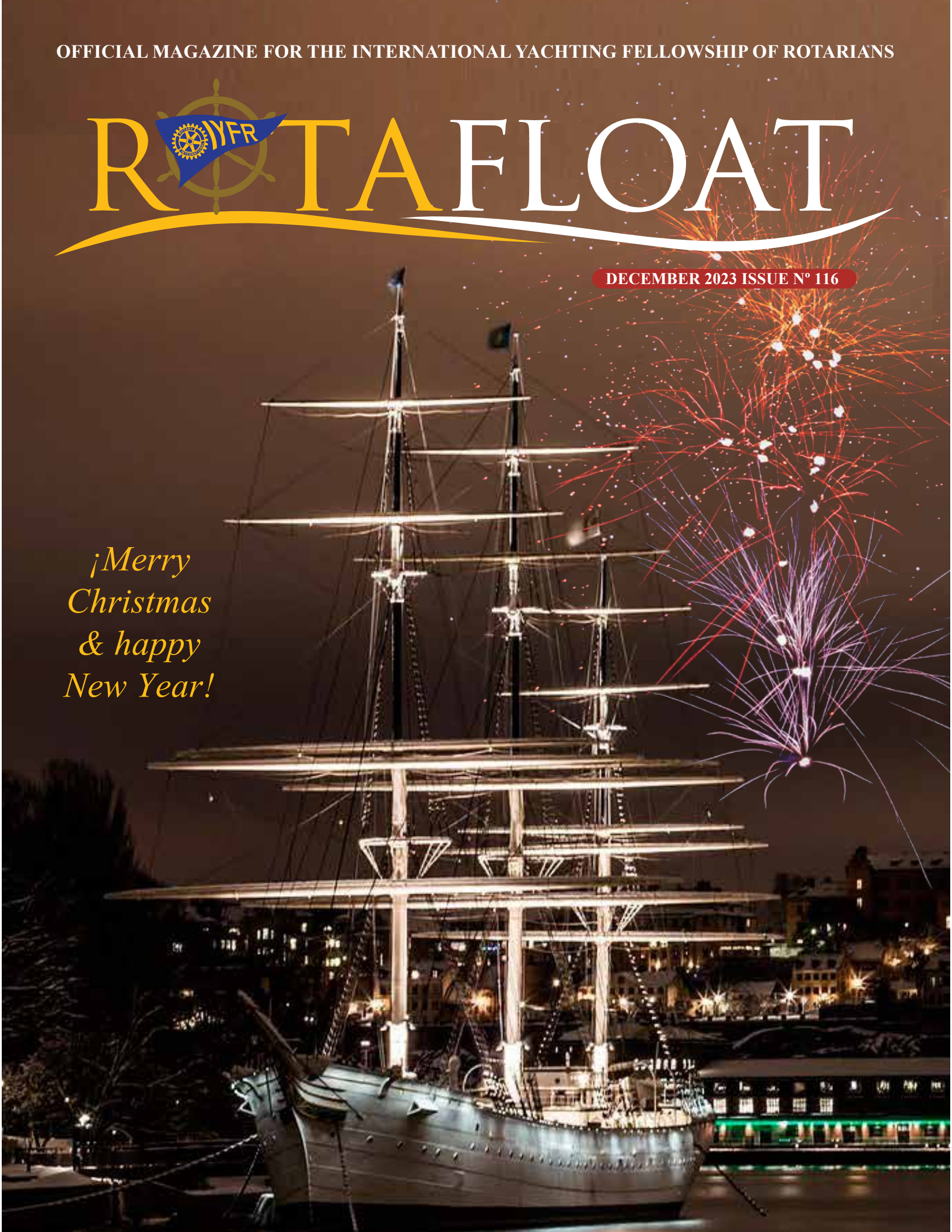


OFFICIAL MAGAZINE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS

# ROTAFLOAT

























DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE N° 116

*¡Merry  
Christmas  
& happy  
New Year!*





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE'S MESSAGE	2
	INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE 2023 - 2025	3
	INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE 2023 - 2025 PHOTOGRAPHS	4
	AREA 2 AGM 2024	5
	PLASTIC FREE WATERS APP	9
	AGM ITALY REGION 2024	11
	IN TRIBUTE TO VICE GOVERNOR RAMON LACBAIN	12
	IN MEMORIAM FC LUCIANO DEGIAMMA	14
	I NATIONAL CONGRESS VALENCIA TO THE SEA	15
	BARCOLANA REGATTA	18
	IN THE ELCANO WAKE 500 YEARS LATER	20
	ITALY REGION AND THE SAFETY AT SEA	23
	CANCUN OCEAN & SAND FLEET'S ACTIVITIES	27
	DELTA FLEET - MICROPLASTICS	29
	AROUND THE WORLD AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION	33
	MEDICAL CARE ON THE ISLANDS	36
	AREA 3 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	37
	ZERO WASTE TO NATURE	39
	PHILIPPINES REGION - BEACH AND OCEAN CLEANUP	42
	CIRCLE OF FRIENDS FLEET	43
	ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT - GSP SEA FLEET	44
	ECOSYSTEM MARINE PROJECT	46
	INSPIRING PHILIPPINE FLEET	48
	WORLD CLASS PHILIPPINE FLEET	50



DECEMBER 2023 N° 116



*WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR!*

### ROTA FLOAT'S CORRESPONDENTS

Thanks to the collaboration of the Rota float's correspondents, this edition has been possible. Our public gratefulness.

Zedrik T. Avecilla  
Carlos Barrios Cardozo  
Marian Domenech Castañer  
Manfredo De Paolis  
Bernardo Rabassa Asenjo  
Alessandro D'onofrio  
Hilda Cardona  
Arturo Supangan

Jéssica Paola Chiarandini Fiore  
Hugo Klopstein  
Nelia Cruz Sarcol  
Jonathan Diaz  
Rollz Elan Maningas  
Franco Martin Macatangay  
Evelyn Yun

*Silvia Callorda, editor*





**Angélica Mesistrano**  
INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE



# INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

December 2023

Dear Commodores and mariners,

To crown the year 2023, we have several events to celebrate. With great satisfaction I can comment that our fellowship is growing in the three Areas. New IYForians join our fleets in various countries. The Taiwan Unique Seven fleet was founded in Area 3, with 61 founding members. Two new fleets are being formed in Area 1. We welcome new IYForians.

I had the pleasure of attending, via zoom, the Area 3 Annual General Meeting, which took place on December 6 in Tainan, Taiwan. It was an excellent meeting with attendees from Japan, the Philippines and Taiwan. During the AGM, I had the pleasure of welcoming PRIP Gary Huang to International Bridge who was appointed International Envoy World Ambassador. The Annual General Meeting had an excellent organization with very good attendance from IYForians.

Our friends from Cancun Ocean and Sand fleet, are preparing the Area 2 Annual General Meeting, which will take place from March 6 to 10, 2024. They have designed a very good program, including the sailing to Isla Mujeres, in the Caribbean Sea. We will share camaraderie, information about fleet activities and walks with dinners on the beach. We invite you to register and attend.

We have had the pleasure of officially presenting the Plastic Free Waters App. It is free to use. It can be downloaded from Google Play or Apple Store. It is a very friendly and intuitive app that guides you to define the type of plastic garbage or ghost nets that are sighted, allows you to take an image and sends the photo and the geographical position to the nearest maritime authority so that the waste can be treated in the appropriate way. This is a contribution from our IYFR to the fight against plastic pollution in the seas and oceans.

The Philippine Region organized several service projects regarding the defense of the marine environment and the care of the seas and oceans. We congratulate to the following fleets Circle of Friends, Genuine Service Presidents, Imaginative Amazing Treasure, Inspiring Philippines and World Class Philippines.

I want to congratulate those who have held conferences and dissertations in the three Areas to disseminate our project to combat plastic pollution. Congratulations to SQCP Marian Domenech and Historian Officer Bernardo Rabassa for the Congress of Valencia al mar conference.

Also our recognition to FC Alessandro D' Onofrio for his magnificent presentation on the Italian Region and Navigation Safety, and we thank FC Zedrik Avecilla for his excellent work on Zero Waste to Nature. Also thanks the Guayaquil Ecuador fleet, and its PFC Hugo Klopstein, for the magnificent relationship achieved with Plastic Odyssey, and FC Carlos Barrios Cardozo for the valuable information shared regarding microplastics.

Dear friends all, I wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas. May the year 2024 bring peace, health and abundance to all.

Happy new year!



