



OUR PILOTS KNOW EVERY CURVE IN THE WESTERSCHELDE.

With its many bends and turns, the Western Scheldt is one of the hardest rivers in the world to navigate. It connects the ports of Antwerp, Flushing, Ghent and Terneuzen with the North Sea. The registered pilots in the Scheldemonden (Scheldt Estuary) region ensure that the tens of thousands of ships that annually call at these locations are smoothly guided into and out of these ports. We do this in all weathers, 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

The registered pilots of the Scheldemonden region are active in all the ports on the Western Scheldt and the Eastern Scheldt region. Of all the vessels bound for Antwerp and Ghent, the Dutch pilots handle 27.5%; the remaining 72.5% is handled by the Flemish pilots. In total, 160 Dutch pilots operate in the Western Scheldt area. Every year, they pilot some 21,000 ships into and out of the Scheldt ports.

SMOOTH AND SAFE

The close cooperation between the Flemish and Dutch pilots begins in the estuary of the Western Scheldt. The Dutch registered pilots on the Scheldt sail either at sea and on the Ghent-Terneuzen Canal or at sea and on the river to Antwerp.

The overlapping of jurisdictions allows the organisation to adequately anticipate peak moments.

The pilots change shifts at Flushing Roads. For this, we use two Flemish and one Dutch tender. The Dutch tender with its maximum speed of 28 knots together with the Flemish pilot shuttle vessels ensure that shift changes occur smoothly and safely. At sea, the pilot is delivered or collected using the large pilot vessel. The Flemish service does this for the Wandelaar pilot station and the Dutch pilotage service for the Steenbank pilot station.

THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE

With the commissioning of the new fleet, the pilot can be taken aboard in virtually all weather conditions. In extreme circumstances or for special trips, we take the pilot to the ship by helicopter. Another option is to remotely guide vessels via shore-based pilotage. Here, the pilot does not board the ship, but makes use of the shore radar and VHF. This is done from the Scheldt Coordination Centre in cooperation with the Traffic Control Centre. The pilot boards the vessel as soon as this is possible. For ships coming in from Steenbank, this is at Westkapelle and for ships coming in from Wandelaar this is Flushing Roads. In recent years, a lot of effort has been invested in optimising the service. Together with motivated employees, registered pilots have turned the Scheldemonden region into an efficient organisation. An organisation which continuously works on flexible services for the safe and smooth handling of shipping traffic.




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ORDERING A REGISTERED PILOT

To order a pilot, please consult our website:
www.loodswezen.nl >  English > order a pilot – Region
Scheldemonden

Deviating from the regulations may result in delays and/or extra costs.