Stakeholder Workshop on Maritime Cultural Heritage and Blue Growth: What's the Connection European Maritime Days Piraeus Greece 28, 29 May 2015



PROJECTORGANISATIE

# MAASVLAKTE 2

Archaeology in a major infrastructure project, asset or obstacle?

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## Scene for archaeological research

- 240 million m3 of sand is extracted from the Northsea to create the new land
- A connecting channel and basins dredged in the (former) shallow sea
- Both in the Northsea, the connecting channel and the basins drowned landscapes removed
- Landscapes in which there is evidence of prehistoric human activity
- European Valetta Treaty (1992) demands responsible care for archaeological heritage
- Implemented in Dutch law in 2007
- Requirement to at least study, investigate and describe the destroyed landscapes



Agreement between Port of Rotterdam (PoR) and the National Agency of Cultural Heritage (RCE) in 2008

# Agreement PoR and RCE

- Reservation of max. 3 million euro's for archaeological and related geological and palaeontological research and conservation
- Several projects, several institutes (Deltares, TNO (Geological Survey of the Netherlands), Leiden University, Utrecht University, Museum Naturalis Leiden, Natural History Museum Rotterdam, BOOR (Rotterdam Municipality Archaeological Survey)) and subcontractors (focus on interdisciplinary research)
- Steering Committee by Port of Rotterdam, Cultural Heritage Agency, Rotterdam Archaeological Survey and PUMA (= consortium that build the new port area)
- Logistics not easy: water depths 20 m, meso-tidal regime, traffic of (very) large ships

#### **Research locations**



- 1 Sand mining area
- 2 Sandy seawall
- 3 Connecting Yangtze channel

### Research in sand mining area

- Aim: to position the findings in a geological context (landscape reconstruction)
- Selected borings in the sand mining area and additional seismic survey
- Cerpolex survey's
- Linking the dredging site to the disposal location through the dredge track administration





#### Research at the sandy seawall

- Manual: looking around for bones & artefacts
- Mechanical: beach cleaning







#### Interesting paleontological findings











## Communication and public participation

- Many presentations & publications from 2011 and continuing
- Amateur paleonthologists assistence to sort out beach cleaning results in Naturalis
- Archeological weekends in Futureland Maasvlakte 2 exhibition center
- Many times on national television
- Web application to register findings and share with general public





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# Asset or obstacle ?



