



SEA THE PLASTIC

- E X P E D I T I O N -

Belgian adventurers sailing around the Atlantic to raise awareness about plastic pollution in the oceans!

SEATHEPLASTIC EXPEDITION, IT'S ...

ALREADY 15 MONTHS OF EXPEDITION

1 OCEAN

2 AVENTURERS

39 MICROPLASTIC SAMPLES

1 PROJET OF AWARENESS

15 CONFERENCES

58 SAILING NIGHTS

178 CROWDFUNDERS

1 FILM 13 COUNTRIES

1 SAILBOAT

6 MAIN PARTNERS

5 WORKSHOPS WITH SCHOOLS

11 288 NAUTICAL MILES

11 TECHNICAL PARTNERS

MORE THAN 250 STUDENTS EDUCATED

1 ATLANTIC CROSSING

6 MONTHS OF EXPEDITION LEFT

... AND WE NEED YOU FOR THE 2ND CHAPTER!



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THE TEAM



DAMIEN

Captain and skipper

« At 30 years old, I dream of taking on a new challenge in navigation. As an electro-mechanic, sailing instructor and military officer by training, I love to confront the power and beauty of our seas and oceans. The beginning of our adventure has taught me a lot and I wish to continue by discovering a new region of the world: Greenland, and Iceland make me dream. »



ALINE

Communication and media guru

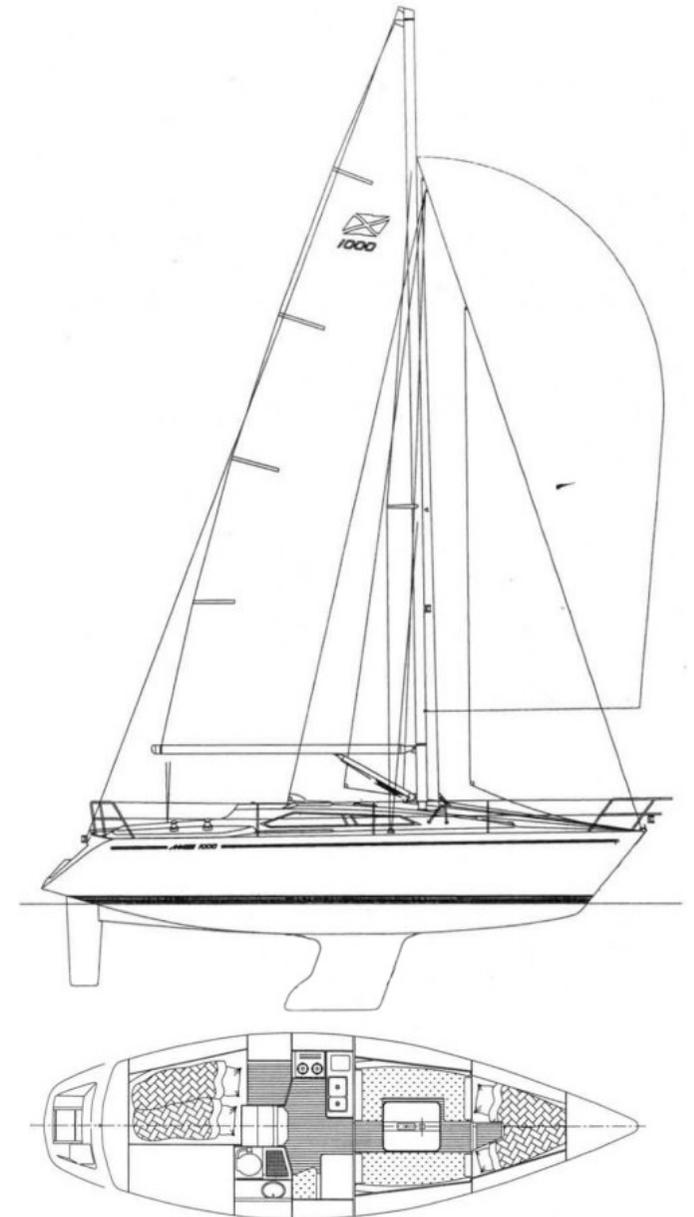
« Hello, I'm Aline! I am 29 years old, Belgian and passionate about photography and nature. For 5 years, Damien has passed on his passion for sailing to me. The current climate issues and the protection of the environment are very important to me. I left my job as an engineer architect for this expedition. Our first 15 months have been magical and very rewarding. I'm really looking forward to set sail for the second part of our expedition! »



SANZARU

Our lovely sailboat

« Built in Sweden in 1995, I am a Maxi 1000 sailboat that has already covered thousands of nautical miles. I have lived in the Mediterranean for a long time and I am currently doing my second Atlantic tour. Damien and Aline adopted me in May 2019, then completely renovated me for months. Since mid-July 2020, I have been sailing with them across the ocean and allowing them to realize this beautiful project! »





ONE PLASTIC BAG IS USED FOR AN AVERAGE OF 20 MINUTES, BUT IT TAKES 450 YEARS TO DECOMPOSE.

THE PROBLEM OF MICROPLASTICS

WHAT'S A MICROPLASTIC?

to understand better the problem

Each year, 10 million tons of plastic end up in the sea, carried by the wind and current. Though the degradation of the plastic is very slow, plastics break up under the effect of the wind, the water and the sun. The fragments below 5 mm are called microplastics. The one above 5 mm are called mesoplastics. It is estimated that there are 100 million tons of plastic roaming in the oceans!

