter problem has also reached the Dutch coast. While several decades ago only washed up waste could be found, today the tourists themselves are also an important cause of the pollution of the Dutch beaches. Municipalities and managers have made ever increasing efforts over tens of years to keep the beaches pleasant and clean.

Annually tens of millions of euros are spent on this. Not only municipalities and managers are involved with this, but also social organisations, NGOs and individuals play an increasingly important and active role in cleaning the beaches. It is estimated that several dozens of organisations are active in one way or the other in cleaning the beaches. Visitors find waste on beaches unpleasant and it may be a reason to visit other parts of the coast. The waste that is currently present at the beaches can be divided into two categories: waste from the sea and waste left

behind by visitors. In order to change the behaviour of the visitors that leave their waste on the beach, Rijkswaterstaat, the North Sea Foundation and KIMO Netherlands and Belgium started the project Drifting along in the Sea in 2008. The purpose of this project was to cause beach visitors and beach exploiters to change their behaviour. The final result we were aiming for was sustainable beach recreation and a beach that was visibly cleaner. The actions carried out on the beaches can be divided in two categories: actions that focused directly on visitors, beach



Signatories of the Green Deal Clean Beaches project on November 20th 2014

terraces and restaurants, and actions that focused on primary and secondary education. The project has led to a greater awareness of the waste that visitors leave on the beaches. This allowed us to establish an initiative for better environmental behaviour among beach visitors.

The project proposal predicted that a demonstrable reduction of the amount of waste caused by beach recreation on the North Sea coast would be visible.



Green Deal Schone Stranden

The participants of the projects have become aware that more time is needed to realise this goal. The ministry would like to take further action to achieve this. The starting point of such a step is to sustain the welfare of the coast for future generations, to strengthen the coastal economy over the coming years, and at the same time to reduce the pressure on the environment.

Clean beaches are essential to this. The Dutch government is aware of this and wants to contribute to the improvement of the green economy on the coast. For this reason they have introduced the Green Deals. With these Green Deals the Cabinet envisages economic growth and a society that is more environmentally aware. A Green Deal enables companies, municipalities, citizens and organisations to work on 'green' growth in an easily accessible way. In the Green Deal Clean Beaches the government aims to achieve a combined action plan in which it wishes to focus on support and solving any problems that may arise.

In this Green Deal we would like to work together with you to establish an action plan which invites every organisation and government body to cooperate. This includes the design, execution and realisation of existing plans and the expected development of cleaning actions. The final result will be documented and signed officially by participants and the minister. KIMO Netherlands and Belgium is closely involved with the realisation of the Green Deal Clean Beaches. We coordinate the Green Deal Clean Beaches and work together with a number of stakeholders. We will also visit municipalities, organisation and individual initiative takers, together with a representative of the ministry. An annual report will be written



e. Green Deal Fishing for A Clean North Sea

In order to maintain the current welfare for future generations it is necessary to improve the competitive capability of our economy and simultaneously reduce the burden on the (maritime) environment and our dependence on fossil fuels and scarce food and raw materials.

Our world population is growing faster than ever before and welfare is rising throughout the world, so the demand for food and fuel will increase. As a result fish will become more and more important as a source of food in the world. Another question that is frequently asked in society is whether the food we are eating was actually produced in a sustainable, fair and responsible way. The fishing industry is aware of this and believes it is important to follow the developments in this area: people do not want to be left behind in the general trend towards increasing sustainability.

Partly for this reason fishing methods have improved in recent decades; the by-catch percentage has dropped, and a certification system for fishing has been established. The fishing industry wishes to work towards a future in which the industry can function

successfully and economically, and in a socially acceptable way. That is why the fishing industry wants to look actively for – and participate in – ways



Green Deal Visserij voor een Schone Zee

to answer the demand for further sustainability through responsible business practices. One of the topics that has featured over the past two years is the following: how to deal with fishing waste (operational waste, household waste, nets, lint and Fishing for Litter waste)? The European countries have established a strategy to fight the deterioration of the European seas based on which the various governments have drawn up the Marine Framework Directive.

