



Boats underway in Tabarly record attempt for ocean health

- The Pure Ocean Challenge aims to beat Eric Tabarly's sailing time
- Transatlantic challenge from French overseas territory to west coast of France
- Mission to increase understanding of need to for ocean preservation

A transatlantic boat race which aims to beat a 33 year-old sailing time and highlight the need for greater ocean research and protection has set off from the French overseas territory of St Pierre et Miquelon bound for Lorient, France.

The inaugural Route St 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", and raise awareness of the importance of the ocean and the threats to its health.

The JP 54 of four times Transat Jacques-Varbe winner Jean-Pierre Dick and the Class 40 of Morgane Ursault-Poupon set off at 20:00 UTC and hope to complete the 2,150 nautical mile crossing in around nine days to set a best time for the route. You can follow their progress [here](#).

Jean-Pierre Dick said: "We must ensure we don't go too far north because there are still icebergs and other obstacles present. In the first part of the race, hopefully, we won't be trapped by the strong depressions that crisscross the great banks of Newfoundland. From then, we should be in line with the natural path of depression and the game plan will be to position ourselves to follow these and travel at the highest possible speeds to beat Eric Tabarly's time."

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.

David Sussmann, founder of Pure Ocean, 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: "We are crossing the Atlantic Ocean, one of the seas helping sustain life on earth but it faces a number of threats including climate change and overfishing.

"We have started a [petition](#) calling on the French Government, European Commission and other potential funders to finance ocean research projects. The ocean is a precious resource that

could provide solutions for human health and future treatments for a range of illnesses. We need all the help we can get so would appreciate [any donations](#) to finance this extremely important work.”

After the boats arrive in Lorient, a week of events, the Pure Ocean Foundation will be meeting with key marine stakeholders and business leaders to talk about Pure Ocean’s mission and explore new funding streams for our vital work.

Morgane Ursault Poupon, whose father, Philippe, won the Route du Rhum in 1986, is racing on her boat ‘Up Sailing’. She said: “As ambassadors for the sea, it is our duty to tell people about our experiences seeing the effect human actions are having and how it’s our collective duty to do something about it.”

Offshore sailor Philippe Paturel, founder and president of Route Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, has co-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, so it is a joy to organize a transatlantic race 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.

To track with the progress of the boats click [here](#).

For more information:

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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.