HOW TO COLLECT SAMPLES?

by using the Manta Trawl

The Manta Trawl consists of a floating metal structure, a net and a "sock". The sailboat pulls it on the surface of the water to filter out floating particles, including plastics. A sampling protocol must be respected for the validity of the measurement: wind speed less than 20 knots, boat speed less than 5 knots, sampling time of 30 minutes. The sock is then sent to a laboratory which will analyze it.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT STUDY IT?

in order to preserve our oceans

The oceans contain more than 80% of the terrestrial biomass and thus represent the main reservoir of life on earth. However, today we have to face a major environmental problem: the general intoxication of the seas by plastic waste. It therefore becomes imperative that the problem of plastic waste has to be precisely identified and that the extent of this pollution has to be better known.



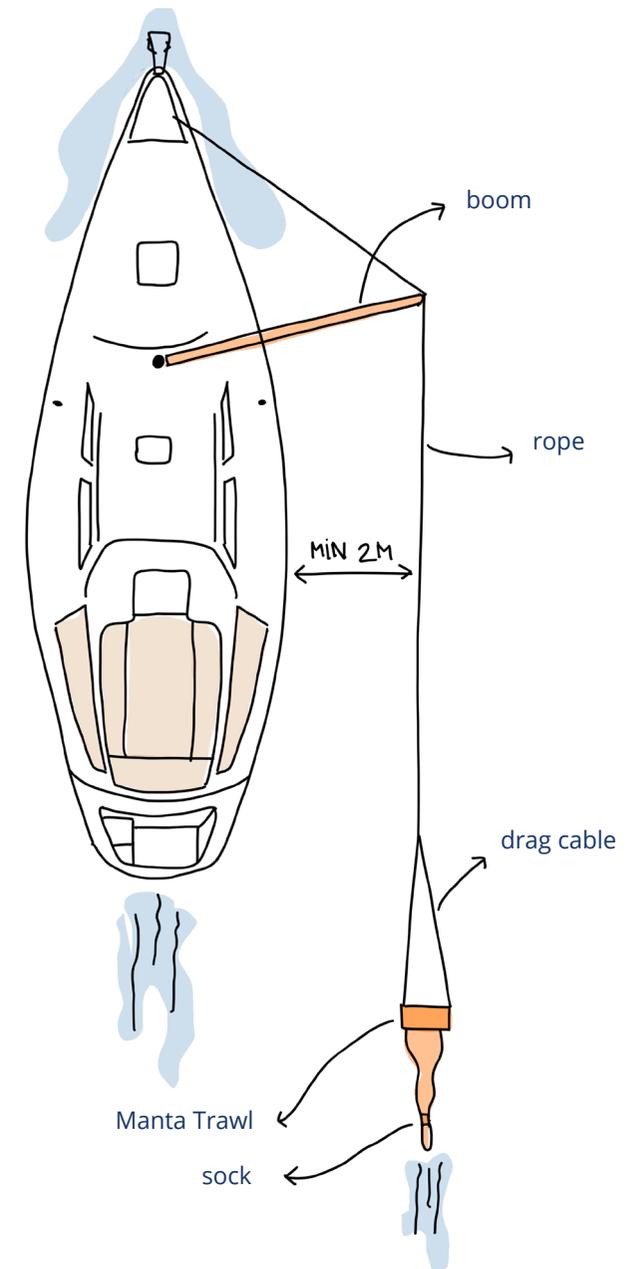
sample of microplastics
© N.Sardet/Tara Expeditions