This document formulates targets that should lead to the seas being in a good condition by 2020. One outcome of this is the establishment of the Green Deal Fishing for a Clean Sea. This Green Deal was signed by the ministers of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure and



the Environment and sixteen other parties on 20 November 2014. Other signatories to the Green Deal are the fishing industry, harbours, waste processors, social organisations and the government bodies. In this Green Deal Fishing for a Clean Sea the participants are looking for a way to close the waste cycle of the fishing industry to prevent waste from the fishing industry ending up in the sea.

One of the ambitions formulated by the fishing industry is that they want to ensure that there will be no more waste from Dutch fishing vessels on beaches by 2020. The Green Deal Fishing for a Clean Sea demands effort from everyone involved. The national government has commissioned KIMO Netherlands and Belgium to supervise this process. A steering group has now been appointed, consisting of the fishing industry, harbours, waste processors and the government, which will supervise the process with its various actors.

The Green Deal Fishing for a Clean Sea will look at the following:

1. Disposal of operational waste.
(nets, cables, lint etc.)
2. Fishing for Litter waste.
3. Disposal of household waste.
4. Adequate collection facilities at harbours.
5. Sustainable alternative for lint.
6. Interacting with fixed fishing gear.
(standing rigging)
7. Education and information.

In doing so the Green Deal Fishing for a Clean Sea focuses primarily on the following:

1. Clear, practical plans.
2. More profitable growth in sustainability.
3. Removing obstacles.

The national government wishes to play a role in the execution of the Green Deal.



Signatories of the Green Deal Fishing for a Clean North Sea project on November 2014



f. Investigation into household waste aboard fishing vessels

The Framework Directive Marine Strategy (KRM) requires every European member state to establish a marine strategy focused on the protection, maintenance and recovery of the marine environment (a good environmental condition (GMT) of the North Sea) which also guarantees the sustainable use of the North Sea.

In Europe agreements have been entered into within the framework of the KRM stating that European waters are required to be in a good environmental condition by 2020. The theme of litter is important within this. The Dutch government pressed for the reduction of litter in the North Sea at OSPAR in Europe.

For this, the government has agreed three Green Deals in the Netherlands:

- 1) with the shipping industry to improve and increase the collection of shipping waste,
- 2) with the beach industry to reduce litter on beaches, and
- 3) with the fishing industry to close the waste cycle of the fishing industry.

In the context of reducing litter at sea, KIMO Netherlands and Belgium was commissioned by Rijkswaterstaat Zee en Delta to carry out a feasibility study with the fishing industry in 2014 looking into the possibility of establishing a standard system of storage of household waste aboard fishing vessels.

This study was carried out from 1 October to 19 December 2014. The study focused on the storage aboard the ship, the delivery options in the harbour and the transport around the harbour and to the processing installations. The results of the study can be described as positive. The crew of the fishing

vessels GO22 and GO26 see some benefits in the method of storing grey rubbish bags on board in big-bags measuring 70 x 70 x 70 cm. There is less litter lying around on board and there is a clear place for storing household waste.

The sea port of IJmuiden is positive about the test: they are not seeing any rubbish bags being torn apart by gulls on the quays where the fish are unloaded. Transportation in a small lorry with a crane is easier than transportation in separate rubbish bags. There is less litter on the quays, so less litter ends up in the water and the marine environment is less polluted.

g. Preparation of the Green Deal Fishing international

During the preparation of the Green Deal Fishing, KIMO Netherlands and Belgium indicated that it will make preparations in 2015 for rolling out this Green Deal within Europe. The first meeting on this topic took place in 2014 with a KIMO delegation of Denmark. An investigation will take place into which European finance fund is most appropriate for such a project.

h. River Waste Discharge

A significant amount of litter is transported from the land to the sea via canals and rivers. With the River Waste Discharge project we are attempting to obtain more clarity on the quantities of waste that are transported to the sea via these waterways.

The River Waste Discharge research project has been carried out by KIMO Netherlands and Belgium in cooperation with Bek en Verburg, WasteFreeOceans and the Maritime College of IJmuiden since 2013. We installed a 2T TrawlNet between two mooring posts in the water in the inflow channel to the drainage sluice. The net filtered the top 60 cm of water across a width of 7 metres. The net has a funnel-shaped opening and is constructed in such a way that it also catches snippets of plastic. For practical support, including bringing the net in and monitoring waste, students of the Maritime College



The measuring net '2T TrawlNet'



Cleanup along North Sea canal with Maritime College IJmuiden students

of IJmuiden have been involved with the project. Over the course of the study the net has been adjusted and the location of the net has been changed. A number of external factors, such as wind direction, drainage and volume of water flowing to the sea, have been looked at more closely. In 2014 we investigated this for half a year. We carried out measurements at intervals of roughly 21 days.