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE 2023 - 2025

**Angélica Mesistrano (Argentina)**

INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE

**Carlo d'Amore (Spain)**

INTERNATIONAL VICE COMMODORE – A1C

**Paul Yiu (Taiwan)**

INTERNATIONAL REAR COMMODORE

**Sergio Santi (Italy)**

CHIEF OF STAFF

**Miriam Caudullo (Argentina)**

AREA 2 COMMODORE

**Edmond Aguilar (Phillipines)**

AREA 3 COMMODORE

**David Hansen (New Zealand)**

IMMEDIATE PAST INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE

**Gustavo Tondi (Argentina)**

INTERNATIONAL TREASURER

**Annette Lewis (Great Britain)**

AREA 1 TREASURER

**Yun-Chi (Kyra) Lee (Taiwan)**

AREA 3 TREASURER

**Lorenzo Mazzeo (Italy)**

WEBMASTER

**Silvia Callorda (Uruguay)**

ROTAFLOAT EDITOR

**Antonio Marchesi (Italy)**

LEGAL ADVISER

**Anabela Aldaz (Uruguay)**

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

**Jesus Avecilla (Phillipines)**

IYFR GRANTS CHAIRMAN

**Gary Huang (Taiwan)**

INTERNATIONAL ENVOY WORLD AMBASSADOR

**Eduardo D'Alessio (Argentina)**

SPECIAL ASSISTANT

**Arturo Supangan (Philippines)**

SPECIAL ASSISTANT

**Oscar Fontalvo (Colombia)**

SPECIAL ASSISTANT

**Bernardo Rabassa (Spain)**

HISTORIAN OFFICER

**Fabio Nardi (Italy)**

AREA 1 REGALIA OFFICER

**Edgardo Gargano (Uruguay)**

AREA 2 REGALIA OFFICER

**Chia-Yu (Jade) Kuo (Taiwan)**

AREA 3 REGALIA OFFICER

## INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE 2023 - 2025

- 1 Angélica Mesistrano
- 2 Carlo d'Amore
- 3 Paul Yiu
- 4 Sergio Santi
- 5 Miriam Caudullo
- 6 Edmond Aguilar
- 7 David Hansen
- 8 Gustavo Tondi
- 9 Annette Lewis
- 10 Yun- chi (Kyra) Lee
- 11 Lorenzo Mazzeo
- 12 Silvia Callorda
- 13 Antonio Marchesi
- 14 Anabela Aldaz
- 15 Jesus Avecilla
- 16 Gary Huang
- 17 Eduardo D'Alessio
- 18 Arturo Supangan
- 19 Oscar Fontalvo
- 20 Bernardo Rabassa
- 21 Fabio Nardi
- 22 Edgardo Gargano
- 23 Chia -Yu (Jade) Kuo



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



# AREA 2 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 6 TO 10 MARCH 2024



## WEDNESDAY MARCH 6

Accommodation in KRYSTAL GRAND CANCUN Beachfront hotel with spa and all-inclusive services. Located in the best Hotel Zone of Cancun, near anything. Close to shopping with the best boutiques exclusive brands. The hotel features transportation airport- hotel-, airport, outdoor pool, bar, restaurants, meeting room, gym, spa, non-smoking rooms, free Wi-Fi. In the overnight stay, food and drinks included without limit. Reception of the different delegations. And attendance at check in.

8:00 pm Meet & Greet. Welcome cocktail lounge especial Krystal Grand Cancun Hotel Hotel. Drinks, snacks and music, on the beach.

Will take place the official meeting of the members of all fleets in Area 2 and our visitors from other IYFR Areas, with the presence of International Commodore Angie Mesistrano and other members of the International Bridge, the Area 2 and Regional Staff.



## THURSDAY MARCH 7

8:30 am Breakfast.

9:30 am. We depart from the Krystal Grand Cancun Hotel in units of special transportation to the Children's oncology area of the hospital. Rotarians will donate toys and books to the children hospitalized to that sanatorium.



1:00 pm. Lunch.

4:00 pm Area 2 Annual General Meeting session. Dress code: uniform without tie.

## FRIDAY MARCH 8

8:30 am Breakfast



9:30 am SAILING. We will board a catamaran and sail to Isla Mujeres where we will discover the beautiful natural landscapes of the island, we will have snorkeling equipment at our disposal and we will enjoy an excellent lunch on the beach. Navigation returning to Cancun. Transfer in special buses.





## ■ SATURDAY MARCH 9

### Breakfast

We will have the day free to enjoy the beach, the Caribbean Sea, activities with kayaking, snorkeling or diving, and an optional visit to the Yamil Lu'um archaeological site.

9:00 pm Gala Dinner. Dress code, Complete uniform.



## ■ SUNDAY 10

### Breakfast

Farewell to our friends until the next AGM. Transfer to the airport in special transportation.

For those who wish to take optional excursions to Tulúm, Chichen Itzá or Playa del Carmen, we have special prices available.



The Krystal Grand Cancun hotel is all inclusive, therefore every day of lodging includes unlimited meals and drinks in its different restaurants.

Price for the complete event without lodging US\$ 470 per person.



Accommodation for 4 nights at the Krystal Grand Cancun Hotel in a room with partial view, US\$ 820 + US\$ 18 in taxes, in a single room. In a double room US\$ 1,032 for two people, (US\$ 516 + US\$ 18 in taxes per person).

Host: Cancun Ocean and Sand fleet

Information: [agm24cancun@gmail.com](mailto:agm24cancun@gmail.com)



We are waiting for you all in Area 2 AGM March 2024  
We will sail in the Mexican Caribbean Sea; we will share unforgettable days of camaraderie

**We will enjoy our International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians!**

[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# PLASTIC FREE WATERS APP



We present "**Plastic Free Waters app**", this is a contribution from IYFR to the care of the marine environment and global health. It is an innovative application for iOS and Android that has a clear objective: to report ghost nets and accumulations of plastic garbage in seas and oceans, contributing to the care and protection of our maritime environment and the health of our communities.

What are ghost nets? They are deadly traps for marine life, divers and cause boat accidents. These ghost nets have been abandoned in the ocean or have been discarded in a port and move floating or semi-submerged. In their displacement they continue to catch fish and other marine creatures for years, causing serious damage to the ecosystem. They cause clogging of boat propellers and are extremely dangerous for divers.

With "**Plastic Free Waters app**", any person, be him/her a fisherman, sports boater, lover of the sea, or commercial boater, can be a fundamental help in the fight against ghost nets and the pollution of seas and oceans. If the user is navigating and sees these floating obstacles, let's

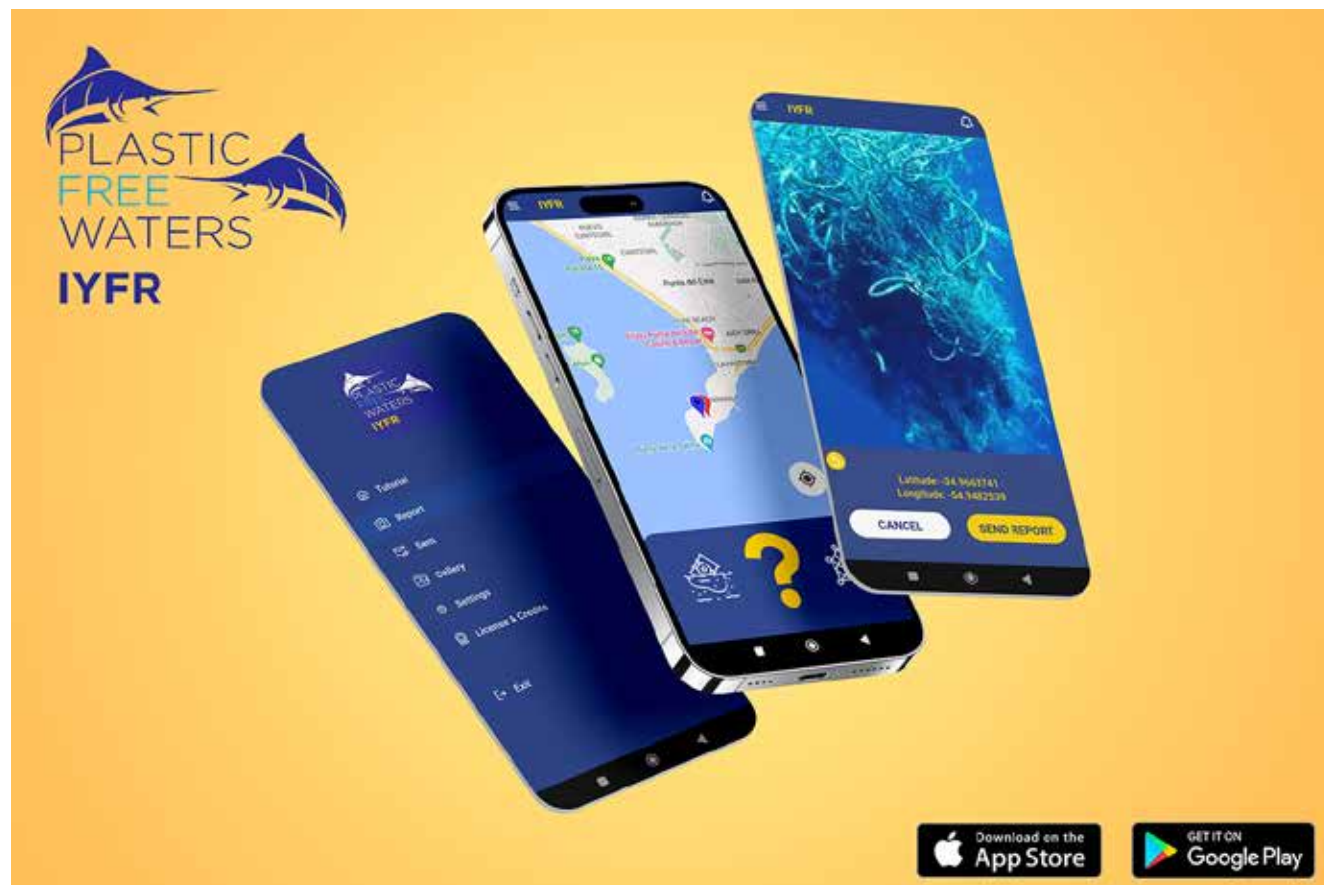
see how this unique application works:

**Accurate Geolocation Reporting:** When encountering a ghost net or floating plastic debris, simply open "**Plastic Free Waters app**" and let the app use your device's geolocation to determine your exact location. This ensures that the report accurately reaches the nearest Maritime Authority.

