

Xbloc Newsletter October 2008

We are very pleased to send you the first Xbloc Newsletter in this new format. It has been a while since the last email with Xbloc news and a lot has happened in this period. Two projects have been successfully completed in the last months and a new large project started up in May 2008. Furthermore the first Eco Xblocs were cast and placed at a test location in IJmuiden (Port of Amsterdam) and DMC started up a 2D wave flume to carry out physical model tests for Xbloc projects and other coastal structures.

By this newsletter we intend to keep you informed about the Xbloc projects and experiences. We hope you will enjoy reading this information and if you would need more information you can visit our new website www.xbloc.com or contact us at xbloc@xbloc.com.



Champerico & Caladh Mor Completed

In September 2008 the projects Champerico (Guatemala) and Caladh Mor (Ireland) were completed. Both projects comprised Xblocs of 4m³ and in total 3300 blocks were produced and placed. Placement rates varied between 10 units per hour in Guatemala (due to limitations in transport from storage to the breakwater) and 15-20 blocks per hour in Ireland and we were pleased to hear that both contractors were very satisfied with the ease of placement of Xbloc compared to other armour units. With the

completion of these projects the number of completed Xbloc projects is five while three projects are currently under construction.

Largest Xbloc Project in Gulf Area

In May 2008 an Xbloc project was signed for a large service harbour in the Gulf Area. Units of 3, 4 and 5 m³ will be applied and with a total volume of 30,000m³ this is the largest project so far. The production of the units is currently ongoing and placement is envisaged to start second quarter of 2009.



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Opening of DMC Wave Flume in Utrecht (The Netherlands)

In June 2008 DMC opened a 2D wave flume equipped with a piston type wave generator. The flume is 25m long, 0.6m wide and 1m high and is capable of generating wave heights up to 30cm. This facility is used for further research on Xbloc, for research done by Graduate Students and for model tests for external clients. In July 2008 the first project-related model tests were carried out investigating both a vertical wall type shore protection and an Xbloc shore protection in Panama City. The aspects which were investigated are:

- Stability of armour layer
- Toe and crest stability
- Overtopping
- Crown wall stability
- Reflection and transmission coefficients



Production & Placement Eco Xbloc

In June 2008 ten Eco Xblocs were cast and placed at IJmuiden at the entrance of the port of Amsterdam. These 4m³ units were



cast in conventional moulds which were equipped with NOEPlast lining to create a rough surface. The blocks were placed within a research program of the Dutch Ministry of Public Works to improve the ecological value of shore protections and breakwaters. The intention of the rough surface of Eco Xblocs is to stimulate marine growth and shell fish and by doing so to create a habitat for endangered sea birds which feed on these shell fish on breakwaters along the Dutch coast.

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