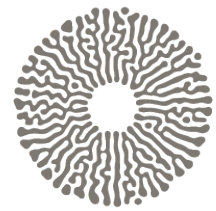




OceanoScientific Mediterranean Contaminants Expedition 2020

Monaco - Porto Cervo - Barcelona
La Seyne-sur-Mer - Monaco



AMAALA

Yvan Griboval leaves for another *OceanoScientific Expedition*

Monaco, Tuesday 6 October - Yvan Griboval, navigator of *Club des Explorateurs* from the Yacht Club de Monaco, will set off on another oceanographic campaign on Thursday, 15 October at 3:00 p.m. from the YCM's main pontoon at the controls of the **AMAALA EXPLORER** maxi-catamaran, which had its heyday twenty-years ago when it was named *CLUB MED* flying the flag of the Yacht Club de Monaco, by winning *The Race 2000*, the first non-stop round-the-world race in a crewed multihull. A fine illustration of circular economy and sustainability.

The scientific purpose of the campaign will consist in collecting samples of chemical contaminants - metallic and organic - according to the recommendations of the Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (Ifremer), which is supervising the scientific aspects of this *OceanoScientific Contaminants Mediterranean Expedition 2020*. The 1,500 nautical mile (2,800 km) course will run from Monaco to Porto Cervo, Barcelona, La Seyne-sur-Mer and Monaco. The expedition will end on Thursday, 29 October at 11:00 am in Monaco.

On recommendation from Ifremer, two distinct scientific methods will be applied.

The **AMAALA EXPLORER** maxi-catamaran will allow the crew, including the young Swedish marine biologist Linn Sekund, in turn to study the mouths of the three main rivers of the western Mediterranean: the Tiber, not far from Rome (Italy), the Ebro between Barcelona and Valencia (Spain) and the Rhone, west of Marseille (France). There, using the **AMAALA EXPLORER's** inflatable dinghy, Yvan Griboval and Linn Sekund will collect samples and also install two sets of passive sensors approximately 1.50 meters below the surface of the sea on beacon buoys.

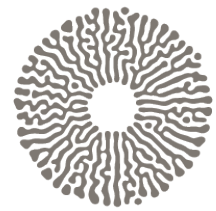
The sensors will not be recovered until the first week of November, to give them time to store sufficient quantities of contaminants for precision analyses. The Diffusive Gradient Thin Films (DGT) integrative passive sampling technique and the Stir Bar Sorptive Extraction (SBSE) technique are excellent in terms of sensitivity and simplicity. The sampling will concentrate on the trace metals of cadmium (Cd), lead (Pb), nickel (Ni) and mercury (Hg). Although naturally present in the environment, it is their exceptionally high concentration which poses a risk for marine fauna and flora, starting with plankton, the first organisms to be poisoned at the outset of the food chain.

During the expedition, nine locations will be used to collect samples which will then be stored in the onboard freezer and handed over to researchers at Ifremer Toulon on Wednesday 28 October during a port call in La Seyne-sur-Mer. The scientists will quantify and analyze the concentration of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and tributyltins (TBT), all of which are organic compounds. They too poison the food chain until it ends up in our plates.



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In addition to Ifremer, which has partnered with the *OceanoScientific Programme* since its inception on 14 November 2006 and Biologique Recherche, which has worked alongside the OceanoScientific France association for almost ten years, the major partner and sponsor of this *OceanoScientific Contaminants Mediterranean Expedition 2020* is AMAALA. The international team in charge of developing this incredibly beautiful Saudi Arabian site has been tasked by the Saudi Kingdom to preserve its environment and, in particular, the magnificent coral reefs in the Red Sea, and to balance its carbon footprint.

Designed to evolve and elevate the very best in travel, **AMAALA**, located along Saudi Arabia's north western coast, is an ultra-luxury destination that focuses on transformative personal journeys inspired by wellness, arts, culture and the purity of the Red Sea.

The unique heritage and unspoiled landscape of AMAALA will allow travelers to immerse themselves in the finest wellness, art, culture, sports and fitness offerings. With close proximity to major destinations in the region, including Riyadh, Dubai and Istanbul, AMAALA will become the heart of the Riviera of the Middle East founded and developed to embody the principles of nature conservation and the imperatives of sustainability.