Manta Trawl taking a sample
© Expedition



Albatross victim of microplastic
© Chris Jordan

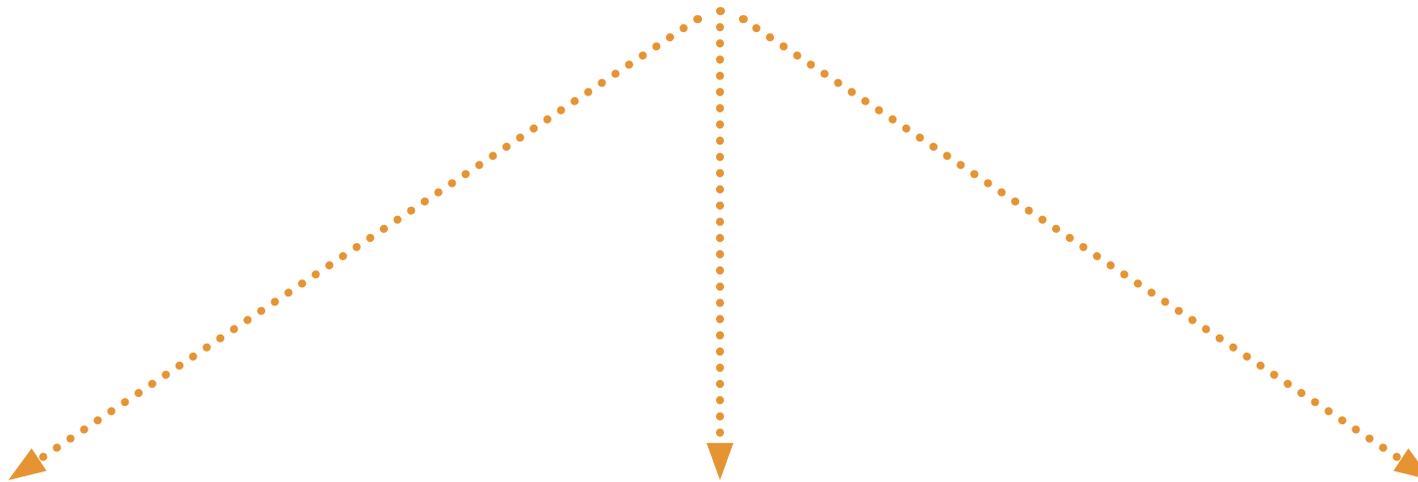


**MORE THAN 5 TRILLION PIECES OF
PLASTIC ARE ALREADY FLOATING IN
OUR OCEANS.**



Photo taken with our drone, Lulworth Cove, July 2020

OUR 3 GOALS



SAMPLING of microplastics

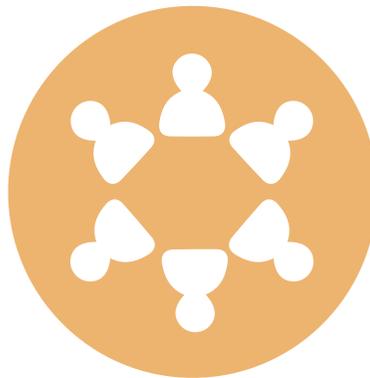
Together with Ocean Eye, we collect samples during our trip around the Atlantic Ocean. These are analyzed in their laboratory and will be added to a global open-access database.



GOAL 1

RAISING AWARENESS about plastic pollution in the oceans

Through social networks, workshops with our partners and meetings throughout our journey, we try to contribute to the global awareness of plastic pollution in the oceans and reach as many people as possible.



GOAL 2

CHALLENGING OURSELVES with sailing & humanity

Sailing and ocean crossings, but also meetings, discovering other cultures and landscapes, and ourselves. Together we want to continue to meet these challenges.



GOAL 3

SAMPLING OF MICROPLASTICS

GOAL 1



IN COLLABORATION WITH  **oceaneye**
as a volunteer sailboat

Ocean Eye is a non-profit organization, based in Geneva. They contribute to scientific research by conducting campaigns to collect and analyze samples of ocean surface water, and participates in the collective awareness of plastic pollution and its causes and effects. We have already collected 39 samples for OceanEye along the journey, and we will continue during the rest of the expedition.



Our sailboat Sanzaru collecting a sample



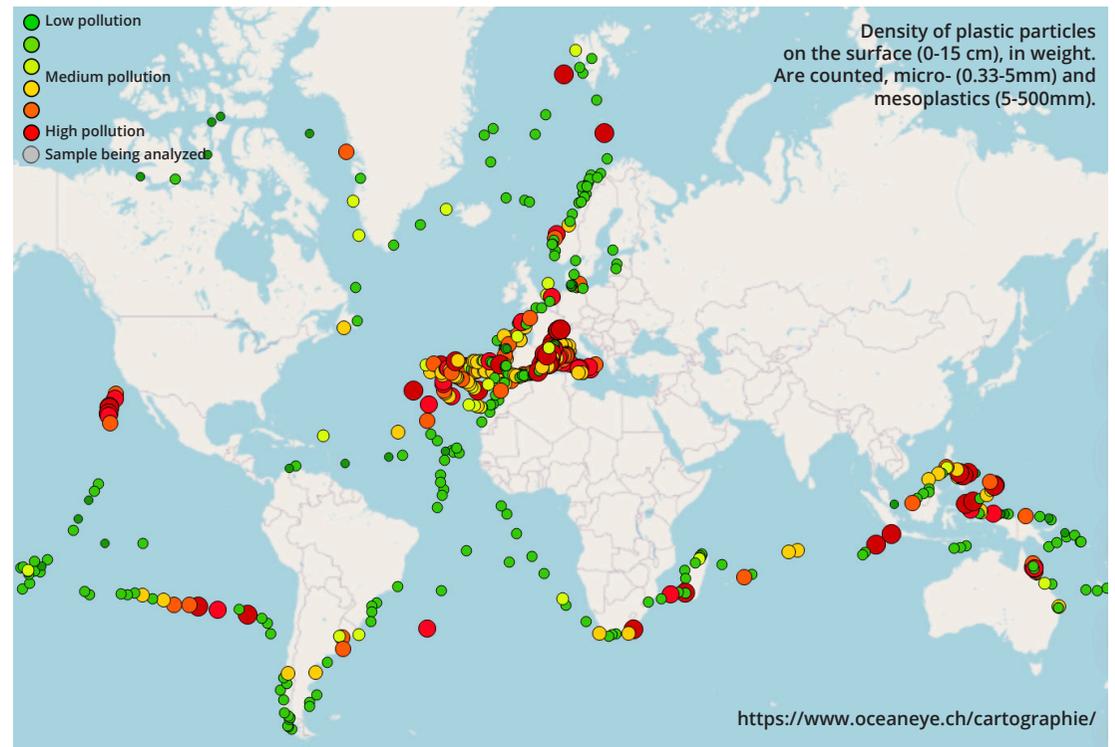
Analysis of a microplastic sample
© Arnaud Conne

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESEARCH
thanks to sample collections

By collecting microplastic samples, we contribute to scientific research. Our geolocated samples are sent to Ocean Eye who count and weigh the particles in the laboratories. The data thus generated is transmitted to the GRID department of the United Nations Environment Program and made available worldwide with its "geodata" geographic information system. Based on this data, the UN is making recommendations to member states to put in place laws limiting the use of single-use plastics.

