

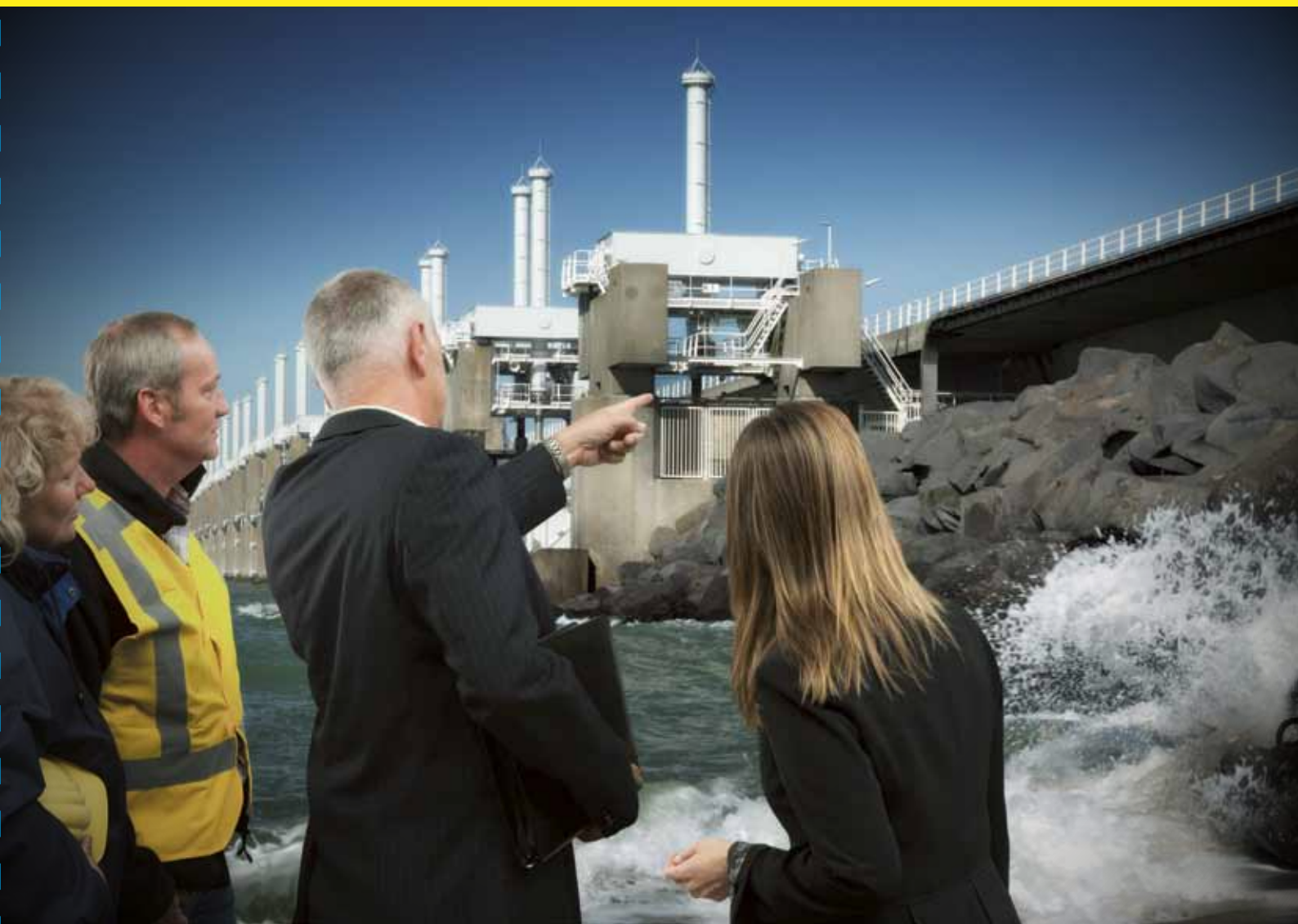


Rijkswaterstaat
*Ministry of Infrastructure and the
Environment*

Water Management Centre the Netherlands

Focal point for water

Water. Wegen. Werken. Rijkswaterstaat.



Water Management Centre the Netherlands

The Water Management Centre the Netherlands (WMCN) is the information centre for the Dutch water system. The Water Management Centre bundles all products and services concerning information about water. By doing so, the Water Management Centre makes an important contribution to optimal management of the water system in the Netherlands.



The Water Management Centre provides daily information to users of the Dutch water system. These users can turn to the Water Management Centre for information regarding water levels, flood risks and (bathing) water quality. In extreme situations, including water shortages, water pollution and the threat of flooding, the Water Management Centre provides advice to the national and regional water authorities about the expected condition of the water. The Helpdesk Water is available to answer questions related to water policy and water management. The Water Management Centre is engaged in promoting the expertise of water professionals through tours, presentations and training.

Information hub

The national and regional departments of the Directorate General of Public Works and Water Management (Rijkswaterstaat) work together in the Water Management Centre. By bundling knowledge and expertise, the Water Management Centre is able to carry out its tasks with more precision and efficiency, also in special or extreme situations. The result: more and better information provision and forecasts. Professionals have a single point of contact for matters related to water information and water management. The Water Management Centre is one of Rijkswaterstaat's three network centres. The other two are the previously established Department for Traffic Information and Traffic Management (Verkeerscentrum Nederland, VCNL) and the Shipping Centre (ScheepvaartVerkeersCentrum, SVC).

Five divisions

The Water Management Centre consists of five divisions:

'Waterkamer'

The Waterkamer (Water Chamber) is responsible for providing reliable and useful national information about water levels, flood risks and water quality. Under normal conditions and in special situations: 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Waterkamer represents among others the former Inland Water Information Centre (Infocentrum Binnenwateren) and the crisis advice groups concerned with threats of flooding, water shortages and water pollution. The Waterkamer also arranges the shipping news coverage for the Shipping Centre. The information provided by the Waterkamer is produced in close collaboration with the regional reporting centres.

