

Message On A Bottle

Featuring:



One man takes on the sea in a
mission to protect it.

In 'Message on a bottle' one man takes
on the sea in a mission to protect it.

NETHERLANDS | 2016 | 12 MIN

MESSAGE ON A BOTTLE is a film by director Eelke Dekker that features Merijn Tinga, who is better known as the The Plastic Soup Surfer. Tinga wants to be the first surfer to cross the North Sea on a 'kitefoil-board' - covering a distance of 180 kilometers, from The Netherlands to England, all to raise awareness for a bottle deposit program in his country.

He does so on surfboard made from discarded plastic bottles - the same bottles that he wants that deposit fee on to stop them from polluting our waterways and seas. This record-breaking surf across the North Sea is the start to a national campaign and the greater fight against the soda companies and supermarkets.

DIRECTOR: EELKE DEKKER

OVER **650,000** TONS OF FISHING GEAR LITTER OUR OCEANS

THE NETHERLANDS MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
EXPANDED THE BOTTLE BILL TO INCLUDE
BANNING PET BOTTLES LESS THAN 1L
IN JULY 2021

SINCE IT WAS IMPLEMENTED, OVER **80%** OF ALL PLASTIC BOTTLES
HAVE BEEN RECYCLED IN THE NETHERLANDS

RELEVANT UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS:



Eelke Dekker @EelkeDekker

@EelkeDekkerFilmAnimation

Merijn Tinga @PlasticSoupSurfer

@PlasticSoupSurfer

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- 1 What is plastic soup?
- 2 What statement is Merijn trying to make, and why?
- 3 Why is the film titled 'Message ON A Bottle' and not 'Message IN A Bottle'? (Hint: Consider branding)
- 4 Merijn faced some challenges throughout his quest to raise awareness. His persistence paid off and he achieved his mission. Describe a time where you were persistent in your commitment to sustainability practices.
- 5 Beverage bottle manufacturers and producers often lobby against bottle deposit laws. Why do you think this is? How does it impact them? Is this a way for them to avoid responsibility for their waste?
- 6 Can bottle deposit laws hurt the sales of beverage bottles?
- 7 Do you have a bottle deposit program where you live? If so, do you use it? Why or why not?
- 8 How do bottle bills encourage responsibility for both consumers and producers?
- 9 Would a bottle bill help reduce plastic litter and pollution? If so, how?
- 10 If you had the resources you needed at no expense to you, what large quest would you take on to help raise awareness about plastic pollution?
- 11 In the film, Merijn was very appreciative of the support system he had awaiting him on the shoreline. How does having a solid support system help an individual with their sustainability practices? In other words, how does having people that believe in your mission help you achieve your goals?