As a follow-up to the educational side of the study the students of the Maritime College are cleaning and monitoring a demarcated area along the banks of the North Sea Canal every three months. This data is available.

Information can be found on our website:

www.kimonederlandbelgie.org

i. Symposium “The sea – our future”

On 25 September 2014 KIMO Netherlands and Belgium, together with Bek en Verburg organised the symposium “The sea – our future”. This meeting was held at the premises of Bek en Verburg in the Botlek area of Rotterdam.

Some eighty people registered to attend the symposium. The participants at the conference came from various disciplines, such as shipping, ship builders, harbours, municipalities, provinces, universities and the national government. After a welcome speech by Mr D. van Mullem, director of Bek en Verburg, the symposium was opened by the city of Rotterdam.

Mr R.G. te Beest, Councillor of Velsen and Chairman of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium, presented a



Monitors in waste



picture of the KIMO from a broad perspective. For this symposium Mr Te Beest highlighted topics related to the pollution of the seas and their sustainable.

In his introduction Mr Hassing of the Holland America Line discussed the methods of collecting, storing and processing waste on the ships of the Holland America Line. In a presentation he explained the evolution of waste treatment over the past 15 years.

Mr B. van Bavel, professor with the University of Örebro, Sweden, discussed the problems of

microplastics in the marine environment. Mr Van Bavel is closely involved with the CleanSea project in which a number of organisations in Europe are investigating the effects of microplastics in the food chain in seas and oceans.

Mr Bakker of Delft University shed some light on the latest technologies for recycling plastic, under the heading 'From waste plastic to a quality product'. In the near future it will be possible to use technology to separate various types of plastic.

Mr Oosterbaan of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment discussed the approach to litter at sea in the light of the Framework Directive Marine Strategy. He stressed that the pollution of the sea does not stop at borders and that a European approach is required. In the light of the Fishing for Litter/CleanSea project a public monitor of waste from both projects was demonstrated, in which the waste was separated in various elements, weighed and counted. The day was led by Ms A. Korf, former chairwoman of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium.

j. Symposium 15 years of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium

On 20 November 2014 KIMO Netherlands and Belgium celebrated its 15th anniversary with a symposium in the Forteiland of IJmuiden. In addition to this anniversary, the symposium was also held for the signing of the Green Deal Clean Beaches and the Green Deal Fishing for a Clean Sea. More than 150 people were present at the meeting.

The meeting was opened by the representative of North Holland, Ms J. Geldhof. In her introductory speech she congratulated KIMO on its 15th anniversary and she stressed the importance of the seas and oceans being in good condition. KIMO focuses on clean seas and clean beaches. The province has the goal of keeping the coast safe, economically

strong and attractive. Those goals complement each other.

The Chairman of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium, Mr Te Beest, gave an introduction that revolved around the past, present and future of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium in relation to the seas and coastal



Participants in the Symposium 15 years KIMO celebration

waters. He stressed the main goal of the foundation: “to pass on the seas in a good condition to future generations”. He said that KIMO Netherlands and Belgium cannot accomplish this on its own, but that it can only be accomplished through cooperation at an international level. KIMO Netherlands and Belgium, with its 38 members, can make a major contribution to the aims of the association.

Dr H. Leslie of the Institute for Environmental Studies of the VU University Amsterdam gave a presentation entitled “towards a waste-free sea”. The European CleanSea study, of which she is the leader, is working hard to meet this task. In the final report of CleanSea the EU will be advised on various components that can contribute to a waste-free sea.

Ms E.B. Alwayn, director of Water and Soil of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, used her introduction to talk about the Framework Directive Marine Strategy and the goal of realising a good environmental condition of European waters by 2020. One of the following steps that are being taken is arranging Green Deals with institutions and business. Ms Alwayn said that the Netherlands is the front runner in waste processing and recycling. It

is disturbing that litter is increasing, and the most important source of this is macroplastics.

