

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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# HIGHLIGHTS

The year 2024 was a challenging year for ProSea Marine Education. After successfully completing the large ‘Catching the Potential’ project and ‘Vistikhetmaar’ project in 2023, the foundation was at a crossroads to determine a new course for 2024. Several promising ideas were developed and various proposals that contribute to ProSea’s mission were submitted. It was also the year in which ProSea conducted a baseline study on the training and certification requirements for fishers in EU Member States for the European Commission, and in which ProSea managed to start a project to empower small-scale fishers in Ghana and boost safety awareness from the ground up under the International Fund for Fishing Safety (IFFS).

Also on a personal level, it was a year marked by major changes within the team. Several team members became parents, Daphne Pezij left the team in her search for adventure in Latin America, and we welcomed two new members to the team: Chris ten Napel and Tamara Reiter. Looking back at 2024, ProSea saw the following general developments within the foundation:

- Many maritime professionals were trained on sustainability, ranging from fishers, seafarers, maritime employment agencies, policymakers, and scientists.
- ProSea managed to put the importance of training maritime professionals in the spotlight through various projects, studies, conferences, and workshops.
- For a first time in ProSea’s history, we started a project on the African continent.
- ProSea managed to work on several new, creative projects with new clients and partners.



# MARITIME SERVICES

## turning blue

ProSea performed a lot of work in the Turning Blue project. This project aims to facilitate the integration of disadvantaged young individuals into the workforce within the Blue Economy sectors. Together with the Dutch project partners, we organised a workshop in Rotterdam to inform stakeholders in the Netherlands about the project and to build a network. It was attended by maritime companies, maritime training institutions and parties involved in youth detention.

ProSea also organised the transnational partner meeting in the Netherlands for project partners. During this meeting, we visited a youth detention centre and a pelagic freezer-trawler. ProSea also visited two youth detention centres to get to know the target group better, and we worked hard on developing a training curriculum and training material.



**iPS** | Over **35 years**  
of experience  
*powerful people*

ProSea conducted two lectures on sustainability for recruitment agency iPS, one lecture for staff members of the dredging department and one lecture for staff members of the offshore energy department.



A dedicated MEAC training for the Royal Netherlands Navy was conducted twice by ProSea.

# MARITIME SERVICES



Various blended onboard Marine Environmental Awareness Courses (MEACs) were conducted for the Boskalis offshore and dredging fleet. Crews go through several e-learning modules on board, followed by several toolbox meetings. These toolbox meetings challenge the crew to find fit-for-purpose solutions onboard of their respective vessel based on the various challenges that are presented in the e-learning modules. These solutions are discussed with the various crews during a one-day training at Boskalis its headquarters in Papendrecht, the Netherlands.

ProSea conducted several ‘**Sustainability Impact Trainings**’ for Boskalis for project management staff.

Several **MEACs** were organized for **trainees** of Boskalis. These were trainees from Offshore Energy, Dredging, Fleet Management and Finance.



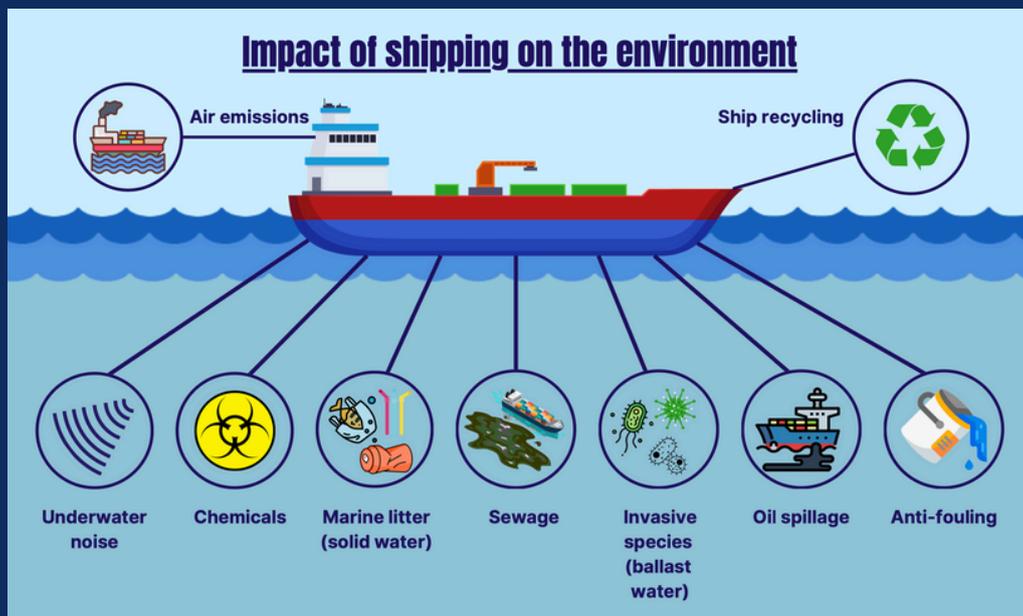
ProSea developed a case for the Marine Resources Management course of the Wageningen University. The case was about deep-sea mining. Within the course ProSea supervised a group of students who worked on the deep-sea mining case.

