

MERIJN TINGA - BIOLOGIST, VISUAL ARTIST, SURFER.

Plastic Soup Surfer

Keynotes, speeches and storytelling

The Plastic Soup Surfer Story

Positive influencing for change



The story of the Plastic Soup Surfer reads itself like a boy's book. From the first expeditions on a homemade surfboard from plastic litter to the clever use of petitions, resolutions and judicial instruments that opened the doors to politicians and company boardrooms.

It is a story that shows how one can make a difference and everyone should try. An inspiring story and an amazing adventure.

Merijn Tinga is a biologist who switched to a career in sculpting. In early 2014 he was gripped by the plastic pollution which he saw ... [read on below >](#)



Merijn Tinga

Energetic, easy-going, experienced stage presence. Biologist visual artist and surfer



Specialized in change, plastic recycling and plastic pollution.



The Plastic Soup Surfer team made three movies broadcast by eg. National Geographic

1

STORY TELLING

Campaign successes and expeditions on DIY surfboards from plastic waste

2

VISION

A new approach to the use of plastic in our society

3

FUN AND INSPIRING

Humor, videos and perspective on sustainable change

4

IMPACT AND RESULTS

Forces political breakthrough on deposits policy

... washing up onto his local surf-beach. This led to the first surfboard made from washed-up plastic waste. Back then the general public was not concerned about plastic and he had to push upstream for awareness. The campaign and long distance record on this board made from 'plastic soup' marked the birth of the Plastic Soup Surfer.

Five more expeditions were to follow as well as a number of documentaries, a litter monitoring-app and Dutch national policy on deposits to which the official 'Plastic Soup Surfer resolution' laid the basis.



Openness to the complexity and his feel for perspective has gained him the trust of a large network of politicians, producers, recyclers and NGOs alike. By organizing conferences, VLOGS and live interviews he is uniting the community of grass roots plastic-activists in their battle and vision on the use of plastics.

'I am not accusing plastics. I am accusing the way we handle plastics.'

Plastic pollution is visible and tangible. This sets it apart from abstract environmental problems. This colorful pollution makes for a low threshold type of activism: since it is so tangible everybody has the power to exert influence within their own local surroundings; from consumer choice to easy litter-picking and addressing local politicians. The Plastic Soup Surfer aims for a Plastic Transition in the way we appreciate and handle single-use plastics. We are standing up for the oceans we love. Check out [this 7min video](#) of the presentation in MADRID.

PRESENTATIONS, KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND CONSULTANCY:

Experienced Speaker with over 150 presentations last 3 years.

EU Vice President Frans Timmermans - PES Rally Madrid,

Kraft Heinz - Packaging Team HQ Arnhem,

Coca Cola NL,

Rabobank CE Challenge,

German Ministry of Science Berlin (Germany),

Springtij sustainable business festival,

Blue Economy Conference Nairobi (Kenya),

WWF college tour with Humberto Tan,

Leiden University Academic Year opening for an audience of 1300

PAUW Talkshow NPO1, **RTL** Late Night,

Newspaper articles on our work from Volkskrant to Trouw.



Expeditions, campaigns and results

- **Aug. & Sept '20: Wakkere Wegwerpers Tour**
Calling on schools to separate waste in the classrooms www.wakkerewegwerpers.nl
- **Jan. '20: Blastic Treaty** Phasing out plastics from all fireworks by retail and wholesale as result of community campaign [Operation Cracklingball](#)
- **Feb. '19: Plastic Avengers Conference Amsterdam 2019**
PlasticAvengersManifest.org
- **Sept. '18: Bottle Odyssey - Foil-windsurfing** from Le Havre (Fr) to Scheveningen on 3D printed windsurfing board (*world first*).
- **June '18: PickUp10.org - Litter monitoring webapp** using machine learning photo recognition (*world first*)
- **Winter '17: Bailiff campaign - 'Legal Formal Notice'** on plastic pollution (*world first*) for CEO's of 10 soda companies and supermarket chains in the Netherlands
- **Summer '17: Source2Sea Expedition - 1200km tour** down the Rhine on a SUP board made from plastic litter.
- **Feb. 2017 - First ever citizen written resolution (motie) adopted by Dutch Parliament;** This resolution became the basis for deposit return policy (March 2018)
- **Summer '16: kite-surfed from Scheveningen (NL) to Lowestoft (UK) on a plastic bottle board.** Start to a petition pro deposits (60k signatures).
- **Summer '15: Five-month sailing expedition (Baltic and the North sea).** Seawater samples, beach cleans and educational videos with his daughter (8y) for primary schools. (€3000,- penalty for irregular school leave)
- **Summer '14: Kitesurfed the entire Dutch coast on a board made from plastic waste** found on the beach.

Documentaries:

- Plastic Paradox (63m E. Dekker Nat Geo 2019)
- Der Plastik-Fluch (25m A. Knechtel ZDF 2018)
- Plastik Uberall (90m A. Knechtel ARTE 2018)
- Source to Sea (50m E. Dekker Nat Geo 2018)
- Message on a bottle (11m ' E. Dekker 2016)
- Plastic Soup Surfer (50min B. Muusze 2014)