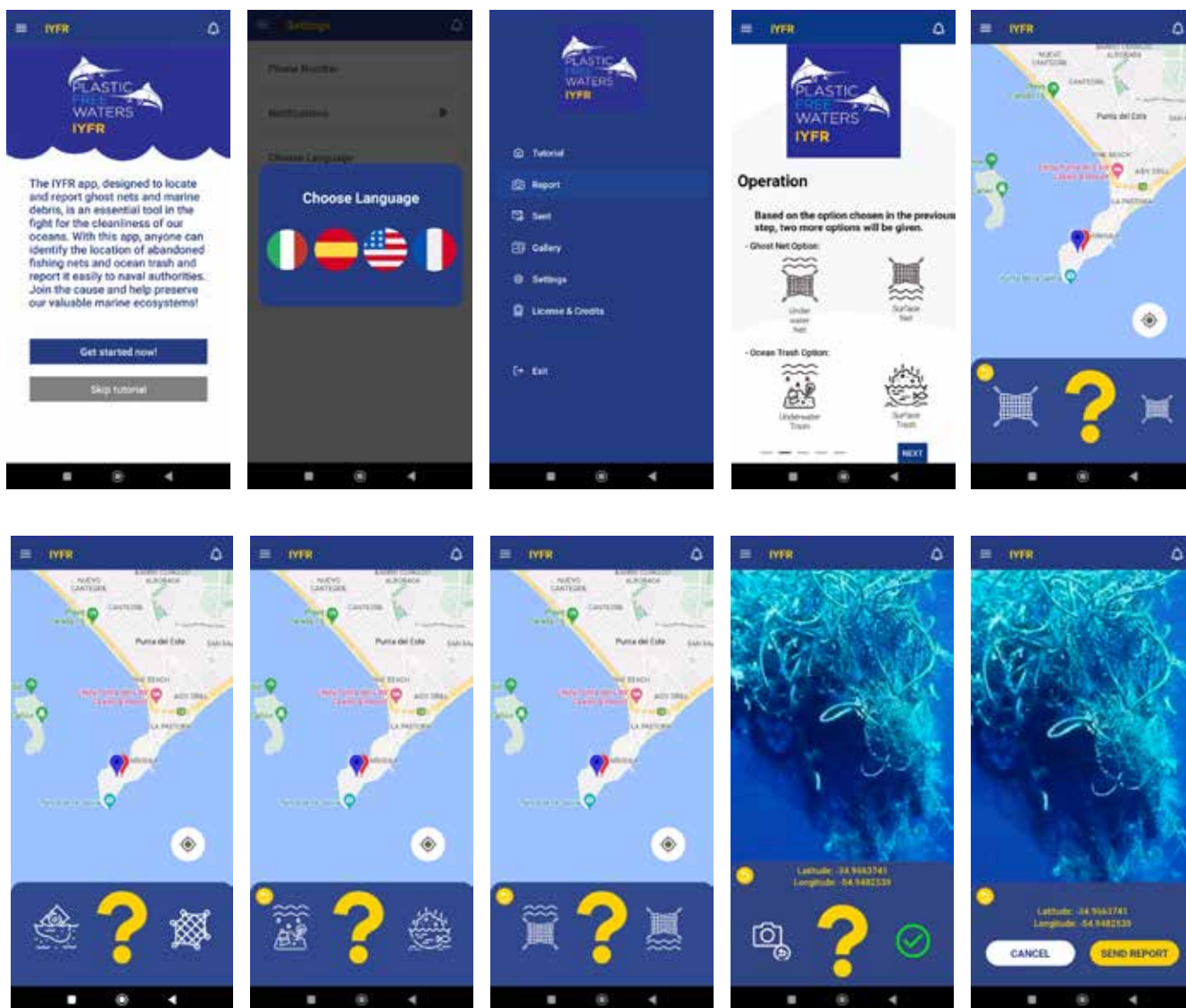
**Works with or without Internet:** Aware that connectivity can be a challenge on the high seas, "**Plastic Free Waters app**" has been designed to work both with and without Internet. If at the time of reporting a ghost net there is no connection, the report is saved in a waiting box.

**Automatic Sending with Internet Connection:** Once the device recovers the connection, "**Plastic Free Waters app**" automatically sends the stored report to the relevant entity. This ensures that your contribution is transmitted even in areas with limited coverage.

**Security and Privacy:** We value your privacy and security. Reports in the waiting box are stored encrypted on your device and are delivered securely when the connection is restored.







**Intuitive Interface and User Experience: "Plastic Free Waters app"** has a friendly and easy-to-use interface, which allows anyone, regardless of their level of technological experience, to use it without problems.

**Creating Awareness:** In addition to reporting ghost nets and accumulations of floating plastic, the application provides relevant information on the negative impact of these large polluting elements on marine life and how we can all contribute to protecting our seas and oceans.

**Global Community:** Join a committed community of users who share the goal of preserving our seas, oceans, and marine life. Share your experiences, learn from others and participate in campaigns to fight the pollution of our oceans.

With **"Plastic Free Waters app"**, each report you submit is one more step towards a cleaner and safer maritime ecosystem. Download the app today and join the mission to protect marine life and preserve the health of our seas and oceans for future generations. Remember that our oceans produce 50% of the oxygen we breathe and absorb 30% of the carbon dioxide we exhale.

You can download this app from the App Store or Google Play. Or ask your Fleet Commodore or Region Commodore for the link.

**Together we will make a difference!**

[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



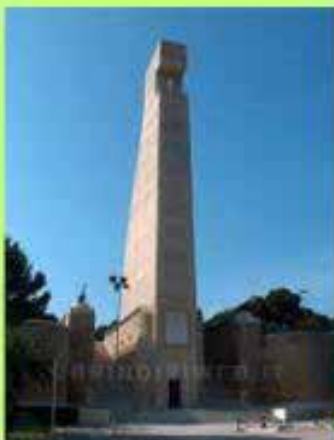
INTERNATIONAL YACHTING  
FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS  
FLOTTA ITALIA SUD-EST

## ***Annual General Meeting***

***Regione Italia***

**Brindisi**

**25 - 28 aprile 2024**



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# IN TRIBUTE TO VICE GOVERNOR RAMON LACBAIN: A LEGACY OF SERVICE AND SUSTAINABILITY

By Zedrik T. Avecilla

When I look back on the years 2013-2016, the honor of working alongside Vice Governor Ramon Lacbain stands out vividly in my memory. His leadership was the driving force behind the remarkable success of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Campaign in Zambales, rallying an astounding 100,000 volunteers. This achievement was not just a local triumph; it catapulted our province to national recognition and played a pivotal role in earning the Philippines the prestigious title of having the most ICC volunteers worldwide.

Vice Governor Lacbain's mission lives on in every piece of litter removed, every policy enacted to safeguard our shores, and within the unbreakable spirit of our community. He was not one to rest on his laurels. Under his guidance, Zambales became the birthplace of the first-ever International Coastal Cleanup Summit, a milestone that not only brought environmental issues to the forefront but also showcased innovative solutions. His contagious enthusiasm was the driving force behind our maiden Recyclable Regatta, a testament to our community's creativity and unwavering commitment to protecting our waterways.

His unwavering passion for environmental stewardship has established a lasting foundation that continues to guide our efforts toward sustainability. We remember him not only for the campaigns he led and the initiatives he championed but for his steadfast belief in our collective ability to make a difference. His contributions to our environmental campaigns were nothing short of transformative. Vice Governor Lacbain was more than just an advocate; he was a genuine custodian of the sea, dedicating his time and energy to ensure the preservation of our oceans and coasts for future generations.