COLLECT UNIQUE SAMPLES
in a poorly mapped area

Not all oceans are mapped in the same way. A lot of data have already been collected in the Mediterranean Sea, while the American East Coast is much less studied. By extending our journey to Canada, we were able to expand the database. Our goal is to continue this by sailing north.



Interactive map of microplastic pollution established by Ocean Eye, grouping all the samples collected by volunteer sailboats. It shows a lack of data from the East Coast of the USA to Canada.

RAISING AWARENESS

GOAL 2



MAKE THINGS CHANGE

by educating children and local communities

It's amazing to see the power our project already has in bringing local communities together around plastic pollution. We did an awareness week with 5 schools in Martinique with more than 100 students. We also organized about 15 other conferences throughout the trip, as well as workshops in Belgian schools and Quebec universities. We want to continue to raise awareness, even after our return!

THROUGH CONCRETE ACTIONS

such as beach clean-ups

From the beginning of our expedition, we decided to take at least 5 minutes on each beach where we pass to collect waste. Sometimes we even stayed there the whole day... It's frightening to see how much plastic pollution we saw everywhere. While transmitting our experience through the images we share, we hope to generate a change of mentality and contribute to the awareness of everyone of the plastic pollution in the oceans.

IT'S UP TO YOU!

to change your habits

Finally, we want to show everyone the urgency to change their habits. Every effort is worth it. Many solutions and tricks already exist, it is enough to pay a daily attention to them and everyone can quickly realize that it is not so complicated as that to reduce its plastic waste.

CHALLENGING OURSELVES

GOAL 3



THE PREPARATION OF THE SAILBOAT from an (almost) wreck to a brand new sailboat

In May 2019 we made the choice to buy a sailboat with a reliable structure but which needed a lot of work to make it safe, reliable and performant. This allowed us to do a lot of work ourselves, to adapt our boat to the project and to get to know every corner of it. For more than a year we have redone all the electricity, electronics, rudder, installation of a pilot, interior design ... and many other things.

Our rudder during the work on our sailboat in June 2020



CROSS THE OCEAN WHILE SAILING in autonomy for more than 22 days...

In 15 months we covered more than 11,000 nautical miles including two big ocean crossings (3 weeks from the Canaries to the Caribbean, and 2 weeks from the Caribbean to New York). These stages were great challenges both in terms of sailing and personally. We didn't always have easy weather conditions and that made us grow as sailors. We can't wait to cross the Atlantic back to Europe!

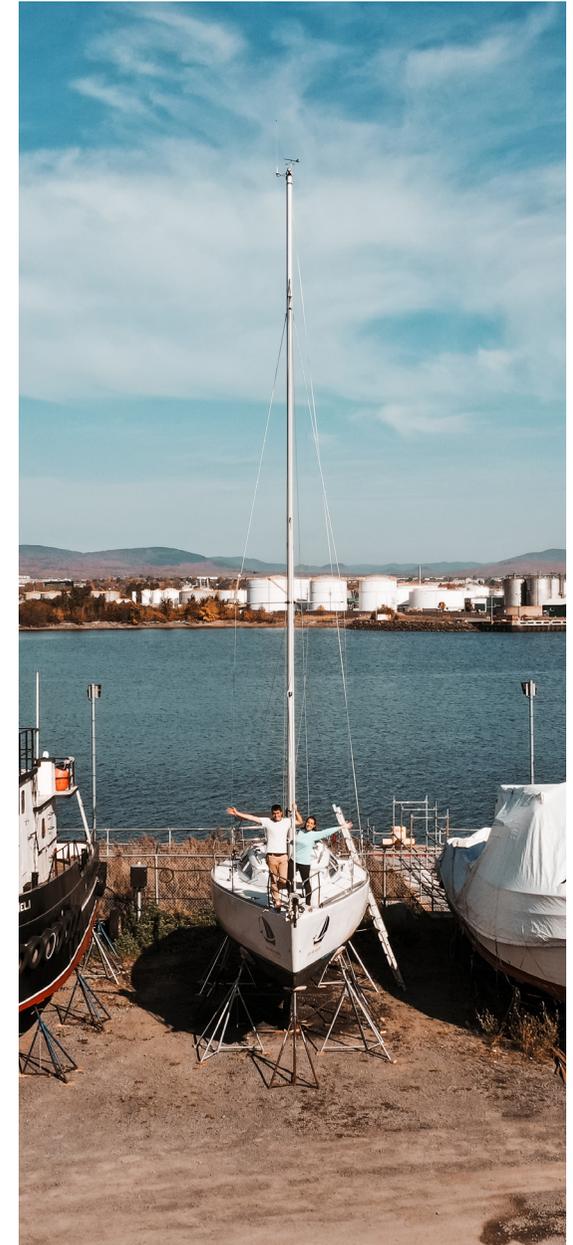
First Atlantic crossing in December 2020

GETTING READY FOR CHAPTER II hoping to cross through the North

After all these experiences, we want the second part of our expedition to be just as challenging, because it is these difficulties that make the project interesting. For our return to Europe, we have two possible routes: through the Azores or through the North. Our objective is the second option, which requires more work on our boat, but which will also be a bigger challenge for us, sailing in more hostile seas.



