

JENS WATHNE



EXPERIENCE

- International Melges 24 Class Association, Executive Committee
- Norwegian Melges 24 Class Association, Board
- Norwegian importer and sales agent for Melges 24
- Active Melges 24 sailor since 1999, campaigning in both Europe and the United States
- Present owner of two Melges 24s: NOR 800 and NOR 649 Party Girl
- Founder of Norwegian webpage on sailing

ABOUT

Jens is a thirteen-year veteran of the Melges 24 Class and a member of Haugesund Yacht Club, Norway. He has sailed boats from Optimists to Wally 105. In 1999, Jens stepped aboard his first Melges 24 and was sold. He was made importer and sales agent for the boats in Norway, investing in five boats to start the Class in Western Norway and starting a youth program to attract kids to the Melges 24. Since 1999, Jens has been the proud owner of 288, 338, 349, 649, and 800. His first nationals were in 1999; his first worlds were La Rochelle in 2000. He has competed in the Nationals, Europeans, Worlds, and international regattas ever since, including seven Key West Race Weeks and other regattas across the US and Europe. Except when he sold Melges 24s, Jens has always competed as a Corinthian and cares deeply for both the Corinthian and professional members of the Class. In 2010, he was instrumental in organizing the Norwegian Nationals in Haugesund. His goal is to keep the Melges 24 one of the preeminent one design classes in the World.

Professionally, Jens is a marine biologist with an advanced degree in marine mammals. He works in the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, where his work centers on domestic and international fisheries and is involved in Norway's bilateral negotiations with Europe and other nations, including Iceland, Greenland, Faro Island, and Russia.