The void left by his passing at the age of 59, on October 14, 2023, is deeply felt by all who knew him and were inspired by his dedication. Yet, even as we grieve, we take solace in the vibrant legacy Vice Governor Lacbain has bequeathed to us—a legacy interwoven with the very fabric of our community. His dedication to environmental stewardship has laid a foundation that continues to steer our efforts toward sustainability. We remember him not only for the campaigns he spearheaded and the initiatives he championed but also for his unwavering belief in our collective potential to make a meaningful impact.

As we press forward, resolute in our commitment to a cleaner and greener world, we do so standing on the shoulders of a giant. Vice Governor Ramon Lacbain's vision for a trash-free sea and a sustainable Zambales remains a beacon of inspiration. His memory continues to fuel our ongoing battle for environmental conservation, and for that, we are eternally grateful. Your journey with us was a cherished chapter in Zambales's story, and your legacy is a treasure we will preserve with honor and unwavering commitment.

Vice Governor Ramon Lacbain's vision for a trash-free sea and a sustainable Zambales continues to inspire us. His memory will forever sail in the hearts of those who believe in a better, cleaner world.

We invite you to explore some of the you tube video links:

<https://youtu.be/afYg2Eztm3w> - <https://youtu.be/vbLLvvB0xbQ> - <https://youtu.be/3cNXX6NjrpY>

<https://youtu.be/qxBZucfrlqc> - <https://youtu.be/Wl6k-bsOTY> - <https://youtu.be/-sqF5O19Aqc>

<https://youtu.be/KkOz5Vvm8Nk> or visit our International Coastal Cleanup Zambales Facebook site video archives that vividly capture the passion and dedication of this remarkable individual, epitomizing A Legacy of Service and Sustainability.





[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# EN MEMORIA DEL AMIGO LUCIANO DEGIAMMA (1964-2023)

## PRESIDENTE DEL RC TIGRE (ARG) PERIODO 2021-2022 COMODORO DE FLOTA DELTA (ARG) 2020-2022

By Fleet Commodore Carlos Barrios Cardozo, Delta Fleet.

Luciano nació en la ciudad de Tigre, corazón del delta argentino. Médico Pediatra, de una extensa y reconocida trayectoria tanto en la faz privada como en la pública. Entre otros cargos, Director de Programas Sanitarios y Vigilancia Epidemiológica del Municipio de la Matanza (una de ciudades más densamente pobladas de la Argentina) y fue un referente durante la pandemia de COVID. Sus otras pasiones, la náutica y el rotarismo, no podría ser de otra manera, de cuna isleña y pasión por servir.

Recientemente, zarpo hacia su última y hermosa travesía, en paz y con su mano entre las manos de Liliana, su esposa.

Pensemos, que hacemos para recordar a los amigos que han partido?, contamos sus anécdotas, escuchamos su canción favorita, o lo imitamos en sus gestos, en este caso para recordarlo a Luciano, deberíamos sanar a los niños y dar esperanza a sus padres en salas y hospitales públicos como él lo hacía a diario. ¿Cuántos de nosotros podríamos realizarlo?, así de enorme es el vacío que dejó su partida. Pero, sin dudas podemos recordarlo replicando lo que Luciano en forma natural realizaba cada día, **dar de sí sin pensar en sí**.

Tranquila navegación y buenos vientos querido amigo, que en el puerto de la vida nos dejaste un gran ejemplo de persona, de rotario y profesional de bien.

### IN MEMORY OF OUR FRIEND LUCIANO DEGIAMMA (1964-2023)

President of RC Tigre (ARG) period 2021-2022

Delta Fleet Commodore (ARG) 2020-2022

Luciano was born in the city of Tigre, the heart of the Argentine Delta. He was a paediatrician, with an extensive and recognised career, both in the private and public sectors.

Among other roles, he was the Director of Health Programmes and Epidemiological Surveillance at La Matanza Council (one of the most densely populated counties in Argentina) and he was a reputable referent during the COVID pandemic. He also had other passions such as nautical sports and Rotarism, which were undoubtedly linked to his origins, since he was born on an island and he was always willing to serve others.

Recently, he set off on his last and beautiful journey, in peace, with his hands in Liliana's hands, his wife.

Let's think. What do we do to remember our beloved friends who have departed? We tell their anecdotes, listen to their favourite songs, or imitate their gestures. In this case, to remember Luciano, we should heal those children at hospital and comfort, give hope to their parents as he used to do every day. However, how many of us would manage to do it? This is what evidences how enormous the emptiness that he has left behind is. Without a doubt, we can remember him by imitating what Luciano naturally did day after day, **giving of himself before thinking about himself. "Service About Self"**.

Smooth sailing and good winds, dear friend. In the port of life, you set a great example of a good person, a firmly committed Rotarian and an upright professional.



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



# I CONGRESO NACIONAL VALENCIA A LA MAR

By Marian Domenech Castañer, Capitana Escuadrón Valencia



## Flota Sureste de España

El día 28 de Octubre se celebró el I Congreso Nacional Valencia a la Mar fue incitativa de David Armendariz y Mari Jose Martinez con la participación de la ponencia de Bernardo Rabassa miembro del Puente de Mando Internacional de IYFR y de la Flota de Madrid, fue invitado el Escuadrón de Valencia perteneciente a la Flota Sureste de España IYFR, representado por Maria Veiga y una servidora Marian Domenech.

El Congreso empezó con una paella solidaria, fue así porque se pagó con la entrega de alimentos no perecederos que entregaron a su llegada los asistentes al Congreso y su destino fue a Cáritas de Valencia.

Después de la paella entramos a la Sala de Congresos donde estaban los ponentes, David Armendariz dio paso a la Conferencia Valencia a la Mar, una conferencia llena de experiencia y vivencias todas relacionadas con la Mar, tuvimos ocasión de aprender cosas nuevas, como fue la legislación de los objetos encontrados en el Mar, pues es bastante complejo y tiene unas leyes que lo regula, otra ponencia fue la importancia del conocimiento de todas las actividades acuáticas que podemos hacer en Valencia y que sino fuera por estos congresos muchos lo desconocerían, es por ejemplo la navegación en vela, la Federación de Vela de la Comunidad Valenciana imparte cursos a unos precios asequibles como otro deporte y da la oportunidad que las personas se animen a practicarlo, así como empresas dedicadas a alquilar embarcaciones en cualquier lugar donde nos encontremos de vacaciones. Un tema muy importante fue el de los primeros auxilios en el barco, recordarlo nos viene muy bien porque nunca sabes qué puede pasar, así como evitar los mareos tan importante...y como no la comunicación por radio, el Oficial de Radio de la Marina Mercante nos dio toda una lección, sobre todo recordar la frecuencia reservadas para las comunicaciones entre los 156 y los 174 Mhz, así como el sistema mundial de socorro y seguridad Marítima, en el Congreso no todo fue navegación también hubo lugar para el submarinismo un deporte desconocido para muchos pero para quien lo practica es mágico porque con las vivencias del ponente nos desplazó a otro mundo.







Con la ponencia de D. Bernardo Rabassa nos dimos cuenta de la importancia del mar en las comunicaciones geoestrategias y económicas del Planeta. Para terminar el Congreso, Maria Jose Martinez nos relató su experiencia en la navegación por el Atlántico y el Caribe, que servirá de experiencia para todo aquel que quiera hacer esta navegación.

Cómo no hablar en un Congreso de la Mar sobre la contaminación de los océanos, la cantidad de plásticos y otros enseres que terminan en el Mar y las pocas medidas que se emplean para subsanar este terrible problema.

El I Congreso de Valencia a la Mar se celebró con la intención de acercar a la gente al mar donde todos los ponentes dedicaron su tiempo a sumergirnos en la magia de la navegación, la tarde se nos hizo corta y amena con sus enseñanzas y experiencias vividas tanto en navegación como en submarinismo.

Estoy segura que todos las personas que asistieron salieron del Congreso con mas conocimientos sobre el Mar y sus actividades así como la intención de practicar algún deporte acuático.

## I NATIONAL CONGRESS VALENCIA TO THE SEA

*On October 28, the First National Congress Valencia a la Mar was held at the initiative of David Armendariz and Mari Jose Martinez with the participation of the presentation of Bernardo Rabassa, member of the International Bridge of IYFR and the Madrid Fleet, who was invited the Valencia Squadron belonging to the South East Spain Fleet IYFR, represented by Maria Veiga and me, Marian Domenech.*

*The Congress began with a solidarity paella, it was like this because it was paid for with the delivery of non-perishable food that the Congress attendees delivered upon their arrival and its destination was to Cáritas de Valencia.*



*After the paella we entered the Conference Room where the speakers were, David Armendariz gave way to the Valencia to the Sea Conference, a conference full of awareness and experiences all related to the Sea, we had the opportunity to learn new things, such as legislation of objects found in the Sea, since it is quite complex and has laws that regulate it, another presentation was the importance of knowing all the aquatic activities that we can do in Valencia and that if it were not for these congresses many would not know it, it is For example, sailing, the Sailing Federation of the Valencian Community teaches courses at affordable prices like another sport and gives people the opportunity to practice it, as well as companies dedicated to renting boats anywhere we are. vacation.*



A very important topic was first aid on the ship, remembering it is very good for us because you never know what can happen, as well as avoiding seasickness, which is so important...and of course radio communication, the Radio Officer of the The Merchant Navy gave us quite a lesson, especially remembering the frequency reserved for communications between 156 and 174 Mhz, as well as the global maritime distress and security system. In the Congress, not everything was navigation, there was also a place for scuba diving, a sport unknown to many but for those who practice it is magical because with the speaker's experiences he took us to another world. With the presentation by Mr. Bernardo Rabassa we realized the importance of the sea in the geostrategic and economic communications of the Planet. To end the Congress, Maria Jose Martinez told us about her experience sailing through the Atlantic and the Caribbean, which will serve as an experience for anyone who wants to do this sailing.