Storm during the crossing to New York in May 2021



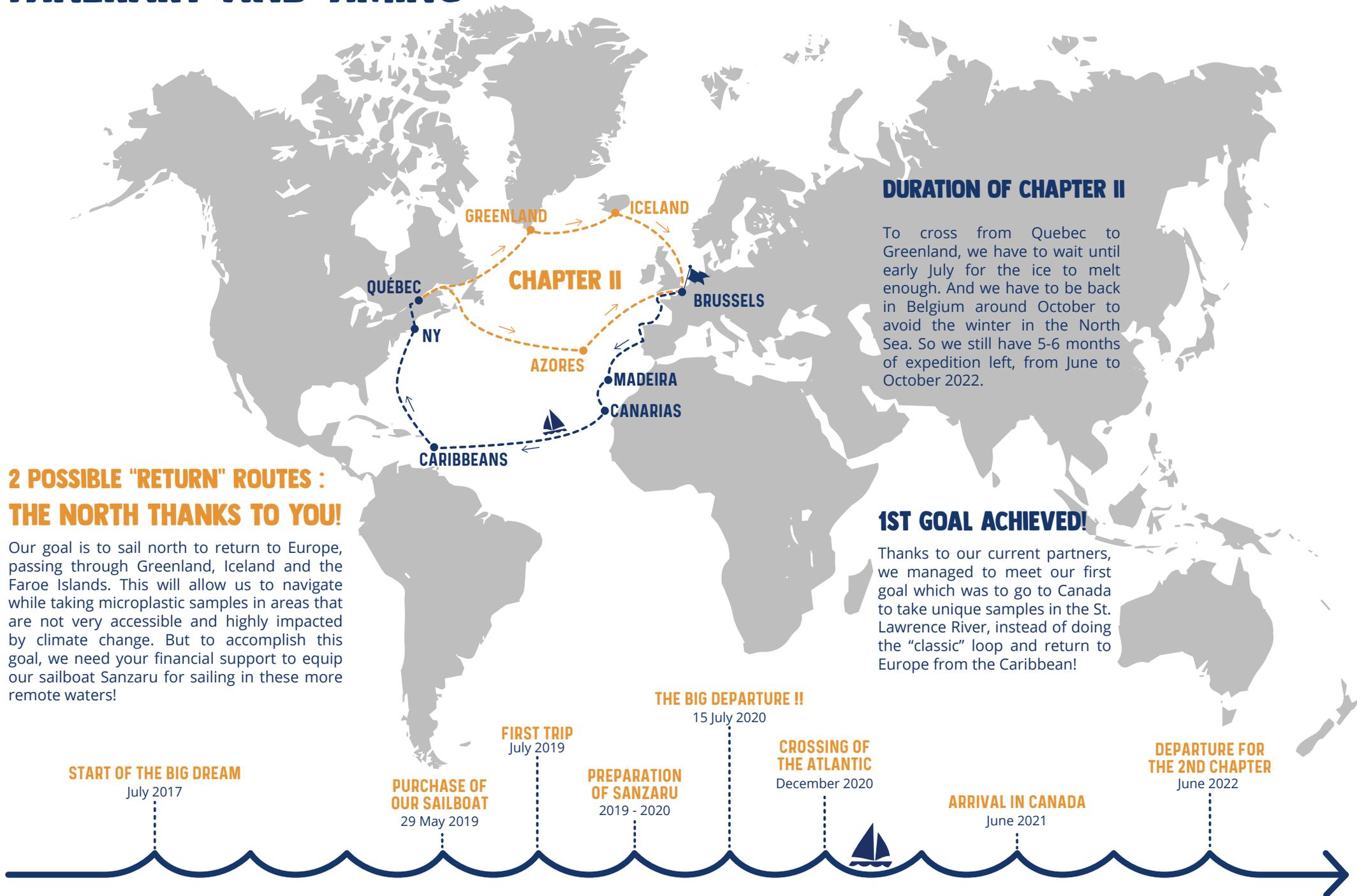
Sanzaru in the port of QC waiting for spring 2022 to leave

**ONLY 1/3 OF THE PLASTIC WASTE
IN THE OCEANS FLOATS ON THE SURFACE,
THE REST INVADED THE SEABED ...**



Photo taken with our drone, Atlantic Ocean, June 2021

ITINERARY AND TIMING



CHAPTER II : WHY CROSS THROUGH THE NORTH?

UNIQUE SAMPLES

taken in areas with difficult access

The waters around the Arctic Circle are not very accessible compared to the so-called “classic” Atlantic crossing routes. There is therefore very little data in these remote areas. If we cross through the north, we would have the opportunity to bring unique samples to improve the understanding of microplastic pollution.

