

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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SUMMARY

In 2023 ProSea developed and conducted various blended and in-person training activities and organised several events for the maritime industry. It was the final year for two large projects, ‘Catching the Potential’ and ‘Vistikhetmaar’ (I Fish I Knew in English), that ProSea worked on for various years. We also said goodbye to Isabelle Parqui, who left ProSea for a new challenge, and we welcomed two new members to the ProSea team: Anne Krale and Daphne Pezij. Looking back at 2023, ProSea saw the following general developments within the foundation:

- We managed to put the importance of sustainable fisheries training for fishers in the spotlight by participating in various events (e.g., workshop at the Food & Agriculture Organization) and by organising the final conference in the European Parliament. Six of the participating seven countries have indicated to continue with the training after the project.
- The first ship-specific blended Marine Environmental Awareness Course (MEAC) was successfully conducted. Participants followed various e-learnings onboard and delivered ship specific feedback through toolbox sessions which challenged them to put theory to practice.
- In 2023 we kicked-off a new European project called ‘Turning Blue’. The goal of this project is to facilitate the integration of disadvantaged young individuals into the workforce within the Blue Economy sectors.
- ProSea also managed to work on several other new, creative projects with new clients and partners.



MARITIME SERVICES



The first **blended onboard MEAC** was conducted at the **Boskalis** offshore fleet. For the first pilot, the crew of the selected vessel went through several e-learning modules, followed by several toolbox meetings on board. During these toolbox meetings, the crew discussed the various challenges presented in the e-learning modules and were challenged to find fit-for-purpose solutions onboard of their respective vessel. After finishing the e-learning modules and the toolbox meetings, various crewmembers were invited to attend a one day workshop to share their ideas from the toolbox meetings and to trigger the implementation process of solutions to make the fleet of Boskalis more sustainable. We will probably continue with this type of training in 2024.

ProSea completed the update for the blended '**Sustainability Impact Training**'. The training was updated with more offshore specific content and cases. At the end of 2023, the first interactive workshop was organised for a combined group of the dredging division and offshore division of Boskalis with the new materials. Earlier in 2023 a specific project '**Sustainability Impact Training**' was conducted for a salvage project of Boskalis.



Several sessions of the '**Sustainability Impact Training**' were organized for **trainees** of Boskalis giving them some insight into the sustainability strategy of Boskalis.

MARITIME SERVICES

Firda, the maritime training institution at Urk (the Netherlands) approached ProSea to organise the **first international maritime Hackathon**. Hackathons are awareness and outreach events that help to develop innovative solutions. This North Sea Hackathon focused on the maritime sector (shipping, fishing and maritime services) and various maritime training institutions across Europe were invited to participate. Groups of students worked on five different hackathon challenges and the best teams of the participating training institutions were invited for the final which took place in December 2023 at Firda Urk. In total



four teams participated: a team from Firda Urk, a team from STC Katwijk, a team from Vonk (Den Helder, Netherlands) and a team from Instituto Politécnico Marítimo Pesqueiro do Atlântico (Vigo, Spain). The teams from Urk and Vigo ended up sharing the first place of this first international maritime Hackathon.

Several dedicated MEACs for the **Royal Netherlands Navy** were conducted by ProSea and we will continue with the collaboration in 2024.



MARITIME SERVICES

ProSea conducted two sessions of the '**Ocean Management**' course which we developed for the **master 'Shipping and Transport'** of the Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences in 2022. This course consists of the MEAC training for the students in combination with a specific case study from practice. Examples of cases concern 'Deep Sea mining', 'Claim on the Arctic', 'Abandoned Ships' and 'Competition in Policy'. Both courses were evaluated positively and also triggered an interest from other institutes like Wageningen University and Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences. There are plans to continue with this course in 2024.



In 2022 ProSea delivered a first MEAC for a client of **Damen Shipyard**. This MEAC was positively evaluated and another MEAC was conducted in 2023 for a client from Ghana. Two more were scheduled with a client from Kenya, but these were cancelled due to planning constraints and will be rescheduled in 2024. The collaboration went well and will likely be continued in 2024. Damen has also indicated that they would like to organise a dedicated MEAC for their own staff which will be discussed in more detail in 2024.

SHIPPING

A first visit to Guam took place together with the **North American Marine Environment Protection Association** (NAMEPA). During this visit NAMEPA and ProSea discussed the content of developed dedicated e-learning modules around Marine Environmental Awareness for the territory of Guam with local stakeholders. The goal of this program is to educate maritime professionals (including seafarers, fishers, and port leadership including maritime industry-related personnel) about the importance of protecting the marine environment, develop an understanding of the 'what' and 'why' MARPOL regulations are in place, and the impact of compliance (and non-compliance) on individuals and corporations as well as the global environment. Local stakeholders were enthusiastic about the setup of the training and the first pilot training is scheduled for 2024 in Guam.