How can we not talk at a Sea Congress about the pollution of the oceans, the amount of plastics and other objects that end up in the Sea and the few measures that are used to remedy this terrible problem.



The I Congress of Valencia a la Mar was held with the intention of bringing people closer to the sea where all the speakers dedicated their time to immersing us in the magic of navigation. The afternoon was short and enjoyable with their teachings and lived experiences both in navigation and diving.

I am sure that all the people who attended left the Congress with more knowledge about the Sea and its activities as well as the intention of practicing some water sport.



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



# REGATTA BARCOLANA

By Manfredo De Paolis, FM Flotta Alto Adriatico IYFR



La Barcolana, la regata velica organizzata dal circolo di Barcola, si è tenuta a Trieste l'8 ottobre 2023. Le previsioni del tempo indicavano che ci sarebbe stata la "bava" (vento leggero), e la regata ha attirato numerosi partecipanti, inclusi equipaggi italiani e stranieri. L'evento è stato caratterizzato dalla presenza della nave scuola Palinuro della Marina Militare Italiana e da migliaia di spettatori sulle rive.

La regata coinvolge barche a vela di diverse lunghezze, e la competizione è basata sul tempo reale, senza compensi o stazza. Il Golfo di Trieste si è riempito di barche a vela, creando uno spettacolo straordinario. L'evento ha un impatto significativo sull'economia locale, coinvolgendo sponsor di diversi settori merceologici.

Il numero di partecipanti è notevolmente aumentato nel corso degli anni, con un picco di 2.689 iscritti nel 2018. Questo ha portato la Barcolana a essere riconosciuta come "la più grande regata a vela del mondo" dal Guinness dei Primati. Nell'edizione del 2023, ci sono stati 1.773 iscritti, di cui 1.100 hanno completato la gara.

La favorita Arca Sgr ha vinto la regata, e il percorso è stato accorciato a causa delle condizioni del vento. Chi scrive ha partecipato con una barca d'epoca, e molte barche hanno ottenuto buoni risultati, indipendentemente dalla loro dimensione. La regata è stata un grande successo e ha contribuito a consolidare la sua reputazione come un evento di prestigio nel mondo della vela.



Trieste 8 ottobre 2023 ore 09.00,

come dicono i triestini: o xe bava o xe bora!

Le previsioni non lasciavano dubbio alcuno: sarebbe stata bava!

Ore 10.30 colpo di cannone, alla presenza di ospiti d'eccezione quale la nave scuola Palinuro della Marina Militare Italiana e migliaia di spettatori sulle rive; non potevano certo mancare anche i marinai dell' I.Y.F.R. italiani e stranieri. Trieste ha costruito attorno a questo evento un palinsesto che coinvolge l'intera città. Hai una barca a vela? E allora puoi partecipare. Si gareggia senza compensi e senza stazza. Barche divise secondo lunghezza al galleggiamento. Vince chi arriva primo in tempo reale. Partecipano "astronavi" da 30 mt. e "barchini" da 6,50 mt.

Il Golfo di Trieste diventa bianco. E' la festa della vela!

L'organizzazione favorisce un indotto importante ed avvicina sponsor di rilievo di svariati settori merceologici. Si pensi che nel 1969, data di costituzione della Barcolana, erano in 51 al via, e nel 2018, 50° anniversario, si è arrivati a 2689 iscritti; in quell'anno l'evento ha visto il passaggio delle frecce tricolori al momento della partenza, la presenza di Nave Vespucci e oltre 400 manifestazioni in calendario nei dieci giorni precedenti Barcolana...e la regata diventa ufficialmente "The largest sailing race in the world", come cita il Guinness dei Primati.

Gli iscritti di questa edizione sono stati 1773 ed arrivati in 1.100. Con un po' di orgoglio, chi scrive, con una barca d'epoca e non adatta ai venti leggeri, è arrivato 320°. Ma anche barche inferiori ai 10 mt., in quanto leggere, sono arrivate prima di imbarcazioni ben più titolate. Il percorso viene ridotto alla prima boa e alla fine vince la favorita Arca Sgr in 1 ora 49 minuti e 55 secondi e Furio Benussi festeggia con la figlia Marta e il tattico Lorenzo Bressani.



*On October 8, 2023, in Trieste, Italy, the city came alive for the Barcolana sailing regatta. This event attracted a wide range of sailors, including also the Italian Navy's training ship Palinuro. The regatta is a unique competition where boats of varying lengths race without handicaps or ratings, competing in real-time. The Gulf of Trieste transformed into a sea of sailboats, creating a breathtaking spectacle.*

*This event has a significant economic impact, drawing sponsors from various industries. It's remarkable how the participation has grown over the years. In 2018, the Barcolana reached a record 2,689 registered boats, earning recognition as "The largest sailing race in the world" by the Guinness World Records. In 2023, there were 1,773 participants, with 1,100 completing the race.*

*The 2023 edition saw Arca Sgr as the favored winner, completing the course in 1 hour, 49 minutes, and 55 seconds. Even though I sailed an older boat less suited for light winds, I still proudly finished 320th. Notably, smaller boats under 10 meters often outperformed more prestigious vessels. The Barcolana is not just a sailing race but a true celebration of the sea and a testament to the passion for sailing.*



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# EL VELERO ESPAÑOL “PROS” CRUZA EL ATLÁNTICO Y EL PACÍFICO PARA SEGUIR LA ESTELA DE MAGALLANES Y ELCANO

By Bernardo Rabassa Asenjo Historian Officer



**ALMUERZO  
CONFERENCIA**



**Rotary**

Club Madrid-Puerta de Hierro



**Diego Fernández Casado**

Ingeniero Naval y Navegante

**“Tras la estela de Elcano. 500 años después”**

La conferencia estará precedida de un almuerzo en el que los asistentes podremos intercambiar impresiones en un ambiente distendido.

**Lunes 23 de Octubre de 2023 a las 14:00 horas.**

Sede Club Rotario Madrid-Puerta de Hierro:  
Eurostars Madrid Tower. Pº. De la Castellana 259

Se ruega confirmen asistencia a José María Fernández Arrieta antes del 19 de Octubre. Email: [picolope.jmf@gmail.com](mailto:picolope.jmf@gmail.com) Teléfono: 677 40 40 08

Precio del almuerzo: 45 €. Pago por transferencia a:  
ES03/0049/5145/5928/1606/0105 (indicando comensal/es)

El aparcamiento del hotel será gratuito para los asistentes

*El objetivo de este proyecto ha sido replicar la Primera Vuelta al Mundo de Juan Sebastián de Elcano, visitando los mismos puntos cinco siglos después.*



## El viaje de Elcano o cómo dar la vuelta al mundo sin mapas

El 23 de octubre 2023 Diego Fernández Casado Mariner del Comité Directivo de la Madrid Fleet of IYFR y Rotario vino a nuestro club Rotario Madrid Ptª de Hierro para contarnos la aventura en la que había participado en repetir la vuelta al mundo de Elcano en 2019, con un velero El 'Pros', el velero que ha está emulando la odisea de Magallanes-Elcano 500 años después.

En 1519 emprendieron, hacia lo desconocido, **cinco naves comandadas por el portugués Fernando de Magallanes**, al que tomó el relevo en Filipinas el español **Juan Sebastián de Elcano** para finalizar la hazaña.





“Foto de la conferencia de 23 de Octubre 2023 de Diego Fernández Casado, Rotario y Mariner de la Madrid Fleet of IYFR Tripulante del PROS y miembro de AGNYE, en presencia de los rotarios del Rotary Club Madrid Ptª de hierro y del autor del artículo Bernardo Rabassa Asenjo Historian Officer of International board of IYFR y de José Sola Presidente de AGNYE.

El velero 'Pros', que ha está recreando la hazaña de Magallanes-Elcano 500 años después, alcanzó Brasil tras navegar el Atlántico durante 21 días, como lo hicieron en todas las etapas hasta su hundimiento por el tifón Mawar en la isla de Guam”.

