

# Capt. Pim de Rhodes

*Maritime Captain | Salvage & Recovery Operations | Underwater Systems & Imaging*

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## Professional Summary

Experienced maritime captain and offshore operations professional with more than three decades of hands-on leadership in vessel command, salvage support, underwater operations, diving expeditions, and technical marine project execution. Since 1992, active as captain including command of own vessels, used for diving support, research, salvage, underwater filming, and technical diving operations. Founder of Seatec NV (established 12 January 1990), with a career built around practical seamanship, operational reliability, and specialist underwater capabilities. Recognised for combining captaincy, technical diving knowledge, salvage expertise, and operational management in demanding offshore environments where safety, precision, and regulatory compliance are essential.

## Core Competencies

- Vessel command and marine operations leadership — 30+ years active captaincy
- Marine salvage and commercial cargo recovery operations in deep-water environments
- DP2 dynamic positioning vessel operations
- Commercial diving support, technical diving, and ROV piloting
- Underwater inspection, survey, and repair work
- Multibeam sonar, side-scan sonar, and USBL-based seabed survey
- Underwater filming, photography, and sonar imaging
- Marine logistics, project coordination, and offshore team leadership
- Regulatory compliance and stakeholder engagement with maritime authorities
- Professional welder, ROV pilot, and commercial helicopter pilot

## Professional Experience

### Founder and Managing Director — Seatec NV

*12 January 1990 – Present | Antwerpen, Belgium*

Founded Seatec as a specialist maritime and underwater operations company. Seatec's operational scope encompasses diving services, underwater inspection and repair, salvage support, underwater imaging, sonar-based survey, and technical equipment supply. The company has grown from a diving-focused enterprise to a full-scope offshore salvage and survey operator with dedicated research and recovery vessels equipped for operations to 3,000-metre depths.

### Founder — Subtech BVBA

*7 May 1998 – Present*

Established Subtech BVBA as a daughter company of Seatec NV, expanding the group's capabilities in specialised underwater and technical marine operations.

### **Captain and Vessel Owner — LIS (Icebreaking Tugboat)**

*1997 – 2005*

Acquired and operated the LIS, an icebreaking tugboat deployed for diving support, research assignments, salvage activities, underwater filming, and technical diving missions.

### **Research and Salvage Vessel Operations — CDT Fourcault**

*2000 – Present*

Acquired the CDT Fourcault from the Belgian government in 2000, expanding Seatec's operational capacity for diving expeditions, salvage support, research missions, and complex offshore activities. The vessel supported a series of high-profile international assignments:

- Alderney (2007–2008): Recovery of the 16th-century Elizabethan wreck in collaboration with marine archaeologist Mensun Bound. Recovered two cannons and contributed to major archaeological discoveries; project covered by BBC and National Geographic documentaries.
- Greece (2009): National Geographic expedition to the wreck of the Britannic, sister ship of the Titanic. Operational platform for advanced underwater logistics and 3D television filming.
- Brest, France (2011): Environmental recovery of oil contamination associated with the sunken fishing vessel Marco, under strict control in cooperation with the French government. Completed to the full satisfaction of French authorities.
- Baltic Sea, Greece, Cabo Verde: Additional expedition planning and project execution.

### **N35 Salvage Vessel — Cargo Recovery Operations**

*2020 – Present*

In 2020, expanded Seatec's scope to recovery of industrial cargoes — copper, aluminium, iron, and other non-ferrous commodities — from vessels lost during the First and Second World Wars. Acquired the N35, an 80-metre offshore supply vessel with 18-metre beam and full DP2 dynamic positioning capability. Equipped the vessel with a comprehensive research and recovery package: side-scan sonar, multibeam echo sounder, USBL acoustic positioning, and ROV systems. Crane capacity supports operations to approximately 800 metres without anchors; installed survey equipment is rated to 3,000-metre depths.

### **Selected Major Operations**

- Costa Concordia (2014): Assisted during the transfer of the vessel to Genoa under Italian government supervision as part of the post-wreck-removal phase.
- Flinterstar Casualty Assessment: Contributed to the assessment of the Flinterstar casualty to support harbour clearance efforts.
- Mayori Maru, Mauritania (2020): Cargo salvage operation off the coast of Mauritania. Over a four-month period, successfully removed the cargo without causing environmental pollution.

## Professional Qualifications & Certifications

- Maritime Captain — Active since 1992
- Commercial Diver — Certified, extensive operational diving experience
- ROV Pilot — Operational experience across multiple platforms and vessel types
- Commercial Helicopter Pilot — Certified
- Professional Welder — Practical mechanical fabrication and repair capability
- DP2 Dynamic Positioning — Operational proficiency on N35 and other DP-equipped vessels

## Regulatory & Stakeholder Experience

Throughout Seatec's operational history, extensive engagement has been maintained with maritime regulatory authorities across multiple jurisdictions, including the Irish Coast Guard, French government maritime agencies, Italian Civil Protection and Port Authorities, Belgian maritime authorities, and international bodies. This includes coordination on environmental compliance, oil spill response planning, salvage permitting, and operational safety certification. Seatec has consistently operated within and in compliance with SOLAS, SOPEP, UNCLOS, and applicable national maritime regulatory frameworks.

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