“The Fishing Industry”, Mr A. de Boer, director of Rederij L. de Boer & Zn B.V. in Urk, gave an extensive explanation of the fishing industry in the past, and how things work now on board fishing vessels, from a simple fishing boat to the modern ships of today. He described the desire among fishermen to turn the tide and join in with the expectations of a new future where sustainability will form an anchor for the fishing industry in carrying out its activities.

Mr Van Urk, Project Manager Marine Strategy with the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, said in his introduction that the Green Deals are the product of the KRM, and that working towards a sustainable economy has a high priority within the Ministry.

Then two Green Deals were signed. KIMO can look back on a successful anniversary which will be remembered for a long time. The chairwoman for the day, Ms Korf, concluded the meeting by thanking everyone who was present and expressing the hope to be able to attend the next anniversary in five years.

k. Fishing and harbour festivals

Every year KIMO Netherlands and Belgium explains its goals and projects at various harbour and fishing festivals. Usually that is done by organising a market stall with brochures and documentation. In this way visitors to the stall are made to feel involved not only with the pollution of the seas but also in the actions taken to clean the seas. For children there is a colouring competition with fun prizes. In 2014 we visited the fishing festival in Den Oever and the fishing days in the municipality of Katwijk.

l. QualityCoast award

The EUCC presents a QualityCoast Award to coastal municipalities that observe a sustainable coastal and tourism policy. Assessment is carried out by an independent jury who apply 120 criteria. One of these is the number of Blue Flag beaches; another is the percentage of catering establishments with an Eco label (Travellife, Green Key).

QualityCoast is the only complete quality label for a tourist destination as a whole. Research carried out by the EUCC shows that tourists value a municipality working on sustainability, rather than just on their hotel or beach. KIMO Netherlands and Belgium can provide its members with the document that is required to obtain the Award. In 2013 KIMO completed three reports.



m. ECOXXI

ECOXXI is a stimulus programme aimed at mapping out and stimulating improved sustainability at a local level. Partly thanks to ECOXXI municipalities develop a sustainable programme and can implement improvements to their policies with the help of our advice. An important part of the programme is the certification of municipalities with the ECOXXI award.

The certification starts with an evaluation of the starting position on the basis of 21 indicators.

An independent jury consisting of leading sustainability experts makes the initial assessment. If the result is satisfactory, the municipality is awarded the ECOXXI award for the results: bronze, silver or gold. Every two years this assessment is repeated. KIMO Netherlands and Belgium can write the documents for its members that are required to obtain the ECOXXI award. In 2013 KIMO Netherlands and Belgium wrote such a document for one of its members.



5. Communication and education

Based on the strategy of the communication plan KIMO strives to achieve a good exchange of information with government institutions and environmental organisations. For that we have established an execution plan. The target audiences of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium can be divided into internal and external groups.

Internal target group

The internal target group consists of the municipalities that are members of KIMO; namely the leaders (Mayors or Councillors) and the contact officers of the member municipalities.

External target groups

The external target groups are varied.

They include the following groups:

- The leaders and civil servants of municipalities which are not members of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium, but who are interested in the activities of KIMO.
- The various ministries which to a greater or lesser extent have a relation in some form with the focus area of KIMO Netherlands and Belgium (both the ministers and the civil servants involved).
- The leaders and civil servants involved of the provinces in which the coastal municipalities are located.
- Environmental and other organisations that have an interest in a clean North Sea.
- Educational institutions that are involved directly or indirectly with the North Sea.
- National, regional and local media.
- European governments and institutions.

KIMO Netherlands and Belgium believes it is very important that its target audiences are informed in a timely and adequate manner about short-term and long-term goals.

It is also essential to inform the internal target audience in a timely and comprehensive way about the state of affairs.

In order to establish a communication strategy it is important that decisions are made. We have looked expressly at the communication plan and the requirement to communicate as efficiently as possible. On the one hand we will work to increase the name awareness of KIMO among our external target audiences, and on the other hand KIMO should be brought to the attention of the internal audience. Both target groups require a different approach, but they cannot be viewed separately. It is not just a question of more communication, but KIMO will also have to strengthen its message and recognisability. Furthermore, new technology will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the means of communication.