After evaluating the first series of the dedicated MEAC training for onshore staff of **Amasus Shipping BV**, Amasus decided to organise a follow-up in 2023. Various new topics were selected to discuss in the newly developed dedicated MEAC for Amasus like the Emission Trading System (ETS) and a safe and respectful working environment. This follow-up trajectory was assessed positively, and a meeting will be scheduled in 2024 to discuss on how to continue the collaboration for the future.

SHIPPING

ProSea organised two dedicated MEACs for the **staff of the Port of Rotterdam** in 2023. It was good to see that specific content on the Port of Rotterdam was shared and included in this dedicated MEAC, thereby making it even more valuable for their staff. Besides these MEACs, the Port of Rotterdam asked ProSea to organise an outing for their staff at the zoo.



Navquim approached ProSea to deliver an ‘appetizer’ on the MEAC for their seagoing officer staff in December 2023. This appetizer session was appreciated by the participants and Navquim and ProSea agreed to plan a meeting in 2024 to discuss further collaboration.

Several (blended) MEACs were organized for students from maritime training institutes **STC Rotterdam, STC Katwijk, STC Stellendam, STC Zwolle** and the **Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences**. ProSea also reestablished contact with the **HZ University of Applied Sciences** and gave a guest lecture during their MEAC. The cooperation will be continued in 2024 by delivering a part of the MEAC.



FISHING

Catching THE Potential

ProSea delivered the **final pilots** in the participating countries within the EU-project '**Catching the Potential**' and a **second meeting of the fisheries educators' network** was organised in Brest (France) at which all educators indicated that this network should be maintained in the future. The project also established an EU-standard on sustainable fisheries training (a.k.a. CTP-standard). This EU-standard is aligned with the requirements that are part of the STCW-F Convention of the IMO and the requirements from the OSPAR recommendation on Sustainability Education Programmes for fishers. The standard on sustainable fisheries trainings was presented at the **final conference** of the Catching the Potential project in the **European Parliament** which was hosted by MEP Isabel Carvalhais. During that event we also presented and signed a resolution stressing the importance of new skills and knowledge needed for fishers in a changing Blue Economy. Project partners CEFCM (France), BIM (Ireland), Enaleia (Greece), BBZ am NOK (Germany) CETMAR (Spain), Escola do Mar (Azores) and Enaleia (Greece) have indicated that they will continue with sustainable fisheries training after the end of the project. Novikontas (Latvia) has indicated that they are still looking for opportunities for structural implementation. The Catching the Potential project has received a lot of attention and was also invited to participate in various events and workshops like the European Maritime day in Brest, ECOMONDO in Rimini, the IFISH 6 conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome and the launch event 'Joining Forces for the Energy Transition in EU Fisheries and Aquaculture' of the European Commission.



FISHING

The inclusion of sustainable fisheries training in the IMO Standard for the Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) and the developed CTP-standard also has consequences for the OSPAR recommendation and guidelines on Sustainability Education Programmes for Fishers. ProSea was asked to update and align the OSPAR recommendation and guidelines with the content of the revised STCW-F and CTP-standard. The update recommendation and guidelines were presented and discussed during an OSPAR ICGML-meeting in November 2023.



ProSea co-organised another **‘Masterclass Entrepreneurship in the Blue Economy’** (*‘Masterclass Ondernemerschap in de Blauwe Economie’* in Dutch) together with Wageningen University and Firda. This masterclass consisted of six evening sessions and a one-day excursion. During the masterclass, several experts talked about the latest insights and developments concerning the blue economy in relation to food production at sea. Participants highly appreciated the masterclass and the excursion!



FISHING

Knowledge platform **'Vistikhetmaar'** (*'I Fish I Knew'* in English) continued to grow in terms of users and in terms of content. Several activities were organized in 2023, like the second edition of the National Fisheries Knowledge Day (*'Nationale kennisdag visserij'* in Dutch, +/- 150 visitors from industry, science, policy, and NGO's). We also organized another training session for young, high potentials in the fishing industry (*'Tussen Schip & Wal'* course), launched various new episodes of the podcast series (*'Even droogvallen met...'*), and we created and updated teaching material (e.g., fishing vessel stability) and knowledge files (e.g., impact bottom trawling, political decision-making, nitrogen emissions). The latest addition to the platform is three e-learning modules on pelagic fisheries which have been developed in cooperation with fishing company Cornelis Vrolijk. In total, +/- 405.000 visitors used the platform between November 2016 and January 2024.

**VIST
IK HET
MAAR!**

The **'Fishing with a future'** training was conducted for (future) fishers at STC Stellendam, Vonk (Den Helder) and Firda (Urk). A proposal to deliver this training in the Netherlands until 2028 was finally granted and ensures that (future) fishers at the five Dutch maritime training institutes will receive this training annually from ProSea .



