

Stephan Wennekes MBA MSc

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Introduction

I'm a management consultant ([LinkedIn](#)) who, after +20 years working abroad in a landlocked country, wants to go back to sailing. I am originally from the well-known port town of Hellevoetsluis and was into all kind of water sports since my youth. I know how to surf, how to sail a boat and know a few things about powerboating. I was a volunteer at the local equivalent of the RNLI (Helvoetse Reddingsbrigade – www.reddingsbrigade.nl) where I also learned a lot about proper seamanship and sailing small craft through stormy weather and survival at sea. My "home-turf" was the Zeeland Delta (Haringvliet, Hollandsch Diep, Grevelingen, Oosterschelde and Veerse meer), but I also holidayed in Friesland, sailed the IJsselmeer, Markermeer and surrounding waters. I crewed on various ships and did Channel and North-Sea crossings.

What I am looking for

The dream is to sail the oceans now, however, as my wife is not into sailing, doing this under my own sails is unlikely. Therefore, I am currently on the lookout for my dreamboat for coastal sailing, and to kill the itch I am also looking for skippers in need of a serious and dedicated crewmember who is willing to put in the work and learn about the ship. The goal is to build recent miles and experience so that in term I can crew on an Atlantic crossing. Obviously, I will pay for my own travel and am willing to participate in the ship's kitty for meals etc.

Certificates / Licenses

Dutch ICC Inland & Coastal for Sail and Motor yachts (Vaarbewijs II)

Permits sailing of pleasure craft up to 25 metres or up to 15 metres if the craft's speed is higher than 20 Km/hr (12 Knots) in all inland and coastal waters. It also permits sailing professional crafts up to 15 metres operating under the Dutch flag. There is no limit to the permitted tonnage. This license has a Luxembourgish endorsement for pleasure yachts in the same categories.

MARCOM – B

Dutch professional GMDSS Restricted Operator's Certificate (ROC). Operator's license for VHF and all GMDSS appliances. This license has been endorsed by the Luxembourgish Institute for Regulation for the use on all Luxembourgish flagged pleasure yachts.

First-Aid

Luxembourg National Diploma for first aid issued by the CGDIS (Corps Grand-Ducal Incendie & Secours) – latest prolongation 21st May 2023, validity 5 years. This is the same first responder course given to Luxembourgish Fire and Rescue teams.

PADI – Advanced Open Water Diver

Diving certification

Q&A

It can be hard to get the correct crew, here are some questions answered:

Food	I'm an omnivore who isn't averse from vegan or vegetarian food. I am intolerant (not allergic) to certain seafood, but I love the fish that I can eat.
Drink	I don't mind the well-deserved beer when we arrive in a harbour or are under anchor after a sail. But when on passage I keep it "dry".
Smoke	I am not in favour of smoking for security reasons. However, as an ex-smoker I understand how hard it can be to kick the habit. I don't mind other crew members lighting one up on a safe space on deck.
Drugs	Being Dutch I might have quite liberal views concerning drug use; however, it is my firm opinion that drug use and sailing do not go together.
Medications	I have some small medical issues for which I take prescribed medications. None of these medications will disallow me from driving/sailing or have an impact on my ability for decision making.
Vaccinations	I am up to date with all my vaccinations. I see it as a responsibility of care towards those around me and I expect similar responsibility of other crew members.
Seasickness	In general, I don't get sick easily, but my experience is that it can happen to everyone. When sailing I normally carry a packet of Cinnarizine tablets with my personal medications.
Watches	If I know the ship and can sail it, I have no problem in doing my part in the watch rotation.
Cooking	I know how to cook a decent meal, also under sub-optimal circumstances, but I'm not a master chef.
Religion & Politics	I respect everyone's views on the subject, I am not zealous about my views, and I expect the same respect towards me. My experience is that when these subjects are treated with respect by all, the team will work well together.
Sexual Orientation	I am a straight male and identify as such (him/his) but I am an LGBTQI-Ally and have no problems with people being who they are. In my day to day, I try to create an inclusive as possible environment.
Languages	I am a polyglot and fluent in English, French, German, Luxembourgish, and Dutch. Furthermore, I have some notices of Spanish, Italian and Irish.
Transferable skills	I have an extensive career and can bring transferable skills & knowledge to the team like organisational talent, project management, planning, but also hard IT and engineering skills. I invite you to have a look at my LinkedIn profile. www.linkedin.com/in/stephanwennekes
Availability	Upon request 2-4 weeks depending on the legs sailed. For weekend sails a week's notice is sufficient.