SAIL TO ISOLATED AREAS

affected by climate change

We would sail to isolated areas affected by climate change. The accelerated melting of ice is disrupting marine currents. This creates an imbalance in local ecosystems. These areas are therefore much less resilient to plastic pollution, so it is important to measure their presence in order to model their impact on this fragile area.

A NEW SAILING CHALLENGE

instead of “simply” returning via the Azores

Sailing on the borders of the Arctic Circle represents many challenges. The icy environment, the frequent fog, the presence of icebergs and growlers (small ice cubes up to 120 tons) and the isolation from the shelters await us this summer. Sailing in these areas with a 10m sailboat is a huge challenge in itself. There are very few sailors who venture into these icy waters.



(P)REPAIRS OF THE SAILBOAT FOR THE NORTH



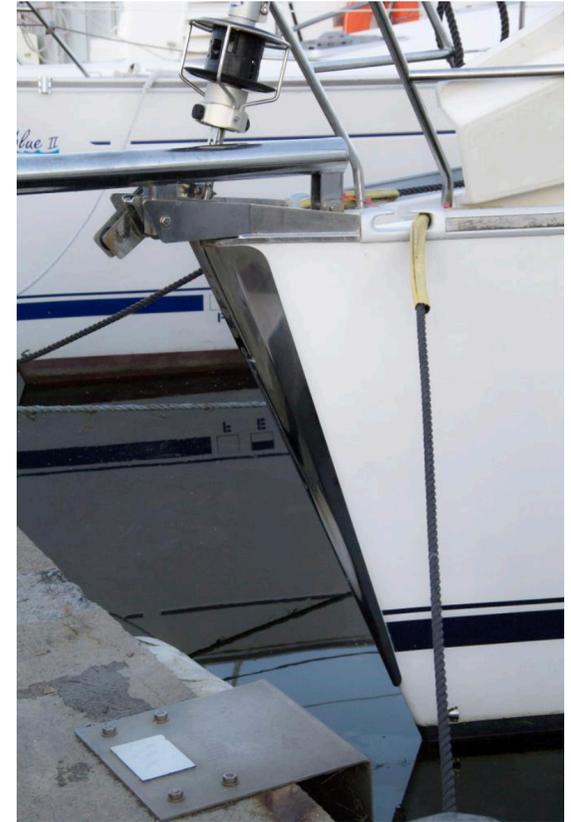
Raymarine radar

TECHNICAL CHALLENGES, we prepare for them!

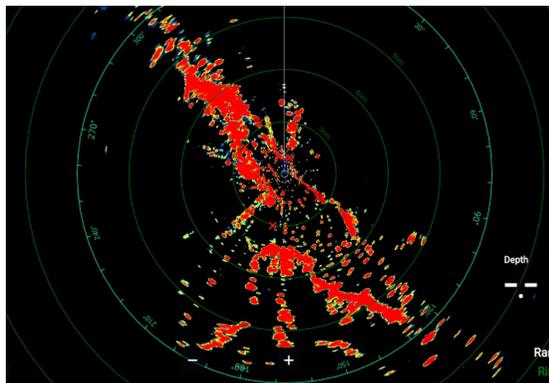
Sailing in high latitudes and skimming the polar circle requires a perfectly tidy boat. There is no possibility to stop and get the missing equipment at the next stop. But it is also necessary to provide equipment to face the particular conditions, the cold, the ice, the fog, the steep bottoms and to be totally autonomous in energy...

THE MISSING NAVIGATION TOOL to see icebergs

We are missing an essential piece of equipment for this navigation zone: a radar. It allows us to spot obstacles such as icebergs on the surface of the water even in zero visibility due to the frequent fog in the ice zones. We won't cross by the North without being equipped with a good radar. It is a safety tool that the Titanic did not have yet, and which could have saved many lives! ;)



Stainless steel bow protector



Raymarine radar display

AND OTHER ELEMENTS almost as indispensable

In addition to the radar, we have to equip ourselves with other elements that we would not need if we "simply" crossed the Azores: an integrated heater to keep warm but especially to dehumidify the interior, a bow protector in case we hit small icebergs, a good satellite phone subscription being mainly in remote places, etc. All these small sums form a considerable budget!



Built-in heater

**70% OF THE OXYGEN WE BREATHE IS
PRODUCED BY THE OCEANS!**



Photo taken with our drone, Antigua & Barbuda, May 2021

NOTRE BUDGET DU TOME II

THE BUDGET OF THE FIRST CHAPTER

with a successful crowdfunding

Convinced of the merits of our project and out of concern for the credibility of our to our partners, we financed more than half of the first chapter of the expedition (57 000\$CA). It took us several years of savings to put aside this amount of money. We had help from our partners for the expenses related to the preparation of the sailboat and the microplastic mission. We also collected 15 000\$CA thanks to a successful crowdfunding. We will never thank them enough!

