

JOHN SARGENT LECTURE

Thursday 4th March 2021

at 15:00-16:30hrs

BUILDING WITH NATURE

Presented by

Francesc Montserrat

Senior Environmental Engineer
Royal Boskalis Westminster

Online event via Webex

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The Building with Nature concept uses our understanding of the natural environment in the design of hydraulic engineering and marine infrastructure projects. This includes knowledge of natural forces and fluxes, such as wind, waves & currents, biodiversity patterns and geo-chemical processes. Additionally, Building with Nature considers human stakeholder collaboration as a vital part of the process.

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In 2007, the EcoShape Foundation initiated the innovation programme 'Building with Nature', which brought together the Dutch government, private sector (engineering consultancies and contractors), universities, knowledge institutes and NGO's. Jointly, they have forwarded the concept by adopting a learning-by-doing approach and developing tangible projects.

The programme has brought forward several creative and effective maritime infrastructure solutions that boost nature, society and economy and which have been (and still are) tested in full scale pilot projects.

All research findings (fundamental and applied) are made publicly available to facilitate the design and execution of full scale projects and strategic policy and decision-making.

This presentation will discuss how developed knowledge and concepts are applied in several full-scale pilot and commercial projects that use Building with Nature as a leading principle, including the opportunities and barriers. The presentation will also look to potential future developments, including blue carbon capture and impacts of the changing climate

FRANCESC MONTSERRAT

Francesc Montserrat, PhD, is a Senior Environmental Engineer for Boskalis. A marine ecologist by training, and with over 15 years experience he has worked on the functional ecology of bottom organisms and the relationship with their environment. Currently he is focusing on harnessing natural processes in the marine realm, so as to create added value in civil and hydraulic engineering projects. Additionally, he is exploring methodologies to increase natural marine carbon sinks against ocean acidification and climate change.

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