FISHING



The **'Tailor-made knowledge project on selective fisheries and sustainable management'** (*'Kennis op Maat project Selectieve visserij en duurzaam beheer'* in Dutch) was finalised and various infographics and videos were developed and launched within this project which are integrated in the knowledge platform Visticketmaar and within the 'Fishing with a future' training.

ProSea was invited to participate in the **'CIBBRINA LIFE project'** and gave a presentation on the results of the CTP-project during the kick-off event in Amsterdam. Talks on the actual role of ProSea within the project are still ongoing and will be continued in 2024.

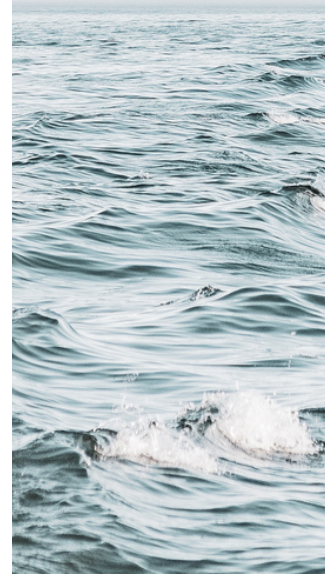


ProSea is involved in the project **'Bedwelmen van Vissen'**, which strives to find a way of stunning fish before killing them while fishers are still able to work normally and earn a good wage. In 2023, a working prototype was created. Next steps are to design and build a machine that is functional on board. ProSea created several infographics to explain the goals and process of this project. These infographics will be finalised and disseminated at the beginning of 2024.

PROSEA 2023

There have been various changes within the ProSea team in 2023. We welcomed two new members to the team: Anne Krale and Daphne Pezij. Anne finished a master's degree in Forest and Nature Conservation, is active as a voluntary guide at the Wadden Sea, and worked as an ecologist at the Dutch Water Authority before switching to ProSea. Daphne Pezij finished a master's degree in Marine Science and Climate Change at the University of Gibraltar and we are pleased that she started her professional career at ProSea. Both newcomers proved to be a valuable addition to the well-functioning and complementary ProSea team which consisted of Tim Haasnoot (director), Thomas van Schie (financial manager), Roos Swart (project manager and course leader), and Tamar Poppelier (project manager and course leader). Erik Bogaard, former director of ProSea, is still working on various ProSea projects on a contract basis from Canada.

Promising steps were taken in 2023 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 2023

Maritime Services

- Three dedicated MEAC trainings for the Royal Dutch Navy
- Three Sustainability Impact Trainings for Boskalis trainees
- Two Sustainability Impact Trainings for Boskalis staff from dredging and offshore division
- One pilot on the onboard blended MEAC for Boskalis offshore staff
- One Maritime North Sea Hackathon for students from Spain and the Netherlands
- Start of the EU-project 'Turning Blue'
- One dedicated MEAC training for Damen Shipyards
- Two 'Ocean Management' courses for students from the master 'Shipping and Transport' of the Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences

Shipping

- Five dedicated MEAC trainings for Amasus Shipping BV
- First preparatory meeting to the territory of Guam
- One blended MEAC training for Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences
- Two dedicated blended MEAC's for the Port of Rotterdam staff
- Nine blended MEAC trainings for students of STC Rotterdam, STC Katwijk and STC Zwolle
- One MEAC appetizer for Navquim offshore officer staff

Fisheries

- One 'Fishing with a future' training for fishery students from Firda (Urk)
- One 'Fishing with a future' training for fishery students from Vonk (Den Helder)
- One 'Fishing with a future' training for fishery students from STC Stellendam
- One session during an ICGML-meeting of OSPAR about the updated recommendation and guidelines of Sustainability Education Programmes for Fishers
- Co-organization of the 'Masterclass Entrepreneurship in the Blue Economy'

EU-project Catching the Potential:

- Second pilot in France, Ireland, Latvia, Germany, Azores
- Second meeting of the fisheries educators' network
- Dissemination of project results at various events and workshops like the European Maritime Day 2023, launch event 'Joining Forces for the Energy Transition in EU Fisheries and Aquaculture' and Ecomondo
- Publication of the EU standard on sustainable fisheries training
- Final conference at the European Parliament

EMFF-project 'Vistikhetmaar':

- Publication of three new knowledge files ('*Kennisdossiers*') about nitrogen emissions, political decision-making, and the impact of bottom trawling
- Development of new teaching material on fishing vessel stability
- Publication of three e-learning modules on pelagic fisheries
- One training session for young, high potentials in the fishing industry ('Tussen Schip & Wal' course)
- One National Fisheries Knowledge Day for Dutch fisheries stakeholders
- Seven episodes of the Vistikhetmaar podcast series 'Even droogvallen met...'

Stichting Sectorraad Visserij

- Management of Vistikhetmaar-platform and governance structure

Kennis op Maat

- Bedwelmen van vissen
- Selectiviteit in de visserij van plank tot praktijk