

Maritime access in North Sea Port extended: OVET now able to accommodate ships with deeper draughts in Vlissingen

Published on Thu 25 May 2023

Ships sailing from the North Sea via the Westerschelde to unload dry bulk goods at OVET's quay in Vlissingen can now enter with a draught of 16.80 metres. That is 10 cm more than was possible until now.

Previously, ships with draughts of up to 16.70 metres could dock at OVET's dry bulk terminal in Vlissingen. But from now on, a vessel with 10 cm more draft, i.e. 16.80 metres, can enter the port. This means that a Capesize ship, which previously could discharge at about 155,000 tons, can now carry up to 3% more cargo such as coal and iron ore on board. OVET receives about a dozen Capesize ships every year, carrying cargo worth as much as \$30 million. So the difference is expressed not only in tons but also in cents.



More realistic picture of draught

The Joint Nautical Authority has facilitated this increase in capacity by taking a different and more realistic approach to calculating the maximum permitted draught through the Wielingen channel in the Westerschelde. Besides additional vessel stability data, tides and the influence of wind, swell and wave action on the vessel have been taken into account. This allows a realistic figure for draught to be determined even more precisely and means no additional dredging of the channel is required.