

## **ABSTRACT**

Fouling is a problem which is encountered by every marine structure when submerged in seawater. The development of these organisms is affected by many parameters. Large differences in biological growth come into existence due to factors such as light, temperature, pH and geographical location. Marine structures are not only subjected to fouling but also to corrosion. Corrosion is a chemical process that leads to the degradation of marine structures. The chemical reactions that occur are depending on the type of steel that is being used and the environment to which the steel is being exposed. In this thesis we try to find an answer on whether the depth is a factor influencing the corrosion rate. For this experiment 10 grids were hung up at four different depths in the port of Ostend. On a monthly basis three steel samples were taken from each grid for further research. The corrosion rate is determined by the weight loss of the steel samples. The results show that a depth until four meters is not a deciding factor for the corrosion rate.