En Brasil llegaron a Recife, tomó la ruta siguiendo la costa Este de Brasil hasta Piniapolis, luego al Rio de la Plata y después Buenos Aires del 24 de Enero al 27, de ahí por la Costa de la Patagonia desértica a cruzar el estrecho de Magallanes ya en Chile que lo cruzo en 1519, donde se había producido la rebelión de Juan de Cartagena en San Julián. Desde Rio Gallegos Argentina por el estrecho que les llevó tres días de aprendizaje intenso con una fuerte tormenta que les obligo a refugiarse en Tilly largando dos anclas en barba, para evitar el garreo, frente a la isla de Carlos III, de ahí siguieron hacia Valparaíso, ya en Tierras Chilenas, magníficamente acogidos por la Armada de ese país después de dos días llegaron a Puerto Montt, recalando en Algarrobo procediendo a cambiar la tripulación de la 5ª a la 6ª etapa. Por unos parajes de montañas de frondosos bosques, el 7 de marzo de 2020.

Con problemas de agua dulce y el veto súbito de prohibido bajar a tierra, aunque muy bien tratados por la Escuela Naval, después obligaron a la tripulación a bajar a tierra para ser repatriados a España. El 25 de marzo de 2020 el barco se encuentra en el Callao, inmovilizado por la pandemia del Coronavirus, en la Escuela náutica peruana.

Los “héroes del Pros” desesperados solicitaron ayuda a los rotarios que nos prestamos a ayudar a través de nuestra actual Internacional Commodore Angelica Mesistrano, quien, consiguió que distintos rotarios de Lima y de Chile y Perú mantuvieran la vigilancia sobre el barco semiabandonado, aunque todavía albergaban la ilusión de continuar el periplo, cosa que no ocurrió hasta agosto de 2021. Después de aprestarlo con enormes dificultades técnicas para la larga travesía del Pacífico, viajando a Lima y a Guayaquil, desde donde se parte el 10 de Agosto hacia las Galápagos llegados a la isla del Brujo , todo es belleza y naturaleza, De allí arrancaron hacia Papeete(Tahiti) el 7 de diciembre, pasando por las Marquesas, pescando y comiendo marmitacos hechos por los tripulantes vascos, aunque es una travesía larguísima y un tanto pesada. Siguió la próxima etapa a FIYI donde se entra en Suva, el 8 de abril de 2022, han recorrido 2393,39 millas náuticas, mucho más que un rumbo directo desde España, de ahí se continuó hasta las Salomón donde el 9 de mayo una tormenta tropical derivó a tifón que asoló la zona y a pesar de haber amarrado bien el barco este se hundió con la tripulación a salvo en Tierra. Encuentran hundido a 30 metros el velero que recreaba la primera vuelta al mundo. Fue engullido por el tifón Mawar en la isla de Guam. No fue lo que le ocurrió a Elcano, si no hubiera llegado el Pros, a Sanlúcar de Barrameda con casi dos años de retraso y de penurias para las tripulaciones, que siguen ilusionadas en volverlo a intentar, El Mar es el cielo de los Yforians de IYFR, por eso queremos emular a los “héroes” del Pros y de paso a los de Elcano que si lo consiguieron. Magallanes encontró el paso. El Español Elcano fue el 1º navegante en circunvalar la Tierra el 6 de septiembre de 1522.



## The spanish sailboat 'Pros' crosses the Atlantic and the Pacific to follow the way of Magallanes and Elcano

On October 23, 2023 Diego Fernández Casado Mariner from the Madrid Fleet of IYFR and Rotarian came to our Rotary club Madrid Ptª de Hierro to tell us about the adventure in which he had participated in repeating the Elcano round the world trip in 2019, with a sailboat The 'Pros', the sailboat that is emulating the Magellan-Elcano odyssey 500 years later. In 1519, five ships commanded by the Portuguese Fernando de Magallanes set out towards the unknown, who was taken over in the Philippines by the Spanish Juan Sebastián de Elcano to complete the feat.

"Photo from the conference on October 23, 2023 by Diego Fernández Casado, Rotarian and Sailor of the Madrid Fleet of IYFR, PROS crew member and member of AGNYE, in the presence of the Rotarians of the Rotary Club Madrid Ptª de Hierro and the author of the article Bernardo Rabassa Asenjo Historian Officer of IYFR and José Sola President of AGNYE.

The sailboat 'Pros', which has been recreating the feat of Magallanes-Elcano 500 years later, reached Brazil after sailing the Atlantic for 21 days, as they did in all stages until its sinking by typhoon Mawar on the island of Guam".

In Brazil they arrived in Recife, they took the route following the East coast of Brazil to Piniapolis, then to the Rio de la Plata and then Buenos Aires from January 24 to the 27th, from there along the coast of desert Patagonia to cross the Strait of Magallanes. already in Chile, which he crossed in 1519, where the rebellion of Juan de Cartagena had taken place in San Julián. From Rio Gallegos Argentina, through the strait that took them three days of intense learning with a strong storm that forced them to take refuge in Tilly, dropping two anchors in beard, to avoid the drag, in front of the island of Carlos III, from there they continued towards Valparaíso, already in Chilean Lands, magnificently welcomed by the Navy of that country, after two days they arrived in Puerto Montt, landing in Algarrobo, proceeding to change the crew from the 5th to the 6th stage. Through mountain landscapes with lush forests, on March 7, 2020.

With fresh water problems and the sudden veto prohibiting going ashore, although very well treated by the Naval Academy, they later forced the crew to go ashore to be repatriated to Spain. On March 25, 2020, the sailboat is in Callao, immobilized by the Coronavirus pandemic, at the Peruvian Nautical School.

The desperate "heroes of the Pros" requested help from the Rotarians who were willing to help through our current International Commodore Angelica Mesistrano, who managed to get different Rotarians from Lima and Chile and Peru to keep watch over the semi-abandoned ship, although it was still they had the hope of continuing the journey, which did not happen until August 2021. After preparing it with enormous technical difficulties for the long crossing of the Pacific, traveling to Lima and Guayaquil, from where they departed on August 10 towards the Galapagos, arriving at El Brujo's Island, everything is beauty and nature. From there they set out for Papeete (Tahiti) on December 7, passing through the Marquesas, fishing and eating marmitacos made by the basque crew, although it is a very long and somewhat heavy journey. The next stage followed to FIJI where they entered Suva, on April 8, 2022, they have traveled 2393.39 nautical miles, much more than a direct course from Spain, from there they continued to the Solomons where on May 9 a tropical storm turned into a typhoon that devastated the area and despite having moored the ship well, it sank with the crew safe on earth.

The sailboat that recreated the first trip around the world is found sunken 30 meters away. It was engulfed by Typhoon Mawar on the island of Guam. It was not what happened to Elcano, if the Pros had not arrived in Sanlúcar de Barrameda almost two years late and with hardships for the crews, who are still excited to try again.

The sea is heaven for the Yforians of IYFR, that's why we want to emulate the "heroes" of the Pros and, incidentally, those of Elcano who did achieve it. Magallanes found the way. The Spanish Elcano was the first navigator to circumnavigate the Earth on September 6, 1522.

[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# LA IYFR REGIONE ITALIA E LA SICUREZZA DELLA NAVIGAZIONE

By Alessandro D'onofrio, FC South East Italia fleet

28/29  
OTTOBRE  
2023



## NUOVE PROSPETTIVE DELLA

Con la partecipazione di: Scuola Nautica Guardia di Finanza, Capitaneria di Porto di Gaeta, AIPU, IYFR, Federmanager

**SCUOLA NAUTICA GUARDIA DI  
FINANZA GAETA**  
SABATO 11.00 - 18.00  
DOMENICA 10.00 - 13.00

El día 28 de Octubre se celebró el I Congreso Nacional Valencia a la Mar fue inciativa de David Armendariz y Mari Jose Martinez con la participación de la ponencia de Bernardo Rabassa miembro del Puente de Mando Internacional de IYFR y de la Flota de Madrid, fue invitado el Escuadrón de Valencia perteneciente a la Flota Sureste de España IYFR, representado por Maria Veiga y una servidora Marian Domenech.

El Congreso empezó con una paella solidaria, fue así porque se pagó con la entrega de alimentos no perecederos que entregaron a su llegada los asistentes al Congreso y su destino fue a Cáritas de Valencia.

Apertura del Convegno. Da destra, il FC Sandro D'Onofrio, il Region Commodore IYFR Giuseppe Garrisi, il Sindaco di Gaeta, e quattro dei relatori, fra cui il Cap. GdF Davide Lisco.

Opening of the Conference. From the right: FC Sandro D'Onofrio, RC Giuseppe Garrisi, the Mayor of Gaeta, and four speakers, among which the Cpt Lisco o the GdF

La bella città storica di Gaeta, ed in particolare le prestigiose strutture della Scuola Nautica della Guardia di Finanza, hanno ospitato il convegno su Nuove prospettive della Sicurezza nella Nautica da Diporto, organizzato dalla Sezione di Cesenatico della Lega Navale Italiana, con la collaborazione e partecipazione della Stessa Scuola Nautica, la Regione Italia della IYFR, la Associazione Italiana Ambiente e Sicurezza, l'ISMAR, Istituto di Scienze Marine del Centro Nazionale delle Ricerche, Federmanager, AIPU, ed altri professionisti ed esperti del mare.