National coordination committees

The national coordination committees come into action in extreme situations, including threats of flooding, water shortages or water pollution. From the Water Management Centre, the committees coordinate the news coverage and arrange reliable and useful information about the expected condition of the water. When situations develop, the crisis experts advise the national and regional water authorities about the measures to take and arrange the coordination with the parties involved.

Helpdesk Water

Helpdesk Water is the knowledge centre for professionals who are involved in water policy, water management and water safety. These professionals can contact Helpdesk Water every working day with questions related to these subjects. Water professionals also find the latest (water-related) news, background information and relevant legislation and regulations on Helpdesk Water.

Reception & Presentation

The Water Management Centre has a public meeting area where groups of water professionals and press representatives can be received. The centre offers its visitors insight into the operation and organisation of the Dutch water system and water safety, the management of this system and the role that the Water Management Centre and the cooperating partners play.

Training & Innovation

Regular training courses are given to water professionals in the Water Management Centre's well-equipped training and innovation centre to enable them to develop their competency with respect to the primary processes of crisis management. The centre also offers a platform for new developments and technology in the area of water management and water safety.

Where can you find us?

You can reach the Water Management Centre the Netherlands in the following ways:

Address Zuiderwagenplein 2
 Postbus 17
 8200 AA Lelystad
 The Netherlands
E-mail wmcn@rws.nl
Telephone +31 (0)320 - 299999
Internet www.rijkswaterstaat.nl/wmcn

For advice in the event of a crisis you can also contact the Waterkamer of the Water Management Centre directly:

E-mail waterkamer@rws.nl
Telephone +31 (0)320 - 298888

Outside of office hours, the Waterkamer can be accessed via the Central hotline for the IJsselmeer area (Centrale Meldpost IJsselmeergebied, CMIJ). Dial the Waterkamer phone number; your call will be automatically forwarded. In relation to communication and protocols used in a crisis, for the time being, the normal telephone numbers will continue to be used.

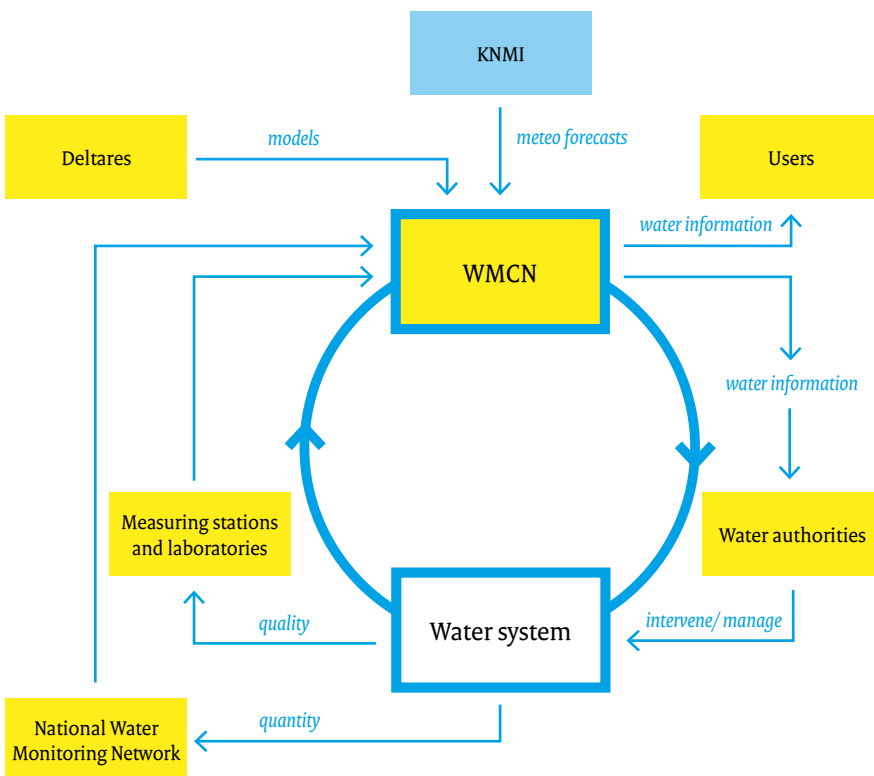




Cooperating partners

Cooperation is an important precondition for integral water management. Many parties are involved in managing the Dutch water system, as the figure below shows.

When executing its task, the Water Management Centre closely cooperates with the Regional Departments of Rijkswaterstaat, the Department for Traffic Information and Traffic Management (VCNL), the Shipping Centre (SVC), the Water policy board of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the KNMI meteorological institute, the water boards, the provinces and the safety regions.



Explanation of the figure:

The Dutch water system is continually evolving. The National Water Monitoring Network (Landelijk Meetnet Water) derives measurement data about water quantity from the water system, the water quality is measured by measuring stations and laboratories. All measurement data ends up at the Water Management Centre, where the data are interpreted and enhanced with weather forecasts from the KNMI and Deltares models. The addition of regional water reports allows a national picture to be derived. Based on these data, the Water Management Centre provides water information to users and water reports to the water authorities based on which they can intervene in the water system through their pumping stations, locks and weirs. After the water authorities have intervened in the water system, the water quantity and water quality are once more measured and the process starts again. Under special circumstances, activities are also coordinated with the Departmental Coordination centre for Crisis control (DCC) of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment and the SVC and VCNL. Advice is provided to the safety regions via the regional water authorities.

This is an edition of

Rijkswaterstaat

For more information visit

www.rijkswaterstaat.nl

Telephone 0800 - 8002

(toll free number, in the Netherlands only)

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