THE NORTH, THANKS TO YOU

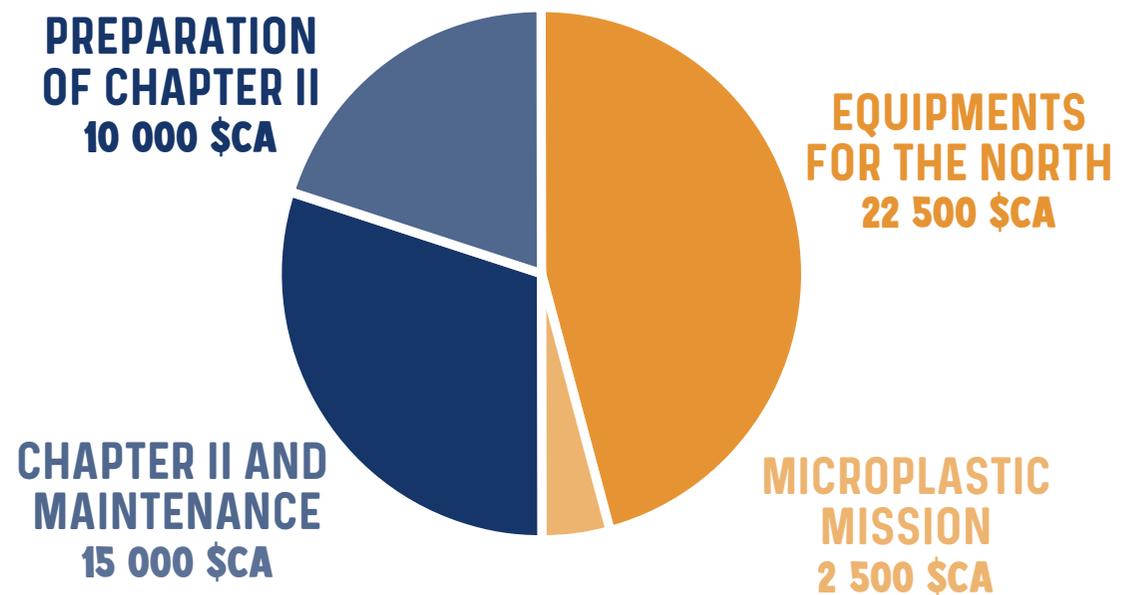
to collect unique samples

Very few OceanEye volunteer sailboats manage to take samples in Greenland, a rather hostile area for navigation. Our expedition would be a real added value for research if we could sail in this area of the planet and collect unique samples. However, sailing in these regions (instead of crossing the Azores) requires better equipment for our sailboat. And that's why we need your help!

A NEW RADAR

and other equipment to navigate to the North

We are currently in Quebec working to save money to make part II of the expedition possible. Our savings will be enough for our ship's kit and preparations (25 000 \$CA), but we need partners who will allow us to acquire a radar and equip our sailboat for these crossings to Greenland and Iceland, as well as for the microplastic mission. We are therefore looking for a total of 25 000 \$CA.



LEGENDE



Our savings



Our wanted partners

BUDGET IN DETAILS *



PREPARATION OF CHAPTER II

Harbour fees: craning, wintering, dry-dock	2 800 \$CA
Maintenance of the hull (anti-fouling...)	1 000 \$CA
Repair of portholes	1 500 \$CA
Engine overhaul	425 \$CA
Outboard motor overhaul	280 \$CA
Installation of new solar panels	385 \$CA
Welding repairs	280 \$CA
Revision of the sails	280 \$CA
Winch crank handle	140 \$CA
Navionics Navigation Charts	850 \$CA
Update of the on-board pharmacy	560 \$CA
Unexpected costs	1 500 \$CA

10 000 \$CA

CHAPTER II AND MAINTENANCE

Insurance (boat + health)	2 900 \$CA
Dashboard (6 months, 2pers)	8 500 \$CA
Visas, port taxes, PCR tests	600 \$CA
Boat repairs and unexpected expenses	3 000 \$CA

15 000 \$CA

 Our savings

 Our wanted partners

EQUIPMENTS FOR THE NORTH

Radar + support	4 000 \$CA
Built-in heater	4 000 \$CA
Purchase of storm sails	1 500 \$CA
Bow protection	2 500 \$CA
Inflatable fenders	750 \$CA
Ice axes and crampons	450 \$CA
Warm personal equipment	3000 \$CA
Polar survival suits (for 3 people)	3000 \$CA
150m mooring line for anchorage	300 \$CA
Second gas canister	150 \$CA
Tablet protection + external plug for radar	150 \$CA
Satellite phone + 6 month subscription	2700 \$CA

22 500 \$CA

MICROPLASTIC MISSION

Repair of the sampling net	700 \$CA
Sending samples by mail	150 \$CA
Video editing software license (to create the 2nd movie)	1500 \$CA
Communication (website, awareness, ...)	150 \$CA

2 500 \$CA

* Little anecdote: According to Roger Swanson, to estimate the cost of a sailing trip: make a detailed estimate of the planned expenses, then double it! ... oops;)

**IN 2050 THERE WILL BE MORE PLASTIC
IN THE OCEANS THAN FISH!**



Photo taken with our drone, St-Lawrence River, July 2021

LIVE THE EXPERIENCE THROUGH OUR PICTURES, OUR FILM!

@SEATHEPLASTIC



FOLLOW OUR ADVENTURE

on social networks

We have managed to create a real community while sharing our adventures on social networks. Thanks to the pictures we take and share during our expedition, we want to make you live the adventure while expressing honestly the (mis)adventures that happen to us. Our awareness projects, our crossings, our life on board ... everything is described openly. Let you escape with us!

