



# Dredging of the Paldiski South Harbour fairway

Paldiski South Harbour is an important cargo harbour in Estonia and in terms of volume of cargo the third biggest. As there is global trend that vessels are getting larger to allow to reduce unit costs, it is crucial to make investments by ports to meet the needs of cargo operators.

The draught of the access channel in the Paldiski South Harbour was 14.5 metres and the width was 120 metres. These conditions are appropriate for vessels not larger than 230 metres and wider than 35 metres. The parameters of the fairway limited the size of vessels and the competitiveness of the operators, specifically oil products operators and by that the competitiveness of the harbour itself.

The basic and main goal of the project was to dredge the Paldiski fairway and the harbour basin to desired depth from 14.5 meters to 15.5 meters. The width of the channel was 120 meters, after implementation of the action it is 180 meters. The length of the channel is 1,800 meters and will remain the same.

Due to the implementation of the project the navigational risk was mitigated and environmental footprint decreased by enabling use of large vessels (60,000 – 70,000 GT) to transport larger amount of cargo with single port call.

The sea environment and birds were monitored before, during and after the completion of works. Thus, continuous monitoring of environment was essential part of the project to emphasize the responsibility to environment. Continuous monitoring of sealife is important, we want the ecological footprint of our activities is kept to a minimum and the Baltic Sea to be the best environment for sea animals and birds.