Session	Start-ups/SMEs looking for Finance: Pre-seed/Angel/Seed
Title	Planet Ocean; a business case for balanced seafood & fish-like proteins
Company	Monkeys by the Sea
Speaker	Thijs Wullems
TRL	5 - 7
Keywords feedstock (max 2)	Plant-based, fermentation
Keywords technology (max 2)	Wet extrusion, mild pasteurisation
Keywords End-Product (max 2)	Frozen Foodservice products, B2B Semi-fabricates

Abstract:

Monkeys by the Sea creates seafood-inspired foods from plant proteins, fermentation-based proteins, seaweed and microalgae, with no fish involved. Our low-temperature process runs on existing production lines and results in a a plant-based semi-fabricate.

With this the company aims to help legacy seafood processors to create 'balanced protein products' which combine a plant-based ingredient matrix with fish. The semi-fabricate is currently TRL 5, with a pilot in TRL 7.

This so-called 'hybrid development', partly funded through an EU regional innovation programme (EFRO OP-ZUID) was deliberately constrained to formats that run on existing processing lines. That constraint is the point: it makes 'balanced seafood' a processing conversation, not an ideological one.

The semi-fabricates are produced on a patented production line, run by a large industrial vegetable processor. The company holds the exclusive license to this patented shelf-stable preservation technique which they aim to roll-out further in the seafood industry.

In 2027 we are raising a seed round to further industrialise productions, run paid pilots with seafood processors and advance our commercial partnerships across Europe.

(Meanwhile a small foodservice range is selling on pilot scale in the Netherlands, Belgium, France and Italy)

We look for investors who hold biobased ingredients, marine biomass, or nutrition and health companies with B2B traction, with no conflicting stakes in alternative seafood.

We prefer impact, evergreen or long-horizon investors who are open to leading or co-investing.

We value connections to (sea)food processors, ingredient houses, European foodservice players, and other parties with experience in EU innovation funding.

Mission-driven approach: a personal or fund commitment to the Ocean or a clear commitment to SDG 14 – Life Below Water.