

EXPEDITION ON SELF MADE
ECO-WINDSURFING BOARD
FOR PLASTIC REDUCTION
& REUSE POLICY

START
17-06 OSLO
FINISH
19-07 LONDON



30 DAYS WINDSURF EXPEDITION > OSLO > LONDON 2023



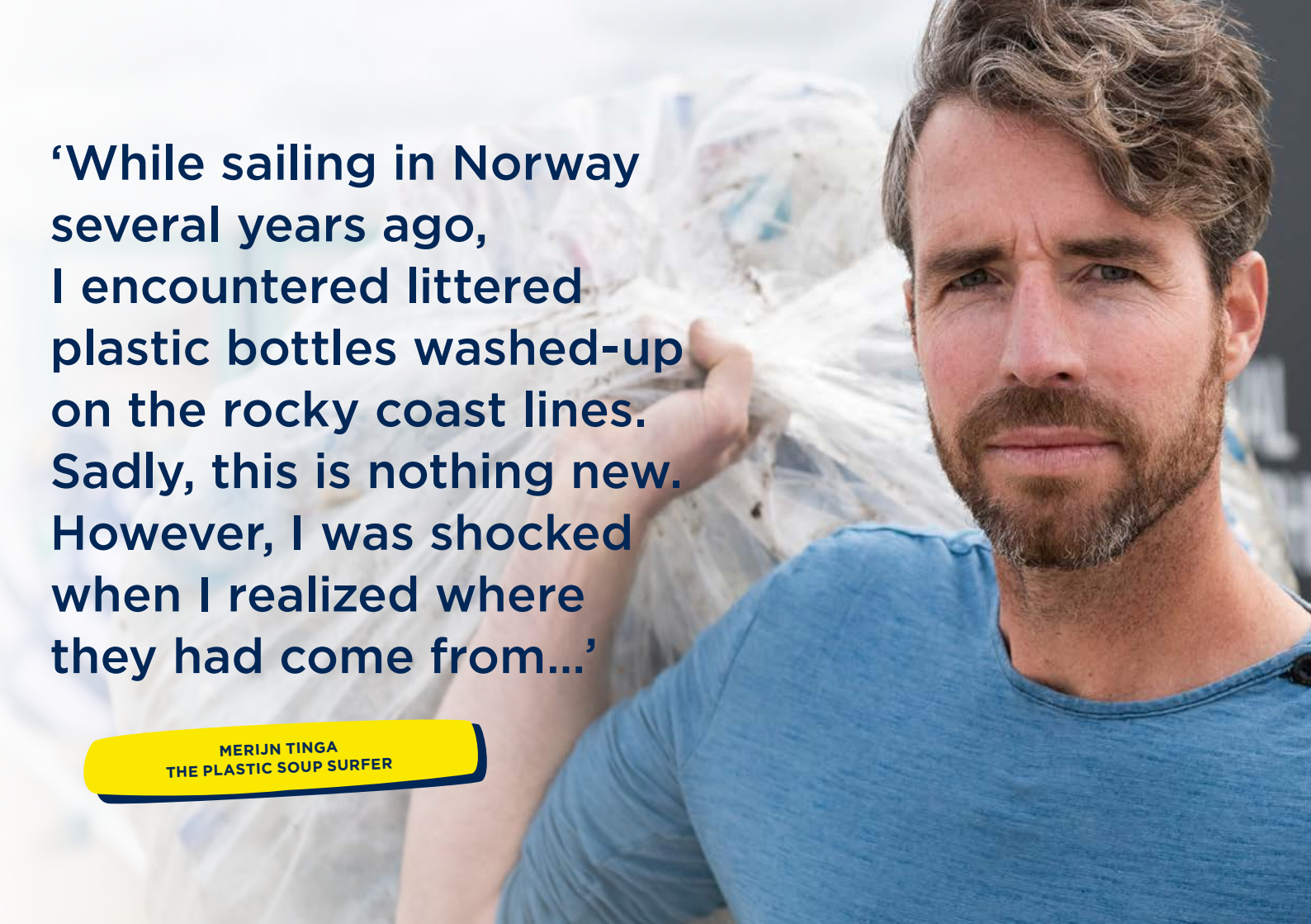
OSL



NDON



WINDSURF TO SENDER

A man with a beard and blue shirt is shown from the chest up, holding a large, crumpled white plastic bag filled with trash. He has a serious expression. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with more plastic waste.

‘While sailing in Norway several years ago, I encountered littered plastic bottles washed-up on the rocky coast lines. Sadly, this is nothing new. However, I was shocked when I realized where they had come from...’

**MERIJN TINGA
THE PLASTIC SOUP SURFER**

‘Although the wind and waves had made their mark, the bottles still showcased their origins in their brand names. To my surprise these were not Norwegian nor Swedish bottles: they were English and Dutch bottles! These bottles had journeyed from far away cities such as London and Rotterdam, traveling over 2000 kilometers across the North Sea to Norway on the southwesterly currents and wind.

This startling experience is the inspiration for my next long-distance expedition: A 2000km solo windsurfing expedition from OSLO to LONDON. Like before, I will complete this expedition on a new custom-made board built using plastic litter and even partly grown by micro-organisms. My journey will symbolize the ‘return to sender’ of the plastic bottles I once found in Norway. I will now bring them back to their source.



