

On the morning of Saturday the 20th of March 2010 David de Rothschild, Jo Royle, David Thomson, and Olav Heyerdahl along with our cameraman Vern Moen and National Geographic film maker Max Jourdan set sail from under the Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco, followed by a fleet of well wishers. Over one hundred and fifty people came down to watch the Plastiki depart and to wave the crew off, the support was amazing and made for a very memorable day.

After eleven days and over 900 nautical miles, the Plastiki and her crew are now finally alone with Mother Nature, and although there has been only one other vessel and an aeroplane in sight since their first night, there is still one place where they haven't managed to escape the presence of humanity's fingerprints; amongst the waves. On one day alone they sailed past two jerry cans, one garden tray, two fishing buoys and a large white PVC tray amongst many other smaller pieces of plastic debris. This highlights the Plastiki's mission to beat waste. Waste is fundamentally inefficient design; with more efficient design and a smarter understanding of how we use materials, principally plastic, waste can be transformed into a valuable resource, in turn helping to lessen our plastic fingerprints on the world's oceans.

The weather continues to be unpredictable, on Wednesday the winds were very light resulting in the Plastiki bobbing along at only 1.5 knots which was then contrasted by stronger winds on Thursday when they were able to raise the large spinnaker and reach 6.0 knots.

The crew are currently travelling towards the Line Islands, making good progress, utilizing all of the boat's features and even experimenting with new ideas; David de Rothschild mentions inventing a bucket washing machine system whilst Olav Heyerdahl; grandson of Thor Heyerdahl and carpenter by trade, is creating a 'surprise something' out of a piece of wood that he brought on board with him. Noted during Thor Heyerdahl's Kon-Tiki expedition of 1947 was the abundance of fish throughout the journey. In stark contrast the crew have seen barely any and have caught none, thankfully installed on the Plastiki mast is an innovative cylindrical hydroponic garden from Inka (www.inka.fm), enabling the crew to eat fresh greens throughout their trip.

These interesting types of ideas are akin to what first inspired the team to create an essentially 'off-the-grid' vessel relying primarily on renewable energy systems. The team of designers behind the Plastiki were conscious to prove that innovative design and development could create a boat like no other, completely independent whilst still being fully upcyclable. The vessel was uniquely constructed in San Francisco and takes the form of a 60-foot catamaran engineered from 12,500 reclaimed bottles and a fully recyclable and largely unexplored material called Seretex.

With three hours on watch and three hours off, the crew are quickly getting to grips with sailing the high seas on such an unusual mission. The daily blogs from the boat provide an insight into the lives of these six adventurers. Enabling the public to follow the adventure, feed their curiosity and witness the challenges that our oceans and its inhabitants face will hopefully inspire the watching world to get involved and create their own ecological adventure.

For further information please go to www.theplastiki.com

Photography, b-roll and press information available online at www.theplastiki.com/press

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