# SHIPPING

ProSea organized two dedicated Marine Environmental Awareness courses for the staff of the Port of Rotterdam. The course content was aligned with the sustainability goals and activities of the Port of Rotterdam.



A study was conducted for the **Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management** to analyse how ‘prevention of pollution’ is addressed in the Dutch maritime education. This study looked into the implementation of the STCW requirements and the Marine Environmental Awareness Course (IMO model course 1.38) and formulated a vision for the future.



The Shipowners’ Club approached ProSea to run a campaign for their members on sustainable shipping. **A set of infographics was developed**, and a social media campaign was launched to distribute the infographics through the social media channels of both the Shipowners’ Club and ProSea.

# SHIPPING



ProSea updated training material and e-learning modules on the Marine Environmental Awareness training for the **Maritime Institute Willem Barentsz.**



ProSea delivered an 'appetizer' on the MEAC for the seagoing officer staff of **Navquim.**



A lecture on sustainability in the maritime industry was given at the '**World Water Day**' (Dutch: Wereld Water Dag) in Den Helder.

Several (blended) MEAC's were organized for students from maritime colleges including the Shipping and Transport College (STC) Rotterdam, STC Zwolle, STC Katwijk, Rotterdam University of Applied sciences, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, HZ University of Applied Sciences.



# FISHING

## Catching THE Potential



ProSea represented Catching the Potential at the IFISH6 Conference, an event on fishing industry health and safety. The first day of the conference started with a warm welcome at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with participants from all over the world. The days consisted of many interesting talks, workshops and panel sessions on safety and health-related topics like developments around regulations, safety equipment and training. ProSea gave a workshop about all the work that has been carried out within the Catching the Potential project and discussed the future of sustainable fisheries training.

Together with Deloitte and Wageningen University & Research, ProSea conducted a baseline study on the training and certification requirements for fishers in EU Member States for the European Commission. The training and certification requirements have been mapped for all the EU Member States that have an active fishing fleet and/or train fishers. The final report will be published in March 2025.



ProSea submitted a proposal together with Friends of the Nation under the International Fund for Fishing Safety (IFFS) to improve the safety, wellbeing, and sustainability of Ghana's small-scale fisheries. This project was granted and kicked off in December 2024. Friends of the Nation and ProSea aim to start a bottom-up approach through training to improve safety awareness in three fishing communities (Axim, Dixcove and Shama) in the Western region of Ghana.

# FISHING

A lot of work has been done to secure the future of knowledge platform 'Vistikhetmaar' ('I Fish I Knew' in English). This platform is crucial to facilitate the transition to a more sustainable, smaller and more flexible and more diverse fishing fleet and associated value chain.

**VIST  
IK HET  
MAAR!**

A six-year plan was drawn-up with the fishing industry, educators, and national and regional policymakers to strengthen the transition capacity of the Dutch fish cluster by investing in manpower, sustainable growth and future-proof entrepreneurship. The knowledge platform plays a central role in this plan as it is the place where new knowledge is made accessible for the fishing industry and fisheries education. This plan called the 'Innovation impulse for fisheries education' (Dutch: Vernieuwingsimpuls Visserijonderwijs) was signed by the Dutch State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature in November 2024. It means a lot of activities will be organized in the coming years under the umbrella of 'I Fish I Knew'.

A special podcast episode of the Vistikhetmaar podcast series 'Even droogvallen met ...' was recorded with the Fisheries Innovation Network (Dutch: Visserij Innovatie Netwerk).

  
**PODCAST**

# FISHING

The **'Fishing with a future'** training was organised for fishery students from Maritime Institute Mercator (fishing school in **Belgium**) in December 2024. Next to conducting the training, ProSea will also organise a three-day trip to the Netherlands in 2025 for these students where they will learn more about the fishing industry in the Netherlands and all innovations that are being developed in the Netherlands. At the same time, students from Mercator will also prepare a presentation as an assignment about the Belgian fishing industry and all innovations that are being developed in Belgium. They will present this to Dutch stakeholders to facilitate a knowledge exchange between future fishers in the Netherlands and Belgium.



The **'Fishing with a future'** training was also conducted for (future) fishers at Firda (Urk), Scalda (Vlissingen), and STC Stellendam.

ProSea co-organized a **'Science communication workshop'** of three sessions together with Siren Calling in the **CIBBRiNA project**. This project aims to work together with fishers, authorities and other relevant stakeholders to minimize – and where possible, eliminate – incidental bycatch of priority Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) marine species in the North-East Atlantic, Baltic and Mediterranean regions. Communication of (scientific) results of the project with a variety of stakeholders is a key element of this project, and the workshop combines the theory behind communication with practical exercises which challenge participants to put theory into practice.



