

# LISA SUMMIT 2025



Delft, WestCord Hotel, 19-21 March, 2025

Topics (in Discussion Rounds):

1. Maintenance and Repair
2. New Technologies and Equipment
3. Coping with (new) Regulations
4. Managing your Work

***There is a lot of noise  
volume rises, issues are addressed  
High levels of expertise at the table  
and some fervent protests***

***So there he goes – with his little black book  
Please, stop talking, don't ask why...  
It seems that he's writing.  
Have a look at this peculiar guy***

## **Life Is Simply Awesome!**

What a great title for an annual summit and a fantastic reminder that despite all the troubles and worries we are facing today, life is simply awesome.

And to celebrate this fact, Gert Jan and Pelle have asked me to embellish this summit, with what I love to do most: poetry!

I'm not a sailor, I'm not a technical person, I know nothing about engines, welding, lubricants or electronics and I can't even swim very well – I only got my diploma A...  
Therefore I have a strong preference to stay on land.

Let me illustrate this with a little poem:

***I would love to set sail  
yet never on the ocean  
because I'd probably drown  
and that 'll cause commotion***

Your table discussions sounded more like this:

***Interesting conversations  
about biodegradable oils  
You could fry your frikandel in it  
So you can reduce some spoils***

You didn't mention the frikandel to be honest. I did. I was hungry and living in the moment.

My own personal sailing experience is limited by the ferry to England, Ameland and Schiermonnikoog, the Sneekweek many years ago, a “fluisterboot” in Giethoorn and a short dolphin excursion last summer near the coast of Lanzarote.

I do come from a shippers family, originally from Gasselternijveen in Drenthe. Once in 1912, some of you may vividly remember it, Gasselternijveen was the number 4<sup>th</sup> place with regards to registered ships in the Netherlands.

Just so you know it is not a coincidence that I was asked to come here today.

I work in an environment where it is warm and dry and I hardly get my hands dirty... I kind of like that to be honest.

I do get my hands dirty on occasions. For example when I eat fish. Preferably fried fish. I wrote a short poem about it, it's a combination of Dutch and English, so all of you will easily understand.

***Today was I on the market  
and went to the fish farmer  
close from my home  
was I some euros armer***

***But hey, that's not too bad  
since I ate a lekkerbek  
and this tasted good enough  
so I don't want my money back***

You see, poetry can be very simple and simply awesome as well.  
Like life!

***Pelle and Gert Jan  
clearly have the oversight  
Sounding the alarm  
keeping everything alright  
Getting to know each other  
by person and by company  
Shipowners and suppliers  
from Poland, Scandinavia and Germany***



I have been walking around today to listen and tune in on you while working hard. And I heard a lot: Good ideas. Laughter. Respect. Craftmanship. I assume, I can't really tell. And even friendship. And I guess much more can be heard when a few drinks have been consumed. So please continue!

***Table arrangements were easily made  
It was done in just a couple of days  
Getting Jeroen, Joeri and Jasper together  
combined as the 3 J's!***

Obviously, ships require maintenance. Everyone knows that water corrodes metal. And yet you make ships of steel. Having said that, preventive maintenance is key.

***Maintenance and how to schedule  
make sure nothing's overdue  
All should function and be safe  
for both passengers and crew***

***Making your rounds about the ship  
smooth music in your ears  
walking seamlessly up and down  
'till your to-do list is complete and clear***

***People sit and talk and listen  
heavy gestures, some arms crossed  
Glasses on the nose, top of head or on the table  
... "how can we reduce exhaust?"***





***Maintenance requires planning  
what is there to do next quarter  
Supplies are not always in stock  
For software, that doesn't seem to bother***

***Maintenance requires staff  
highly qualified is best preferred  
A network of independent subcontractors  
is perhaps not that absurd***

***Maintenance requires parts  
like bolts with a sufficient length  
That when pressure is increased  
it maintains its required strength***

Some of you work on a ship, sailing around the world. Seeing lots and lots of different things, different people, different cultures, eating different food... Yet you mainly see water

Can life on the water ever become boring? I understand there are different seas and oceans with its own challenges and peculiarities, but water is water, right..?

Anyone here switched from a job on the water to a job on land or mainly on land? What was the reason for that? Can't swim so well either? Is that even obliged: do you have to swim well or is it considered sufficient that you can tread water? Holding two fingers in the air...

***Water, fresh or salty  
makes your skin look old and wrinkle  
It can be far more worse than that  
but I'd like to keep it simple***

***Water is what keeps us going  
without it we will surely die  
It's why we drink it, why we sail it  
we tend to loose it when we cry***

***Inside and out  
as far as we can see  
We're surrounded by the ocean  
and sometimes by the sea***

Looking around, I noticed approximately 95% white men around their 50's. Is that a proper reflection of the population of your business in the Netherlands? My next poem therefore is about women. It's a short poem, since they seem to be somewhat shortly represented...

***Yesterday, I counted three  
on today's sessions just one  
It seems like a man's man's world  
How can this be so much fun?***

It's not just women that are required. It's all hands on deck. Good people are hard to find and sometimes even harder to keep. So don't let them go too easily.

***Good staff is a necessity  
not everything is automated  
So nourish the people and their work  
don't leave them underestimated***

***Good staff can go anywhere  
so spread your wings and go  
Land in a place that appreciates you  
and your experience will grow***

New staff and how to train them? Here is an example.

