



## Beamer skipper works full Dyneema® trawls

Skipper Johan Hennaert of the Belgian beamer O-231 has been fishing with full Dyneema® trawls since August 2008. He reports that his fuel consumption has fallen by at least 10%, while the trawler's catch rate is unchanged.

A Dutch owner reports that, by switching to Dyneema® in his beam trawls, he has saved 80,000 litres of fuel in seven months of fishing.

The Dyneema® netting and twines come from van Beelen, which has carried out constant research and development, according to the company's export manager Dicky Hunsche.

She says: *'We have put a lot of effort into this and DSM [the manufacturer of Dyneema®] has been working with us. Improvements to the fibres and the coatings have also improved the abrasion resistance.'*

Demand for Dyneema® products is still growing, she adds. *'We were producing a lot of SK60 but, now, there is a lot more demand for netting in SK75 as well.'*

Elsewhere, Dicky Hunsche says that Dyneema® netting has become popular because it is so easy to handle on deck. This has enabled some trawlers to reduce the deck crew from five to three men, allowing the others to concentrate on processing fish.

She says: *'A big part of the success of our Dyneema® netting is in the twine production.'*

*'We have a very precise braid, with exactly the same tension on every spool – and that is a very important factor in making the twine.'*

*'We have been producing Dyneema® since 1990, so we were one of the first to make Dyneema® products for fishing. That also means we have 18 years' experience in this.'*

Demand for Dyneema® grew sharply as fuel prices increased and vessel owners searched for ways of cutting their fuel consumption. But, now that fuel has fallen back to a more manageable price level, she does not expect the demand for Dyneema® to dry up.

*'There are plenty of advantages to Dyneema® and people have got used to using this kind of netting – and to the advantages,'* she tells FNI.



Export Manager Dicky Hunsche with a bale of van Beelen's Dyneema® D-Netting

## Netting for faster towing

ENKALON PL netting from van Beelen 'is doing very well and there is quite a demand from pelagic trawl makers – especially for those making gear to target fast-swimming fish,' according to the company's Dicky Hunsche.

She says: *'It has been possible to improve the strength, which means that the twines can be thinner. In turn this reduces the drag, so the gear can be towed faster or with less power.'*

The same principles have been applied to van Beelen's Stealth Rope made with the same raw materials. Refining the coatings used in its manufacture have improved both the strength and abrasion resistance.

*'We have a big advantage in that we are producing in Holland. We can produce any volumes of rope, twine or netting quickly – if we don't already have it in stock.'*

*'As we also make our own twine and keep a bog twine stock, that allows us to produce netting very quickly when it's needed.'*

Demand for Dyneema® grew sharply as fuel prices increased. Now that fuel has fallen in price, van Beelen does not expect the demand for Dyneema® to fall.



Some of the Dyneema® D-Ropes van Beelen keeps in stock