For more than 40 years, **Biologique Recherche** has been providing its customers with tailor-made cosmetic expertise, exceptional personalized care and recognized clinical efficiency, making people the core concern of this approach to aesthetic care. Biologique Recherche helps improve the quality and health of the skin, a source of self-esteem. In the cosmetics sector, reducing the environmental footprint concerns both the production sites and the design of products and their packaging. For several years, Biologique Recherche has integrated these issues into its business strategy. Environmental conservation is also considered to involve Ocean conservation, hence its commitment as a founding member of OceanoScientific France (01/07/11).

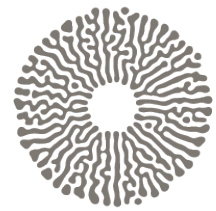
After having studied fifteen potential candidates in three years since his return, on 2 June 2017, from his single-handed, round-the-world journey on the first oceanographic sailing campaign with no CO2 emissions under the 40th Southern Parallel, Yvan Griboval has chosen the 110-foot (33.50 m) maxi-catamaran **AMAALA EXPLORER** formerly (*OCEAN PEARL* and *CLUB MED*), winner of the only two crewed multihull races around the world, *The Race 2000* and the *Oryx Quest 2005*.

Yvan and Cécile Griboval, working together in the SailingOne company, have chartered this legendary multihull designed and built in 1999 by the Multiplast shipyard (Vannes - France) for the OceanoScientific associations, to temporarily make it the new *OceanoScientific Explorer* flying the flag of AMAALA and thus carry out the *OceanoScientific Contaminants Mediterranean Expedition 2020*.



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"In fact, this short two-week expedition will allow us to see if the yacht is genuinely suitable for our forthcoming OceanoScientific Expeditions", explains Yvan Griboval. "We know that the maxi-catamaran is capable of sailing in the difficult conditions of the Far South, given the two wins that it carried off there with style. But we want to check that it is also suitable for our work on contaminants and, potentially from next spring onwards, to carry out a series of unprecedented assignments to discover, study and save coral".

It will also be an opportunity to welcome on board some celebrities of international sailing, such as Spaniards Theresa Zabell, the most successful woman in the world in sailing with two gold medals at the Olympics and five World Championship titles, and Guillermo Altadill, winner of *The Race 2000* aboard this superb catamaran and who many times has also won all kinds of sailing categories, after having been the trainer of Fernando León whom he helped win the Gold Medal in the Tornado class at the Barcelona Olympics (1992).

"I also wish to take advantage of this sailing expedition to highlight the fact that the people of the Muslim Middle East had a number of great navigators little known in Catholic Europe. We shall therefore be particularly honoured to welcome aboard Ahmed Almaghaselah, a young Saudi seafarer who already has a good deal of sailing experience," says Yvan Griboval. "We also hope in the future to allow a large number of young Saudi Arabians to learn about offshore sailing and to LOVE THE OCEAN. Remember that nearly 60% of the Saudi population is under 30 years old..."

After leaving Monaco and a large detour via the mouth of the Tiber, the **AMAALA EXPLORER** maxi-catamaran will call at the **Yacht Club Costa Smeralda** in Porto Cervo, where a joint conference is scheduled with the **One Ocean Foundation** on the theme of their own campaign to collect microplastics all around Sardinia and that of the *OceanoScientific Contaminants Mediterranean Expedition 2020*.

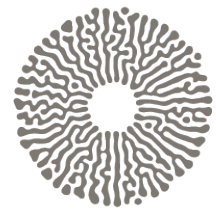
The conference will be held in the presence of the crews competing in the *Audi Sailing Champions League* involving some thirty teams from more than fifteen countries. It will provide an opportunity to make this population of international regatta racers aware of the need to preserve the Ocean by reducing the use of polluting materials, first and foremost plastics of all kinds.

The **AMAALA EXPLORER** maxi-catamaran will then head to Barcelona to be welcomed by the **Fundació Navegació Oceànica Barcelona** (FNOB), renowned for organizing several editions of the *Barcelona World Race* and for allowing many young Spanish sailors to rise through the ranks of Ocean racing leading to the *Vendée Globe*.



