

## PRESS RELEASE

Royal Boskalis  
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### Boskalis vessel Blue Marlin hijacked offshore West Africa

Papendrecht, 7 May 2019

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The Royal Boskalis Westminster N.V. (Boskalis) heavy transport vessel Blue Marlin was hijacked on Sunday approximately 80 nautical miles offshore Equatorial Guinea. Through the professional response of the crew and the coordinated support from the navy of Equatorial Guinea and Spain, the violent hijacking has been ended and the crew was safely freed.

Peter Berdowski, CEO Boskalis

*"I want to express my compliments to our crew for their extremely professional and adequate actions in this life threatening situation. I am extremely grateful and in particular thankful to the navy of Equatorial Guinea for their quick and decisive response, as well as to the Spanish navy for their assistance via MDAT-GoG. Because of their actions, this hijacking could be ended quickly and our colleagues were brought into safety."*

After unloading a cargo in the waters of Equatorial Guinea, the Blue Marlin departed last Sunday with destination Malta. Sunday afternoon, the ship was unlawfully boarded from a zodiac by several armed pirates. By acting quickly and professionally, all twenty crew members were able to secure themselves in the citadel. A citadel is a highly secured space in the vessel equipped with various means of communication and emergency rations.

Upon alerting the local authorities of Equatorial Guinea and the NATO mission MDAT-GoG (Maritime Domain Awareness for Trade - Gulf of Guinea), two helicopters were immediately mobilized from Equatorial Guinea, followed by a navy vessel of Equatorial Guinea and one from the Spanish navy, part of the MDAT-GoG mission.

Monday morning at daylight, the Blue Marlin was boarded and fully searched by the navy of Equatorial Guinea and Spain. No pirates were found and the crew was freed from the citadel. All the crew members are in good health. The pirates shot several times during their time aboard the Blue Marlin and caused substantial material damage on the bridge, preventing the ship from being sailable. The vessel is currently approximately 40 miles offshore Equatorial Guinea, in international waters.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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After the freeing of the Blue Marlin, the Spanish naval vessel left Monday afternoon, followed in the evening by the naval vessel of Equatorial Guinea. The latter vessel left five armed guards on board to protect the Blue Marlin. Boskalis has now mobilized a oceangoing tug to take the Blue Marlin to a safe location.

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*Royal Boskalis Westminster N.V. is a leading global contractor and services provider operating in the dredging, maritime infrastructure and maritime services sectors. The company provides creative and innovative all-round solutions to infrastructural challenges in the maritime, coastal and delta regions of the world. With core activities such as coastal defense, riverbank protection and land reclamation Boskalis is able to provide adaptive and mitigating solutions to combat the effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels, as well as delivering solutions for the increasing need for space in coastal and delta regions around the world. The company facilitates the development of energy infrastructure, including renewable energy sources. Boskalis is furthermore active in the construction and development of ports, waterways, access channels and civil infrastructure, thus helping to facilitate socio-economic development and improve trade opportunities at the locations at which we operate. In addition, Boskalis is a global marine salvage expert and has a number of strategic partnerships in harbor towage and terminal services (Kotug Smit Towage, Keppel Smit Towage, Saam Smit Towage and Smit Lamnalco). With a versatile fleet of more than 900 vessels and floating equipment and 11,300 employees, including associates, Boskalis operates in over 90 countries across six continents.*

This press release can also be found on our website [www.boskalis.com](http://www.boskalis.com).