With the new communication plan KIMO will, in addition to the currently available options, start using modern communication tools and technology increasingly more intensively.

Information from KIMO Netherlands and Belgium and KIMO International will be distributed at least six times per year by means of a Dutch language news letter, to parties like member municipalities, ministries, other relations and the media. A press release will be issued for events, study days and conferences and other events concerning the seas and beaches.

6. Participation and meetings

KIMO Netherlands and Belgium represents the coastal municipalities in the following consultative structures:

a. Framework Directive Marine Strategy (KRM)

The Framework Directive Marine Strategy was developed as a successor to the thematic strategy for the protection and maintenance of the marine environment, which was presented by the European Committee on 24 October 2005.

This strategy aims to “protect and promote recovery of Europe’s seas and oceans and to ensure that activities developed by humans have a sustainable character, so that the current and future generations can profit from safe, clean, healthy and productive seas and oceans with a rich biodiversity and dynamism”.

The Framework Directive Marine Strategy is intended explicitly as a judicial framework to accomplish these



aims and as an environmental cornerstone of the wider EU maritime policy.

Based on the European Marine Strategy (EMS) the Dutch government has decided to establish a KRM. KIMO is a member of the core group of this project.

b. MEPC meetings

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) is a technical organ of the IMO in the area of pollution caused by sea ships. In this consultative body the safety and environmental issues of the shipping industry at the North Sea and in harbours are discussed.

In the general context of sustainable development the shipping industry has an important role to play. In comparison with the industrial activities on land, serious steps will need to be taken in the next few years by the shipping industry.

The shipping industry generates an important contribution to world-wide trade: it transports 90% of global trade. The MEPC meets once a year. KIMO is part of the advisory council which advises the Ministry in preparation for the annual MEPC meeting.



c. Harbour facilities (HOV) meetings

All member states of the European Union designate harbours that should possess a Harbour Waste Collection Installation. If an ocean going ship visits such a harbour, it should dispose of its waste before it departs. This is not required if the ship has sufficient space in its hold to span the distance to the next harbour. The captain has to fill in a form with details on the waste before arrival. This does not apply to fishing vessels and small pleasure vessels. At HOI meetings harbour authorities, ministries and other organisations discuss improved collection facilities for waste at harbours for seafaring ships, and the reduction of waste in the North Sea.

d. Delta Committee consultation

Without water, the Netherlands would be unthinkable. All the efforts of the inhabitants of our delta throughout the ages up until this day to break free from the sea and rivers have been a determining factor for the standing of our country. At the estuary of the four big, navigable rivers with access to all world seas, our country is borne up by the water in many ways. This applies to nature and the landscape, welfare and economy, to the way in which our country is governed (water boards and polder model): the sea and the rivers have shaped our identity and that of the country. Due to climate change the Netherlands will have to fight again, this time against rising sea levels. KIMO Netherlands and Belgium is invited to participate in various consultative meetings and gatherings.



Sand suppletion

e. North Sea 2050 area agenda

Minister Melanie Schultz van Haegen announced the area agenda 2050 for the North Sea at the 'General Meeting' in April 2013.

With this agenda the Ministries of Infrastructure and the Environment and of Economic Affairs (in the name of the Interdepartmental Director Meeting North Sea (IDON)) develop the advice of the Council for the Environment and Infrastructure, 'a sea of possibilities', to get to work on development planning at sea. In 2013 and 2014 various meetings were held to discuss this, and KIMO Netherlands and Belgium participated in those meetings.

f. Loss of Containers from ships

In response to correspondence with the Dutch government on preventing sea container loss and limiting the consequences of sea container loss, meetings are held with politicians in The Hague and the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment.

g. Litter and fishing

The ministry organises annual meetings with the fishing industry, and KIMO Netherlands and Belgium takes part in those.



h. Green Deals

In 2014 the ministry asked KIMO Netherlands and Belgium to coordinate the Green Deal Fishing for a Clean Sea and the Green Deal Clean Beaches. For both Green Deals, steering groups have been organised to monitor performance. Every year one or two central consultation meetings take place. Coordination meetings with the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment take place once every two months.