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The port call will be supervised by Theresa Zabell, as President-Founder of the **Fundación Ecomar**, which celebrated its twentieth anniversary last year. The foundation, which invites young people to practice sailing and the Spanish public to help preserve the Ocean, in particular by reducing sources of plastic pollution, is one of the oldest in Europe in this respect. FNOB and the Fundación Ecomar have organized an agenda filled with conferences and activities to make the most of the port call by the **AMAALA EXPLORER** maxi-catamaran.

After a weekend in Barcelona, the crew will set sail for the mouth of the Rhone. *"I think this voyage will be the most hectic of the Expedition, if not the most delicate,"* explains Yvan Griboval. *"We will have to cross the Gulf of Lion, which already a complex task in the summer, but frankly windy and choppy with short, powerful waves at this time of the year. But if we succeed in hugging the Spanish coast long enough to take shelter as far as the redoubtable Cap Creus, which virtually marks the border between Spain and France, we shall have an exceptional speed run recalling the heyday of this unique catamaran, which is particularly at ease in a strong crosswind, which is what it was designed for."*

Leaving the station at the mouth of the Rhone, the **AMAALA EXPLORER** maxi-catamaran will make its way to La Seyne-sur-Mer in order to hand over the samples collected in the nine stations of the course to **Ifremer Toulon** on Wednesday 28 October, before the final arrival in Monaco on Thursday 29 October at 11:00 am in the presence of Sovereign Prince Albert II of Monaco.

Before the 40-meter mast-wing signals the arrival of the oceanographic sailboat above the Monegasque docks, the photographer **Greg Lecoeur** will present the Sovereign Prince with an exhibition of his photos of plankton taken offshore - and not under a laboratory microscope - and staged by Yvan Griboval on a plankton fresco 13 meters long and two meters high, entitled **LOVE THE OCEAN® Exhibition - Greg Lecoeur**. The exhibition has been set up with the support of the **Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation**.

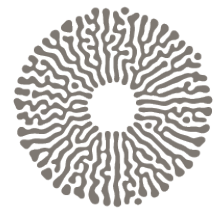
"While almost everyone has realized that plastic pollution is an appalling scourge for the Ocean, I want to show just how remarkable plankton are, as well as being the first to be poisoned in their natural environment," says Yvan Griboval.

"Providing Greg Lecoeur with an occasion to show Monaco his incredible talent as an underwater photographer of the infinitely small was therefore an obvious choice. These tiny beings a few centimetres long are at the bottom rung of the food chain. Once poisoned, they transmit the contaminants to beings larger than themselves. And all of the poison that we human beings make and dump by thousands of tons into the sea ends up on our plates. Respecting plankton means saving future generations."



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*"When I arrived ashore on 2 June 2017 after 152 days of sailing from Monaco to Monaco via the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn, I had the idea of raising the general public's awareness about Ocean conservation using one of the greatest common denominators of Humankind: Music," explains Yvan Griboval. "Not being familiar with such a hermetic circle and despite some useful introductions, for nearly three years I wandered from Paris to Los Angeles and from one fruitless contact to another, before realizing - in the manner of Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist* - that we had the pearl I sought right here in Monaco. Contact was made with the young Monegasque singer-songwriter **Olivia Dorato**, to whom we have successfully entrusted the production of the Anthem **LOVE THE OCEAN®**."*

*"We gave Olivia a very complete, even complex, briefing with key words and imposed expressions, making her task even more difficult! With great talent Olivia beautifully translated our wishes and dreams into wonderful words, with a haunting melody over which she laid her delicate voice. The Anthem of the Ocean was created at the start of last summer. Then the Sovereign Prince, who closely followed my musical obstacle course, provided us with a superb performance by the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic Orchestra (OPMC) to record the philharmonic version of **LOVE THE OCEAN®**, arranged by Didier Favre."*

A few minutes before the **AMAALA EXPLORER** maxi-catamaran docks at the honorary pontoon of the Yacht Club de Monaco on Thursday, 29 October 2020, Olivia Dorato will present this pop-philharmonic Anthem of the Ocean to the Sovereign Prince using the sound system of the YCM marina.

In the future, the **LOVE THE OCEAN®** anthem will accompany all of the *OceanoScientific Expeditions*.

In order to scrupulously respect the instructions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Monegasque **Bettimask** Company has provided masks bearing the logo of the OceanoScientific associations to the crew of the maxi-catamaran and to the team organizing the *OceanoScientific Mediterranean Expedition 2020*.