



# Meet Our Members

**Tim Heddema (The Netherlands)**

President of the Pelagic Freezer trawler Association (PFA)

**When did you start to participate in LDAC meetings? What is your motivation for participating in them?**

**March 2022. First of all, simply to represent the 8 PFA members and their 18 freezer trawlers, from the Netherlands, France, Germany, Lithuania and Poland (and the UK). I think as a large player in the pelagic industry we must take the responsibility to also play an active role in this fisheries' management. Both the Pelagic AC and the LDAC are crucial for us, as we are indeed fishing far: from the Northeast Atlantic to West Africa to even the South Pacific. The LDAC is one of the AC's of which the advice is obviously taken very seriously by the Commission and Member States. We should cherish the professional way in which we work together as industry and NGO's and the way the 'managers' appreciate our work and use it for their own positioning. I've had a longstanding affinity with the subject matter too. This stems from my time as a civil servant and diplomat for the Netherlands, especially as agriculture and fisheries attaché dealing with the SFPAs, RFMOs and the creation of the SMEFF regulation, including during the Dutch presidency.**

**What are in your view the three main priorities/current challenges for achieving sustainable fisheries?**

**1. The consequences of Brexit: after the UK became an individual Coastal State most Coastal States started to fight for larger pieces of the mackerel, blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring in the Northeast Atlantic, as well as for better bi-/trilateral deals to the detriment of the EU – the party that is oriented the most towards sustainable fishing but is also vulnerable to biased arguments like zonal attachment of fish stocks. Some have set excessive unilateral quotas to support their claim.**

**2. Sustainability should be threefold: environmental, economic and social. The current approach by the Commission, focusing heavily on the operations of one fishing métier and hardly on issues such as health and safety or an appropriately supported energy transition, is unbalanced and therefore a risk for our industry, local communities and sustainability in all senses.**

**3. The fishing industry should open its windows to show our achievements in terms of responsible fishing, to deliver facts in response to the fiction presented by parties who either have a knowledge deficit or actually wish us harm. Especially the unjustified 'big is bad' mantra should be addressed with explanations of efficiency and scientific assessments.**

**Can you name an inspiring figure in your field of expertise?**

**I'm going to stay close to home for this one and mention the PFA's Lina de Nijs. Lina has been our assistant researcher since June last year and I've rarely come across someone with such intrinsic motivation to promote and learn more about (and to the benefit of) fish and fishing. Our industry is still essentially a man's world, but the way Lina makes her presence on pelagic fishing trips seem the most normal thing ever is unmatched.**

**Which book, radio show, TV series or film related to the sea would you recommend?**

**I'm a big fan of horror movies, so I should probably say Jaws... But the recent TV series 1899 is also highly recommended. It takes place entirely at sea. Or does it...?**

**What is your favourite fish dish and why?**

**Grilled swordfish. It just fills the mind with images of a Mediterranean holiday. It's quite hard to find in Northwest Europe, so perhaps the rarity of it plays a role.**