The image shows a satellite-style map of Europe with a red line tracing a route from London, UK, through the Netherlands, Denmark, and Germany to Oslo, Norway. The route is marked with several Norwegian and British flags. A yellow banner at the top left contains the text 'WINDSURF TO SENDER'. A large graphic in the center features the text 'OSLO LONDON' with a Norwegian flag on the left and a British flag on the right. A circular logo for 'PLASTIC OCEAN SURFERS' is positioned between the words 'OSLO' and 'LONDON'. The text 'SOLO: 2000km in 30 days' is written in red along the route in the North Sea.

OSLO LONDON

WINDSURF TO SENDER

PLASTIC OCEAN SURFERS

SOLO: 2000km in 30 days

GOALS OF THIS EXPEDITION

1. Plastic pollution awareness and showcasing innovation in eco-friendly materials.
2. Connect, involve and inspire coastal cleanup communities along the route via our 'focus on the source' campaigning style and our judicial instruments.
3. Influence and promote deposit return systems in the UK and Belgium at the political level by conveying the 'lessons learned' from former ministers that were responsible for the introduction of deposit systems in the countries along the route (eg. Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands). Literally handing over their messages in a bottle to the politician responsible when arriving in Westminster July 19th.

STORYTELLING POWER

Engaging through storytelling: **The expedition between the capital cities of Norway and England will be an epic adventure, tracing the route traveled by plastic trash across the North Sea.**

During the expedition, I will release **video updates daily** to be shared via our partner's social channels (+40k following of our own). Additionally, I will deliver a **podcast, several short movies and vlogs.**

En route I will **connect with and inspire coastal communities** across Norway, Sweden, Denmark, West-Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Northern France and England with concrete examples from our previous campaigns. **Surfing from Oslo to London I will collect the lessons learned from the former ministers of the countries that introduced a deposit return system in their country (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands).** These testimonies will be turned into 'messages in a bottle'.



FINISH

Together with WWF UK, Surfers Against Sewage, the Marine Conservation Society and Greenpeace UK, the 'messages in a bottle' will be presented to the UK minister responsible for implementing the deposit return system. These 'messages in a bottle' are an encouragement to stand tall against the industrial lobby.



INSPIRING INNOVATION

- Build a windsurfboard using the latest innovations and only recycled or renewable materials. Focusing on designing the board so it in itself is recyclable.
- Part of the board will be 'grown' using mycelium (mushroom threads)
- Plastic bottles from the Thames will be incorporated into the design.

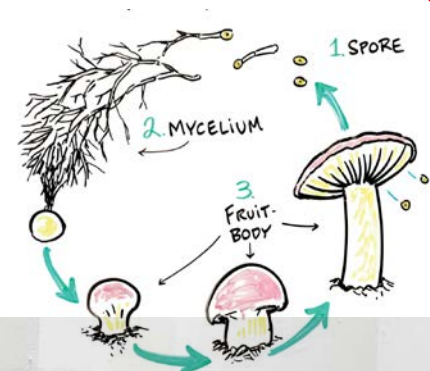
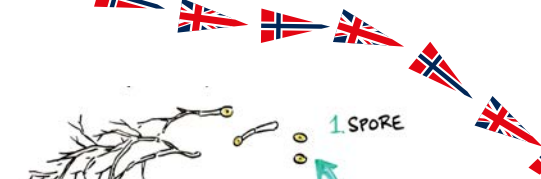


Illustration by AfterSkool



Plastic Soup Surfer in between recycled EPS used in the surfboard

PARTNERS

We are working together with NGOs including Reloop International, Greenpeace UK, Marine Conservation Society UK, and Surfers against Sewage. We have previously worked with Deutsche Umwelthilfe and Surfrider foundation among others.

Our films have been screened by National Geographic Channel.

The building of the board is supported by Starboard windsurfing, Severne sails, Technolyt, Inholland University of adapted science, Ron van den Berg (world famous windsurf-board shaper).

We work with volunteers and are funded by philanthropic family funds.



PLASTIC SOUP SURFER > OSLO > LONDON > WINDSURF TO SENDER

June 11th 2015 - Sweden
Latitude: 58° 29' 8,022" N
Longitude: 11° 17' 37,668" E



THIS CAMPAIGN IS
THE 8TH PLASTIC
SOUP SURFER
EXPEDITION SINCE
2014



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the the first expedition in 2014 we've accomplished:

- **60 thousand signatures** for petition pro bottle deposits.
- Had the 'Plastic Soup Surfer resolution' adopted in **Dutch parliament** that became the foundation for national policy that led up to deposits on plastic bottles and cans: reducing litter by 80%.
- Assigns **10 bailiffs** to address a 'formal notice' to 10 CEOs of supermarket companies and soda companies.
- The development of the **Plastic Avengers App**: engaging ordinary citizens to photograph plastic litter on the street. The data is then used to confront companies.



- Together with **Dirk —Zwerfinator— Groot** we had Anta Flu change their plastic sweets wrappers into wax-paper wrappers.
- We had **Dutch fireworks industry and retail** phase out plastics from their F1 consumer fireworks.
- Major retail companies stopped selling **plastic confetti and water-balloons**.
- Had a **national resolution** adopted on waste separation in the classrooms.
- Initiating and organizing national conferences for plastic activists, companies and policy makers (Plastic Avengers Conferences)






Mission Reuse expedition July 2022
EU VP Timmermans in Ghent





PLASTIC SOUP SURFER .ORG

FEBRUARY 2017
Plastic Soup Surfer in Dutch Parliament
handing over 60,000 signatures for
bottle deposits. The moment when
all MP's signed the resolution that
ultimately led to the deposit return
scheme in the Netherlands

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