

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 mediagenic expeditions on homemade surfboards from plastic litter to the clever use of petitions, resolutions and judicial instruments that opened the doors to politicians and company boardrooms; it's all one 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 >](#)

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



Merijn Tinga

Energetic, easy-going, experienced stage presence.
+150 presentations in the last 3 years.



Biologist, visual artist and surfer

Specialized in change, plastic recycling and plastic pollution.



Documentaries

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

... 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.

Four more expeditions were to follow as well as three 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 and a new VLOG series 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: <https://youtu.be/PEiPwCowC2E>

BOOK THE PLASTIC SOUP SURFER LIKE MANY OTHERS DID!

Experience Speaker with over 150 presentations last 3 years.

Presentations Commissioned by: **EU Vice President Frans Timmermans** - PES Rally Madrid (Spain), **Kraft Heinz** - Packaging Team HQ Arnhem, **Coca Cola NL**, **Rabobank** CE Challenge, **German Ministry of Science** Berlin (Germany), **PAUW** Talkshow NPO1, **RTL Late Night**, **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 and many many magazine, television and radio interviews.



Expeditions, campaigns, achievements.

- **Feb. '19: Plastic Avengers Conference Amsterdam 2019**
[PlasticAvengersManifest.org](https://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](https://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.

Merijn Tinga (1972) Was brought up in Lesotho, Curacao and Tanzania before he moved to the Netherlands to attend high school in Groningen. He studied Biology at Leiden University. First became a high school teacher and after a cycle-surf sabbatical switched career to become a visual artist (sculptor). From 2014 onward his focus has been on plastic pollution.

Documentaries (main character):

- Plastic Paradox (63 min '19 Eelke Dekker)
- Der Plastik-Fluch (25min '18 Albert Knechtel ZDF)
- Plastik Uberall (90min '18 Albert Knechtel ARTE)
- From Source to Sea (50min 2018 Eelke Dekker)
- Message on a bottle (11min 2016 Eelke Dekker)
- Plastic Soup Surfer (50min 2014 Bie Muusze)