A MOVIE OF OUR FIRST 15 MONTHS

entirely directed by Aline

With more than 700GB of videos taken during our first 15 months of expedition, we decided to create a one-hour film retracing the project from the purchase of our sailboat to the end of the first chapter of the expedition in October 2021. This was the first time we made a full-length film all by our own and the feedback from our premiere confirmed that our film is a success! We already showed our film in Belgium and Québec to more than 300 people. Our goal is now to present it in adventure film festivals!



Preview of our film with the University of Louvain Yacht Club in November 2021

VISIBILITY FOR OUR NEW PARTNERS

through a new film for the Chapter II

Due to the success of our film, we have decided to create another one that will retrace the crazy adventures we have yet to experience during the second chapter of the seatheplastic expedition. One more reason to want to cross the Atlantic by the North to show you even more breathtaking images and new adventures. We will keep a special place to thank our new partners by integrating their logo at the beginning or at the end of the film.



Screening of the film in Quebec City in December 2021



Conference and awareness following the screening

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

BECOME A MAIN PARTNER

To enable us to complete our expedition by heading north and collect unique samples while taking on the challenge of navigating these difficult waters, we need financial support! Your donation will allow us to install a radar on our sailboat to navigate safely between the icebergs. Contact us to determine together how best to represent your donation, through our film, articles, a logo on the sail... or conferences in your company!

BECOME A TECHNICAL PARTNER

Does your company sell nautical equipment that could interest us? You have services to offer us? Do you want to have brand ambassadors who travel the oceans and share their experience with your products? Then this option is for you! Boat equipment such as radar, storm sails, warm clothing for the North, photographic equipment ... we need a whole range of equipment to make our project a reality and share it with others!

MAKE A DONATION!

Since our departure, we are often asked: "I admire your project, how can I support you in my small way? So we created a fundraising where you can support us financially with the amount you want. Just go to our Okpal page to make a donation:

<https://www.okpal.com/seatheplastic/>

All the money collected will be used for the preparation of the chapter II of the seatheplastic expedition. Thank you in advance for your support!



WHAT WE DO FOR OUR PARTNERS!

Choose the package of your choice and embark on the adventure with us!

JOIN OUR MAIN PARTNERS WITH THE CAPTAIN'S PACK!



Logos of our main partners on the mainsail of our sailboat.

SITWEB : Your logo will be present among all our official partners on our website with a direct link to your website (highlighted place for the “captain” pack).
COMMUNICATION : We will share on our social networks a publication dedicated to your company to introduce you as a new partner.
IMAGES TO BE PUBLISHED : Obtaining the rights of use for the photos, logos and videos made available.
YOUR LOGO IN OUR FILM: A space dedicated to your logo as a partner at the end of our new film (Chapter II) .
YOUR LOGO IN OUR FILM: A space dedicated to your logo as a partner at the beginning of our new film (Chapter II) .
YOUR LOGO ON THE BOOM : Your logo on our sailboat thanks to a space dedicated to your company on the boom of the boat (on both sides). *
YOUR LOGO ON THE SAIL : Your logo on our mainsail with our other main partners, cfr. the picture on the previous page (size according to the donation). *
VISIT OUR SAILBOAT : Come and visit our sailboat before our departure and share a moment with the crew, where we will explain the whole process of plastic sampling. **
SAIL ON THE ST-LAWRENCE RIVER : Come and enjoy a 2 hour sailing trip on our sailboat in the Old Port of Quebec for 4 people (date to be determined between May 16 and 20, 2022). **
CONFERENCES : A screening of our film (Chapter I) followed by a question/answer session in your company (before mid-May 2022 in Quebec, after October 2022 in Belgium). **

CAPTAIN'S PACK > 4 000 \$CA	CREW'S PACK > 1 500 \$CA	DECK-HAND'S PACK > 500 \$CA
★	★	★
★	★	★
★	★	★
★	★	
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	★	
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Conference and awareness following the screening of the film

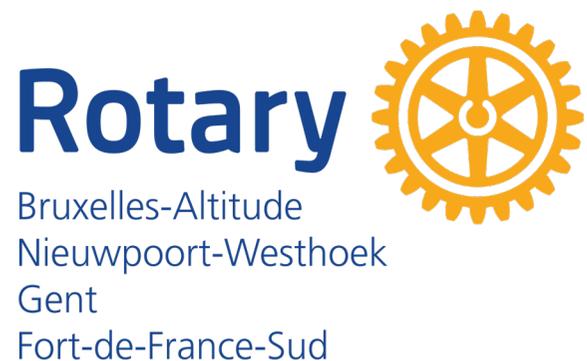


Visit of the sailboat and explanation of the microplastics sampling process.

* logo printing costs not included
 ** transportation costs not included

THEY ALREADY SUPPORT US!

OUR MAIN PARTNERS :



architecture 2 design



OUR PARTNERS :



AND OUR 178 CROWDFUNDERS WHO ALLOWED US TO COLLECT 10 910 €, THANK YOU!

EMBARK ON THE ADVENTURE WITH US!

Follow us and share with your friends, on the way to the chapter II of the expedition...



Photo prise par Fabien Boone, Douarnenez, Juillet 2017

Follow us on our journey

@seatheplastic



SEA THE PLASTIC
- EXPEDITION -

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