***When hiring new staff  
Throw them in the deep end!  
Not literally of course, but if you would:  
Which ocean would you recommend?***

Another hot topic in the sessions was about emission, or better: reduction of emission.

***The future is all about emission  
and to reduce all kinds of waste  
You can't lean back and just observe  
we're simply in some kind of haste***

***Would batteries perhaps suffice?  
Or hydrogen as power source?  
And how about nuclear energy  
providing the full force...***

In all of this: do you experience any kind of stress, can you keep your heads above the water? Because think about it people: When in full stress, it's not the right moment to make a decision! And also: when in full stress, please do decide to close the bow doors or make a turn to prevent sailing into that large iceberg...

You must have some Russian co-workers am I right? Is that a workable relationship? Can you guys make jokes about the tense situation or the war in Ukraine? Do you guys know exactly where the cables are located on the seabed? I mean, we've all seen maps on our local news where they show these locations and I can only hope that the Russians weren't watching our news...

***The anchor was holding on  
to something that felt secure  
perhaps it was the seabed  
at least something to endure***

***When the anchor was retrieved  
you thought you'd never be able...  
but all the lights went out on land  
since you destroyed that cable***

It seems we can't blame everything on the Russians, or can we?

And accidents do happen, so try to prevent this, for instance by using winter tires...

***I hear about winter tires today  
to be adjusted to a ship  
Of course, this is a metaphor  
not something you can actually equip***

***Ice-class ships have small propellers  
to limit any growth of ice  
Larger blades can be installed  
you see, it's all about the size***

It seems that piracy is still something to worry about, isn't it? I mean, it has been decreasing for a few years, but it's not gone and it's scary.

One of the topics that was discussed during the 'New Technology and Equipment' round, it was about cybersecurity and renewable energy:

***Cyber security is on the table  
would it matter if your ship gets hacked?  
Taking over control, knowing where you'll be going  
It would surely have some impact***

***Your combustion engine still on-line  
or use your sail and solar panel  
add some silicone-coating on your hull  
sliding smoothly down the English Channel***

There probably are some Tesla-drivers in the audience. I noticed some of these cars are hacked already. It seems they can only make hard right turns these days...

And since I'm here, with so many professionals: what's with these helmsmen nowadays? I mean, how can you ever get stuck in the Suez Canal, sail into the Golden Gate Bridge or right into a tanker filled with kerosine..?



I'm sorry, I'm not blaming anybody, I haven't driven my car without accidents the last couple of years so I'm hardly the expert here.

Perhaps it could have something to do with the last cliché.  
Alcohol...

You saltwater people have a reputation, like pirates have with rum and Russians have with vodka. And that's okay. I'm not judging anyone. No one's here to judge. And if they do, they won't remember it tomorrow anyway. And neither would you, probably...

So just look around and see who sits next to you. A good chance that this person will be looking a lot better in a few hours from now, after a few drinks.

***I'm kind of shy to be honest  
reserved and on my own  
but when I drink  
I'm feeling less alone***

Earlier, I heard people saying they were in need of a drink. They got what they desired. You all did... I rest my case...

***Alcohol makes us feel at ease  
as if you're almost confident  
You take control of all you can  
it makes it all so evident***

***Because without it you'd be shy  
troublesome and insecure  
alcohol removes your brakes  
you 'll see things so damn pure***

And take a look at these water bottles on the table. They won't be replaced, in fact, I bet the bottles will not even be emptied during or after dinner. No one likes to drink alone. Not here. Not tonight.

***Pure or on the rocks  
I drink them both, it's fine with me  
as long as you are here  
I assume you all agree***

On the rocks... that's probably what the captain of the fishing boat drank before landing on the sharp South Korean coast last January...

But let's get serious now. You are professionals in maintenance and repair under sometimes harsh conditions. You are well taught into new technologies and equipment, either by designing or implementing. You all are dealing with increasing regulations. And somehow you still manage to do your job.

Congratulations! Life is Simply Awesome, but this is pretty awesome as well!

There is an election for the best supplier and the best superintendent. Did you guys already prepare a speech in case you win? If not, I can help out if you like.

***To be the best in what you do  
elected by respected peers  
Something to be proud of  
while your runner-up is left in tears***

***You're both superb. You both supply  
please continue doing this  
It's respected and expected  
both a curse and both a bliss?***

The election has had an outcome with ATLA being the best service provider and Ellen the best superintendent. Congratulations!

***Voices are counted, the people have spoken  
for service and superintendent of the year  
Awards have been given, hands been shaken  
Even though one of the winners is no longer here***



My last poem for today, is one that I wrote while I was gathering information about your jobs, your language, your culture, your world... by walking around, listening, wondering and writing...

I have learned only so little about you and the things you do, but what I do realize is that you and the work you do is tremendously important for supplying the world of food, energy, medicines, bananas, cocaine, weapons, blankets, water, lubricants, sextoys and so much more.

I understand that over 80% of international trade goes via the water. You people keep your fleets operational. By maintaining it, by sailing it, by supplying it.

That is simply awesome. Thank you! Here is my last poem:

***Imagine if the oceans were all dry  
the ships sunk, or gone, or whacked  
Where would all the goods come from  
or is my question too abstract?***

***Although much slower than a plane  
there's a lot going on, on the inside  
Don't judge a ship by its cover  
there's so much more than meets the eye***



Thank you very much!