



plastic change

Expedition Denmark 2018

sailing the plastic soup: research, awareness and action

PRESS RELEASE

Hanna Verboom on plastic soup sailing expedition

Rotterdam, 30 July 2018 – This Wednesday August 1st a team of Dutch foundation By the Ocean we Unite departs from Rotterdam on a 22-day sailing expedition to Denmark. The goal is to do research and create awareness about the plastic in our oceans. On board will be a diverse group of scientists, filmmakers, enthusiastic participants and impact makers. One of them is Dutch social entrepreneur and filmmaker Hanna Verboom.

Earlier this year Hanna Verboom made an interview series with National Geographic about plastic pollution and she was closely involved in the #stopmetplastic campaign. *‘The conversations about plastic pollution made a big impression on me. We are addicted to disposable plastic and we often do not understand the effect of this. A great deal of research is needed so that we can properly assess the consequences for people and the environment. Expeditions such as these play an important role in this’*, says Verboom, who participates as a filmmaker. In addition, Kiko Matthews, who recently became the fastest woman to solo row the Atlantic, also joins the onboard crew.

During the expedition, a special fishing net will be used to carry out scientific research on plastic in the North Sea. Data will be shared with various international organisations, including the American 5 Gyres Institute, which maps out plastic pollution in seas and oceans worldwide. On the way, the team will visit scientists from the University of Roskilde, GEOMAR in Kiel and the NIOZ on Texel. They will also participate in a citizen science project of Leiden University. Dr. Nanne van Hoytema, scientific research coordinator of the expedition: *“We hope to make a valuable contribution to science. At the same time, I hold my heart. During an earlier expedition off the coast of Normandy, we found no less than 130,199 pieces of visible plastic per square kilometer of surface water!”*

In addition to carrying out scientific research, the expedition’s goal is to create awareness. Not only among the participants, but also among the wider public, plastic producers and policymakers. Various events are organized along the way, including public lectures, public beach clean-ups and a network meeting at the UN. Guests on board are also actively involved. *“It’s great to see how the participants become passionate ocean ambassadors when they leave the ship after such an intense expedition. They are the extension of our organisation”*, says expedition leader Karl Beerenfenger.

The sailing trip is a collaboration with the Danish Plastic Change. It is fifth the expedition of the foundation since being founded two years ago. The appealing aspect of a sailing ship in the open sea, her strength in storytelling and contributions to this planet. Earlier expeditions took place to Norway, Scotland and the Channel Islands.

The team, the planned and sailed route, the weather conditions and the research results can be followed live via the website, thanks to the so-called OCTOPUS system provided by ABB. In September the foundation sails

a weekend expedition to the Wadden Sea. Interested parties can register via the website:
www.bytheoceanweunite.org

Note for the editors

For the extensive program, see the website: <https://www.bytheoceanweunite.org/expedition-denmark-2018/>
Download the presskit: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=11DtnUt2zDY399Oe555ghA76SejUE1Sgi>

Contact person

By the Ocean we Unite - Karl Beerenfenger, expedition leader – 0031-6-18632023

Invitation to 'sail out' Rotterdam

You are very welcome to sail with us during the first part of the expedition along the river Maas to shoot beautiful images and to conduct interviews.

What: 'Sail out' Expedition Denmark 2018

Where: Sailing ship Fantastiko, moored opposite Admiraliteitskade 60 in Rotterdam

When: Wednesday August 1st, departure 01.00pm, welcome from 12.00pm

To: Parkkade 1 (45 min. sailing) or Burgemeester van der Lelykade 1 (135 min. sailing) - we stop at both places, in case you still need time to edit.

Ship details

Name: Fantastiko

Type: Two-master Ketch

Length: 26 / 20 meters (air / water)

Depth: 2.7 meters

Width: 5.5 meters

Skipper: Huub Veeneman

Built: 2002-2012

Background: Construction carried out as part of a Youth Care project in which 200 young people and dozens of experts built the ship. It has been awarded a hallmark by Register Holland. After construction, skipper Huub Veeneman took over the ship from the province of North Holland and sailed to Rotterdam. By the Ocean we Unite has sailed all previous North Sea expeditions on the Fantastiko.

Participation Hanna Verboom

She joins from Copenhagen till Kiel (12-17 August)