Lo scopo del convegno era quello di migliorare l'atteggiamento nei confronti della navigazione da diporto sui seguenti punti:

- Porre al centro di ogni iniziativa nel settore della navigazione la prevenzione degli infortuni e la sicurezza della vita in mare;
- Concentrare l'impegno sull'acquisizione delle competenze e abilità necessarie per navigare in sicurezza, integrando tale approccio nei percorsi educativi, formativi e nell'acquisizione di certificazioni e di titoli abilitanti;
- Anche alla luce delle nuove norme in vigore dal 25 ottobre 2023, che introducono in Italia i nuovi reati di omicidio e lesioni nautiche, mettere in comune esperienze e competenze per orientare le azioni e le decisioni di comandanti ed equipaggi, nella prospettiva di aumentare la consapevolezza e la sicurezza della vita a bordo.





▲ Il Pannello degli organizzatori e supporter del Convegno  
*Organizers and supporters of the Conference*



▲ Saluti iniziali dalla Regione IYFR Italia e dalla Flotta Sud-Est  
*Greetings from Region Italy and the South East Fleet*

Dato il tema, perfettamente in linea con l'obiettivo istituzionale della nostra Yachting Fellowship, non poteva mancare la funzione di co-organizzatore della nostra IYFR-Regione Italia (che con la Lega Navale Italiana ha sottoscritto già dal 2019 un Protocollo di Collaborazione), e che era rappresentata dal Commodoro Regionale Giuseppe Garrisi.

Citiamo fra le varie relazioni le seguenti:

Capitano GdF Davide Lisco, Comandante della Nave Scuola "Giorgio Cini": Panoramica sulle attività della Scuola Nautica e sul Corpo della Guardia di Finanza, che ora ha anche assunto la funzione di Polizia di Mare, Avv. Roberto Sammarchi: Aspetti di responsabilità e giuridici, I nuovi reati di Omicidio e lesioni nautiche: Marco Tommasi, Presidente LNI di Cesenatico, Istruttore presso la stessa Scuola Nautica GdF, nonché Giuseppe Santi, Presidente della Associazione Italiana Ambiente e Sicurezza: Situazione e prospettive per la sicurezza nel diporto nautico.

Sandro D'Onofrio, Commodoro della Flotta Italia Sud-Est: "Mitigazione dei pericoli da reti da pesca abbandonate, perse, dismesse: il contributo della IYFR". (Presentazione sulla IYFR e sulla nuova app internazionale per la segnalazione di "Ghost Nets" alle Autorità Marittime, quale contributo della IYFR alla sicurezza della navigazione). Durante il convegno, ha avuto luogo simpaticamente la "accoglienza" nella iYFR di due nuovi Mariner, con consegna da parte del Commodoro Sandro D'Onofrio di distintivo, cravatta, insegne, guidone, e attestato di appartenenza: gli stesso relatori Marco Tommasi e Roberto Sammarchi. Essi pertanto hanno svolto le loro relazioni già quali Mariner della IYFR. Alcune immagini del convegno.



▲ Il Cap. Lisco illustra il ruolo e la missione della Guardia di Finanza.  
*Cpt Davide Lisco presenting the Role and the Mission of the Guardia di Finanza*



▲ Il Commodoro della Regione Italia Giuseppe Garrisi introduce l'intervento della Regione



▼ Il FC Sandro D'Onofrio inizia la sua relazione



"Spillatura" dei due nuovi Mariners Roberto Sammarchi e Marco Tommasi.

▼ "Pinning" of the two new Mariners Marco Tommasi and Roberto Sammarchi



▲ I nuovi Mariners con il guidone della IYFR  
*The new Mariners showing the member pennant*



▲ La conclusione, con il Cap. Lisco che mostra il gagliardetto della Flotta IYFR Italia Sud-Est  
*At the end, greetings and thanks, with Cpt Lisco showing the Italy South-East Fleet pennant.*

▼ Relax dopo il Convegno



## The IYFR Region Italy and the Safety at sea

The beautiful historic city of Gaeta, and in particular the prestigious structures of the Nautical School of the GUARDIA DI FINANZA (the Italian Financial and Economical Military Police) hosted the conference on New perspectives of Safety in Pleasure Boating, organized by the Cesenatico Section of the Italian Naval League, with the collaboration and participation of the same Nautical School, the Region Italy of the IYFR, the Italian Environment and Safety Association, the ISMAR, Institute of Marine Sciences of the National Research Center, and other institutions, as well as professionals and experts of the sea.

The aim of the conference was to improve attitudes towards recreational sailing on the following points:

- Place accident prevention and safety of life at sea at the center of every initiative in the navigation sector;
- Focus the efforts on acquiring the skills and abilities necessary to navigate safely, integrating this approach into educational and training paths, also in light of the recent new laws which introduce in Italy the new crimes of nautical homicide and nautical injuries.

Given the theme, perfectly in line with the institutional objective of our Yachting Fellowship, our IYFR-Region Italy could not miss the opportunity of being co-organizer of the Conference. The Region was represented by the Regional Commodore Giuseppe Garrisi.

During the conference, two of the main speakers, Marco Tommasi and Roberto Sammarchi, were pleasantly "welcomed" as new Mariners into the IYFR, Fleet Italy South-East, with Commodore Sandro D'Onofrio handing over the badge, tie, the member pennant and the certificate of membership:

Captain GdF Davide Lisco, Commander of the Training Ship "Giorgio Cini" gave an overview of the activities of the Nautical School and of the Corp of the Guardia di Finanza, which has recently assumed the function of Italian Sea Police.

Sandro D'Onofrio, Commodore of the Italy South-East Fleet gave a presentation on "Mitigation of dangers from abandoned, lost, dismissed fishing nets: the contribution of the IYFR". (Introduction of the IYFR and of its new international app for reporting "Ghost Nets" to the Maritime Authorities, as IYFR's contribution to navigation safety).



▲ Nella foto qui sotto le strutture ed i mezzi nautici della Scuola Nautica che ha ospitato il Convegno. In primo piano la Nave Scuola "Giorgio Cini"  
*In the photo below the structures and nautical means of the Nautical School which hosted the Conference. In the foreground the Training Ship "Giorgio Cini"*

[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



# CANCUN OCEAN & SAND FLEET'S ACTIVITIES

By Hilda Cardona, Fleet Secretary



▲ *Night navigation*



▲ *The Fleet Commodore Mauricio Gayol and Fleet Vice Commodore Joaquin Sanchis welcoming new fleet members*



▲ *Birthdays celebration.*







▲ Organizing our next activities



▲ Celebrating fellowship



*Our fleet will have the pleasure of hosting the Annual General Meeting Area 2 on March 6 - 9, 2024. We are waiting for all of you in our paradisiacal Cancun, in the Mexican Caribbean. You'll be welcome!*

[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# FLOTA DELTA DIFUNDIENDO CONOCIMIENTOS SOBRE MICROPLÁSTICOS

Por: Dra. Jéssica Paola Chiarandini Fiore <sup>1</sup>

***Planeta plástico: Explorando las implicancias de los microplásticos en los ecosistemas marinos y la salud humana.***

***Planeta plástico: Amenazas invisibles para los ecosistemas marinos y la salud humana.***

*1 Dirección de Protección Ambiental, Prefectura Naval Argentina.*



*Muestreo de MPs en agua a bordo del Motovelero oceanográfico Dr. Bernardo Houssay, Prefectura Naval Argentina / Sampling of MPs in water aboard the oceanographic vessel MVO Dr. Bernardo Houssay, Prefectura Naval Argentina.*

El 80% de los plásticos llegan al mar vía terrestre, a través de efluentes urbanos o cauces naturales o transportados por lluvia y viento. Son de origen urbano o industrial. El 20% restante proviene del mar (10% de las actividades pesqueras y el otro 10% de otras actividades marinas).

