

CHANGING OF THE GUARD



As the dredging industry continues to evolve, we find ourselves at the intersection of innovation, sustainability and safety. This issue reflects that balance, showcasing not only technological advancements but also the environmental and human considerations that shape our sector.

We begin with a timely feature on blue carbon and the role our industry can play in protecting and restoring these critical ecosystems. As climate change mitigation becomes more urgent, the waterborne transport infrastructure sector has a unique opportunity – and responsibility – to contribute meaningfully. This article dives into how strategic dredging and coastal development projects can enhance carbon capture while promoting ecological resilience.

Safety, as always, remains at the core of what we do.

This issue highlights the submissions and winner of the IADC Safety Award 2025, offering insights into the innovations and initiatives that are raising the bar industry-wide. From new procedures to transformative tools, these efforts serve as a reminder that safety is not just a requirement, but a culture.

In our technical section, we spotlight this year's IADC Young Author Award winner, Rick van de Wetering,

whose research into the cutting forces of blunt chisels promises to inform future equipment design and operational efficiency. Supporting emerging talent remains a priority for IADC and we are proud to showcase the next generation of dredging innovators.

In other innovations, IADC is launching the Responsible Marine Solutions: DFSI website – an exciting new hub for everything related to sustainable dredging. Building on the *Dredging for Sustainable Infrastructure* book and *DFSI Magazine*, this dynamic platform brings the philosophy to life online. With real-world case studies, fresh insights and practical guidance, it breaks down complex topics into clear, engaging content. Centred around six core principles, from nature-based solutions to energy transition, it's designed for everyone so whether you're a young professional new to the industry or a local authority representative, this is your go-to source for learning about responsible marine solutions.

This issue also marks a significant moment for our community as we prepare to bid farewell to René Kolman, our long-serving Secretary General, who will retire this November. René has been a guiding force for IADC for 17 years, championing industry standards, sustainability and collaboration on a global scale. His leadership has helped shape the organisation into what it is today and his legacy will undoubtedly endure. On behalf of the entire IADC community, we extend our deepest gratitude and best wishes for this next chapter.

We hope you find this edition insightful and inspiring as we continue building a smarter, safer and more sustainable dredging industry.

Frank Verhoeven
President, IADC

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