



Dick and Ursault-Poupon on course to narrowly beat Tabarly transatlantic time

A transatlantic boat race which aims to beat a 33 year-old sailing time from Saint-Pierre et Miquelon to Lorient, whilst also raising awareness of ocean health is on course to narrowly set a new record for the crossing.

The first Route Saint-Pierre Lorient - Pure Ocean Challenge aims to beat the crossing of 10 days, 1 hour and 31 minutes, set by French sailing legend Eric Tabarly, in 1987, on the maxi "Côte d'Or".

The JP 54 of Jean-Pierre Dick is just a few nautical miles ahead of Morgane Ursault-Poupon's Class 40 after leaving Saint-Pierre et Miquelon at 20:00 UTC on Saturday 18th July. The JP54 lost one of its two rudders after colliding with an unidentified object but at the halfway point remained ahead of Tabarly's time, scheduled to arrive on Tuesday 28th July. You can follow their progress [here](#).

David Sussmann, founder of Pure Ocean, which supports ocean health research projects, is sailing on Jean-Pierre Dick's boat 'The Kid', a 54ft carbon composite canting keel yacht, recording scientific data and posting video updates on [Facebook](#).

He explained: "Despite the collision, we continue to make good progress and remain on course to improve on Tabarly's time. We are also collecting data for [Fish and Click](#) on lost or abandoned fishing gear to facilitate their recovery as well as [observations](#) on marine mammals and human activities such as fishing and pollution.

"Nearly three billion people depend on the ocean for their livelihood. Globally, over one-third of fishing stock is over-exploited so we are calling for increased efforts to introduce sustainable fisheries.

"We have started a [petition](#) calling on the French Government, European Commission and other potential funders to finance ocean research projects. We need all the help we can get so are collecting [donations](#) to finance this extremely important work."

After the boats arrive in Lorient, the Pure Ocean Foundation is meeting with key marine stakeholders and business leaders to talk about their mission and explore new funding streams for their work.

The Route Saint-Pierre Lorient, Pure Ocean challenge is also being supported by Annick Girardin, Minister of the Sea following the recent reintroduction of the French Government department after 30 years.

Offshore sailor Philippe Paturel, founder and president of Route Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, has organised the race. He said: "This has realised my ambition of creating a challenge between Saint-Pierre and Miquelon and Brittany. Respect for the ocean and the environment is one of the fundamentals of Route Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, which carries the strong messages of the Pure Ocean Foundation."

The Pure Ocean Challenge is being overseen by technical advisor Sylvie Viant who has been involved in a range of the world's most prestigious competitions including the Vendée Globe and the Route du Rhum.

Pure Ocean supports innovative research projects that contribute to the protection of fragile marine ecosystems and biodiversity whilst also organising events to raise public understanding of the critical situation our ocean faces. A total of 159 projects from 40 countries, involving 350 scientists, applied for grants from the foundation's latest call for funding applications.

For more information:

Media contact for Route Saint Pierre Lorient - Pure Ocean Challenge:

Robin Clegg - +33 6 31 30 95 55
robin@wearecurve.com

For images please click [HERE](#).

About Pure Ocean

Pure Ocean is an NGO founded in Marseille in 2017 with a mission is to support innovative research projects around the world, contributing to the protection of fragile marine ecosystems and biodiversity. In addition to funding scientific projects, Pure Ocean organizes conferences and promotes races and sporting challenges in order to raise public awareness of the critical situation in our ocean. <https://www.pure-ocean.org/>

About Route Saint-Pierre & Miquelon

Route Saint-Pierre & Miquelon is a non-profit association, created in 2000 by shipowner and passionate sailor Philippe Paturel. With over 60 volunteers, Route Saint-Pierre & Miquelon has been organizing and running sailing racing projects since then.