# FISHING

## Programma Visserij voor een Schone Zee



In 2024, ProSea was assigned as coordinator of the program '**Fishing for a clean ocean**' (Dutch: Visserij voor een Schone Zee). Next to organising two meetings to (re)connect stakeholders from the fishing industry, policy, ports, science and NGO's, all Dutch and Belgian fishing ports were contacted, and visits were paid to nine of them to identify how waste reception is organised within the ports and what challenges these ports encounter when it comes to fishing related waste.

ProSea gave a lecture on the basics of fish stock assessments to members of the Dutch Fish Federation (Dutch: Visfederatie).



ProSea (coordinator) teamed up with project partners FEMXA, ARVI, Europeche and CEFM to start its first Erasmus+ project, **STARFISH**. The project's objective is to enhance the readiness and preparedness of professionals in the fishing sector by implementing new technologies in their training. This will be achieved through the development of an e-learning platform offering concise, easily accessible micro-lessons available both online and offline, as well as a serious game that enables students to learn through interactive play.



# PROSEA 2024

There were several changes within the ProSea team in 2024. At the start of 2024, the well-functioning and complementary team consisted of Tim Haasnoot (director), Thomas van Schie (financial manager), Roos Swart (project manager and course leader), Tamar Poppelier (project manager and course leader), Anne Krale (project manager and course leader) and Daphne Pezij (project manager and course leader) who are employed by ProSea. Erik Bogaard is still working on various ProSea projects on a contract basis from Canada.

In August, Daphne decided not to extend her contract since she wanted to travel through Latin America. We thank her for all her hard work for the foundation and wish her all the best for the future. Around the same time, we received two open applications from Tamara Reiter and Chris ten Napel. After a few conversations, they were both hired by ProSea.

Tamara completed a Master in law and sustainability, and we are pleased that she started her professional career at ProSea. Chris completed a master in aquaculture and marine resource management and worked for the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management (Dutch: Rijkswaterstaat) prior to her job at ProSea. Both newcomers proved to be a valuable addition to the team and received a contract extension until 2026.

Promising steps were taken in 2024 to reach ProSea's ambition to expand its activities internationally to reach more marine professionals and inspire them through training to take their responsibility in the transition to a sustainable maritime sector. Through our sustainability trainings, by stimulating the uptake of sustainability training in the international training requirements of marine professionals and by acting as a knowledge broker between governmental institutions, science and maritime sectors, ProSea has lived up to its vision and made considerable progress in reaching its mission.

# PROJECTS 2024

## Maritime Services

- Three Sustainability Impact Trainings for Boskalis staff.
- Three Sustainability trainings (based on MEAC) for Boskalis trainees
- Two blended MEAC trainings for Boskalis offshore staff
- Two focus group meetings in Dutch youth detention centers for the Turning Blue project
- Two dedicated MEAC trainings for the Royal Dutch Navy
- Developed and supervised case study on deep-sea mining at Wageningen University
- Two lectures on sustainability for the recruitment agency iPS

## Shipping

- Two dedicated MEACs for the staff of the Port of Rotterdam
- One study for the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management to analyse how 'prevention of pollution' is addressed in the Dutch maritime education
- Blended MEAC training for Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences
- Nine (blended) MEAC trainings for students of STC Rotterdam, STC Katwijk, STC Zwolle and Rotterdam University of applied sciences
- One MEAC introduction for students of the HZ University of Applied Sciences (Dutch: Hogeschool Zeeland)
- Six infographics for a social media campaign of the Shipowners' Club
- One MEAC appetizer for Navquim offshore officer staff
- Lecture on the 'World Water Day' in Den Helder

## Fisheries

- Four 'Fishing with a future' trainings for fishery students from Firda, Maritime Institute Mercator (Belgium), Scalda, STC Stellendam
- One study for the European Commission on the training and certification requirements of fishers in the EU Member States
- Launched a project with Friends of the Nation under the International Fund for Fishing Safety (IFFS) to improve the safety, wellbeing, and sustainability of Ghana's small-scale fisheries
- Submitted a six-year plan to expand our work on the knowledge platform 'Vistikhetmaar' ('I Fish I Knew' in English)
- One special podcast episode with the Fisheries Innovation Network (Dutch: Visserij Innovatie Netwerk)
- Stichting Sectorraad Visserij
  - Management of Vistikhetmaar-platform and governance structure
- A 'Science communication workshop' of three sessions together with Siren Calling in the CIBBRiNA project
- Participation in a Q&A session for the CIBBRiNA project on how to engage fishers.
- Coordinator of the program 'Fishing for a clean ocean' (Dutch: Visserij voor een Schone Zee)
- A lecture for member of the Dutch Fish Federation (Dutch: Visfederatie) on the basics of fish stock assessments