



OceanoScientific Mediterranean Contaminants Expedition 2020

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



AMAALA

Arrival at La Seyne-sur-Mer / Port of Toulon (France)

La Seyne-sur-Mer, Monday 26 October - The **AMAALA EXPLORER** ex-**CLUB MED** maxi-catamaran was welcomed in the early morning on Saturday 24 October, more than three days in advance, by the teams of the Ports of Toulon Provence Méditerranée in the large dock of La Seyne-sur-Mer where Yves Le Blévec's **ACTUAL LEADER** ex-**SODEBO** maxi-trimaran is currently stationed, along with the replica of the **ATLANTIC** schooner on which the American skipper Charlie Barr (1864 - 1911), triple winner of the *America's Cup*, in 1905 set the record for crossing the Atlantic in barely twelve days - a record broken by Eric Tabarly in 1980. So now three sailboats that have marked the history of Yachting are currently moored in this highly sheltered port in the Var region.

"The reason for our advance is simple," explained Yvan Griboval as he set foot on land on Saturday morning. "Christian Dumard, our router, made us leave Barcelona quickly on Friday morning because heavy weather was approaching in the Gulf of Lion. The crossing would have been dangerous, because our rig is twenty years old and we are not the same crew that Grant Dalton (New Zealand) and Franck Proffit (France), co-skippers of CLUB MED had when they won The Race 2000! We are sparing our rig. The OceanoScientific Mediterranean Contaminants Expedition 2020 is an oceanographic sailing campaign without any CO2 emissions. It is neither a competition, nor an attempt to break a record. So we are sailing cautiously."

"We have successfully taken samples 7 and 8," Linn Sekund, Team OceanoScientific's marine biologist announced. "On the other hand, I had scheduled a 9th sample in the middle of the Gulf of Lion. But the wind and sea conditions, as well as being in the dark of the night, did not allow us to take the ninth sample."

If the port call at La Seyne-sur-Mer / Toulon is mainly due to the presence of the **Ifremer** Méditerranée center, a major scientific partner of this *OceanoScientific Expedition*, it is also to highlight the work carried out for many years by the **Toulon Provence Mediterranean Metropolitan Authority** (TPM) and its eight ports, including that of La Seyne - Brégaillon where the **AMAALA EXPLORER** is moored.

Indeed, whether on a daily basis or in carrying out major maritime works, TPM aims to reduce the impact of port activities on the Environment. All of its ports have committed, since 2009, to a sustainable development process and since 2011 to the "Ports Propres" certification process. By engaging in such initiatives, TPM wants to reconcile economic and tourist uses with the preservation of the marine environment and landscapes.



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Over the next few hours, the crew of the **AMAALA EXPLORER** maxi-catamaran will prepare the last trip of this *OceanoScientific Mediterranean Contaminants Expedition 2020* from La Seyne-sur-Mer to the Marina of the Yacht Club de Monaco, where the legendary sailboat is due to arrive on Thursday 29 October at 11:00, an appointment having been made with the Sovereign Prince Albert II of Monaco who will hand over the moorings to Yvan Griboval - the opposite of what happened on Thursday 15 October around 16:00, when the **AMAALA EXPLORER** set sail for Porto Cervo at the invitation of the One Ocean Foundation and the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda.

Before that, on Wednesday 28 October at 11:00 a.m., in the large dock of La Seyne-sur-Mer - Brégaillon, Yvan Griboval and Linn Sekund will hand over the precious samples to Vincent Rigaud, Director of the Ifremer Méditerranée center and more particularly to Christophe Brach-Papa and Jean-Louis Gonzales, the scientists who are overseeing this novel oceanographic sailing campaign, carried out thanks to the invaluable support of AMAALA and Biologique Recherche.

CREW: **Yvan Griboval** (Expedition Director / France) - **Maciej Piejko** (Boat Captain / Watch Captain / Poland) - **Pascal Brouin** (Watch Captain / France) - **Maxime Dreno** (Second in command to Yvan Griboval / Helmsman / France) - **Frédéric Dahirel** (Second in command to Maciej Piejko / Helmsman / France) - **Linn Sekund** (Scientist / Sweden) - **Xavier Ciurana Llorens** (Crewmate / Spain) - **Manu Valadés Escobar** (On Board Reporter / Spain) - **Marc Archer** (AMAALA Director of sports / New Zealand).