



Saving while sailing

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During a special mini competition held in Wageningen, some 42 vessels participated. MARIN's Full Mission Bridge Simulator proved the perfect tool for skippers and shipping companies to be confronted with their sailing behaviour.

Specifically for the competition, MARIN fitted the Full Mission Bridge Simulator with a special feature giving insight into fuel consumption. A specific exercise was designed which was based on real sailing scenarios. The skippers could immediately show their fuel savings and compare them with the other participants. The winning "Best Sim Captain" used only five litres for the 1 km run, while the average fuel consumption was seven litres.

At the official launch, members of both MARIN and the VoortVarend Besparen platform teams also gave useful tips about fuel saving.

The advantage that inland shipping enjoys compared to other forms of transport lies in its relatively low fuel consumption. But new measures are being taken to further reduce fuel consumption and to limit atmospheric and water pollution. Therefore, the Dutch government has set up the fuel savings programme to reduce emissions and fuel consumption levels of 2007 by 5% by 2010.

Fuel savings are not only gained by technological advances but also by changing behaviour. Individual skippers and shipping companies are recognised for playing an important role in these efforts and hence the reason for the initiative.

During the official eight-week fuel saving competition, around 6.5m litres of fuel was used and all participants made an average saving of 14.2%. As a result 500,000 euro was saved on fuel and CO₂ emissions were reduced by 3,360 tonnes. The Danser Group was crowned the winning shipping company, achieving a 25.4% reduction in fuel consumption.

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See www.voortvarendbesparen.nl (Dutch only) for more information on the fuel saving programme and competition.

MARIN hosted the launch of the "Inland shipping fuel saving competition" which has been initiated by the VoortVarend Besparen (Full Sail Ahead with Savings) platform, the brainchild of the Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.