Los plásticos no son biodegradables debido a que ningún organismo produce su degradación, por lo tanto éstos sólo se fragmentan y se rompen en estructuras más pequeñas que son los llamados microplásticos (MPs) y nanoplásticos. Los MPs pueden tener dos orígenes: Primarios (provenientes de productos de higiene personal y abrasivos que contienen estas estructuras, entre otros) o, secundarios (provenientes de la degradación de macroplásticos como botellas, bolsas, cajones, etc. que al estar en contacto con agentes abióticos, como lluvia, viento, olas, mareas, se fragmentan). Estas estructuras son ubicuas en todos los compartimentos del ecosistema terrestre y marino, e incluso en nuestro propio cuerpo creando un cóctel peligroso. Estos contaminantes emergentes se han convertido en un indicador geológico del Antropoceno y su movimiento entre las matrices ambientales (aire, agua y suelo) ha permitido a los investigadores armar un ciclo global sobre ellos. Distintos estudios científicos documentan la presencia de MPs en los océanos, así como sus impactos directos e indirectos en la biota y los hábitats marinos. Gracias a ello, se sabe que otro de los problemas asociados a los MPs y nanoplásticos viene dado por una serie de aditivos que contienen, es decir una mezcla de sustancias químicas, muchas de ellas tóxicas, añadidas durante la fabricación (antioxidantes, plastificantes, retardadores de llama, estabilizadores de luz ultravioleta, lubricantes y colorantes) o también sustancias peligrosas que se adsorben y se acumulan desde el entorno (como los contaminantes orgánicos persistentes y los compuestos orgánicos volátiles, por ejemplo). Muchas de estas sustancias químicas, pueden migrar desde los MPs a las matrices ambientales y estar biodisponibles para la cadena alimentaria; actuando de diferentes maneras: disruptores endócrinos, bioacumularse en peces de consumo humano, desencadenar respuestas inflamatorias, estrés oxidativo y cambios en la expresión génica afectando funciones fisiológicas relevantes para los organismos marinos y el hombre. Es importante destacar que la presencia de sustancias químicas tóxicas asociadas a los MPs puede



variar dependiendo de la composición del plástico, las condiciones ambientales y la historia de exposición. Además, los efectos de estas sustancias en los organismos, también dependen de múltiples factores, como concentración, duración de la exposición y características específicas de cada individuo.

En este concepto de investigación aplicada a la presencia de MPs en matrices ambientales abióticas (agua y sedimento) y bióticas (específicamente mejillones y peces), la Prefectura Naval Argentina (PNA), a través de biólogos marinos de la Dirección de Protección Ambiental, lleva a delante distintos proyectos de investigación en los Golfos Norpatagónicos, Bahía Engaño y áreas circundantes y la Reserva de la Biosfera Patagonia Azul (Chubut, Argentina). Se realizan distintas campañas de investigación vinculadas a la estacionalidad y evaluación del aporte de MPs a través de los ríos de la región, tanto en trabajos costeros como en mar abierto. Se busca evaluar la abundancia de estas estructuras, calidad, cantidad y estructura química en las distintas matrices ambientales. De la misma manera, la PNA como Autoridad Marítima, es autoridad de aplicación de la ordenanza 2/98, emanada del anexo V del Marpol (Reglas para prevenir la contaminación por las basuras por los buques) donde se establecen directrices para los planes de gestión de basura (PGB) donde los armadores de buques pesqueros están obligados a notificar la pérdida



*Motovelero oceanográfico Dr. Bernardo Houssay. Plataforma de investigación de la Prefectura Naval Argentina. Foto gentileza PR. M. Alegre / MVO Dr. Bernardo Houssay oceanographic vessel. Research platform of the Prefectura Naval Argentina. Photo courtesy of PR. M. Alegre.*



*Muestreo de biota (mejillones) en los cañadones de Bahía Engaño (Chubut, Argentina) / Sampling of biota (mussels) in the canyon of Bahía Engaño (Chubut, Argentina)*

accidental y las descargas de artes de pesca, anotando la/s misma/s en el libro de registro de basuras o en el diario oficial de navegación del buque.

Nuestro país, también ha publicado recientemente la disposición 4/2023, basada en directrices de la FAO, donde cualquier buque pesquero arrastrero de bandera argentina operando en el área adyacente a la Zona Económica Exclusiva, debe identificar los aparejos de pesca de acuerdo a lo establecido en la presente medida, informar pérdida o abandono de los mismos, declarar cantidad de cajones plásticos existentes en bodega al inicio y a la finalización de cada marea y cantidad de cajones plásticos vacíos y/o rotos no utilizados para almacenar productos pesqueros.

Si bien existen medidas al respecto, aún resultan insuficientes para el problema al que nos enfrentamos. Se requiere un enfoque específico en las negociaciones que se están realizando para el nuevo instrumento internacional jurídicamente vinculante. Si bien se han logrado algunos avances a través de los foros intergubernamentales para abordar elementos de contaminación plástica procedente de la pesca, ningún instrumento u organismo ha adoptado una estrategia integral que prevé intervenciones a lo largo de todo el ciclo de vida de las artes de pesca y la capacidad de abordar la magnitud del problema.

Es realmente, un desafío social y ecológico; y actualmente un desafío ingobernable, que refleja una falla en la gestión de recursos comunes en la escala global, para lo cual se requiere de manera urgente, acciones colectivas.

## Plastic planet: Exploring the implications of microplastics on marine ecosystems and human health.

By: Dra. Jéssica Paola Chiarandini Fiore <sup>1</sup>

*1 Dirección de Protección Ambiental. Prefectura Naval Argentina.*

Eighty percentage of plastic reach the sea from the land, through urban effluents or natural channels, or transported by rain and wind. They are of urban or industrial origin. The remaining 20% comes from the sea (10% from fishing activities and the other 10% from other marine activities). Plastics are not biodegradable because no organism produces their degradation, therefore they only fragment and break into smaller structures that are called microplastics (MPs) and nano plastics.



*Muestreo de MPs en arena de línea de costa. Playa El Sombrerito (Chubut, Argentina) / Sampling of MPs in sand coastline. El Sombrerito Beach (Chubut, Argentina)*

MPs can have two origins: Primary (coming from personal hygiene and abrasive products that contain these structures, among others) or secondary (coming from the degradation of macro plastics such as bottles, bags, drawers, etc. that, when in contact with abiotic agents, such as rain, wind, waves, tides fragment). These structures are ubiquitous in all compartments of the terrestrial and marine ecosystem, and even in our own body, creating a dangerous cocktail. These emerging contaminants have become a geological indicator of the Anthropocene and their movement between environmental matrices (air, water and soil) has allowed researchers to build a global cycle about them. Different scientific studies the presence of MPs in the oceans, as well as their direct and indirect impacts on marine biota and habitats. Thanks to this, it is known that another of the problems associated with MPs and nanoplastics is caused by a series of additives they contain, that is, a mixture of chemical substances, many of them toxic, added during manufacturing (antioxidants, plasticizers, retarders flame, ultraviolet light stabilizers, lubricants and dyes and pigments) or also hazardous substances that adsorb and accumulate from the environment (such as persistent organic pollutants and volatile organic compounds, for example). Many of these chemicals can migrate from MPs to environmental matrices and be bioavailable for the food chain; acting in different ways: endocrine disruptors, bioaccumulate in fish for human consumption, trigger inflammatory responses, oxidative stress and changes in gene expression affecting physiological functions relevant to marine organisms and humans. It is important to highlight that the presence of toxic chemicals associated with MPs can vary depending on the composition of the plastic, environmental conditions, and exposure history. Furthermore, the effects of these substances on organisms also depend on multiple factors, such as concentration, duration of exposure and specific characteristics of each individual.

In this concept of research applied to the presence of MPs in abiotic (water and sediment) and biotic (specifically mussels and fish) environmental matrices, the Prefectura Naval Argentina (PNA), through marine biologists from the Dirección de Protección Ambiental carries out different research projects in the North Patagonian Gulfs, Bahía Engaño and surrounding areas and the Reserva de la Biosfera Patagonia Azul (Chubut, Argentina). Different research campaigns are carried out linked to the seasonality and evaluation of the contribution of PMs through the region's rivers, both in coastal work and in the open sea. The aim is to evaluate the abundance of these structures, quality, quantity and chemical structure in the different environmental matrices.



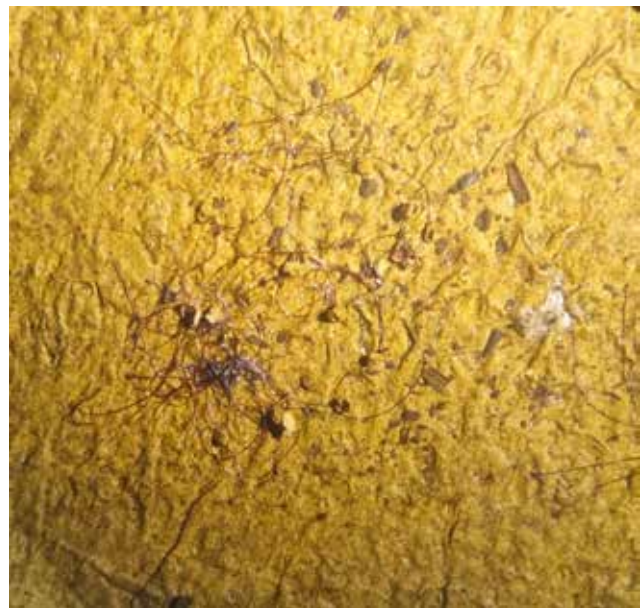


*Haces de fibras de MPs aisladas en muestras ambientales / Bundles of MPs fibers isolated in environmental samples.*

In the same way, the PNA, as a Maritime Authority, is the enforcement authority of Ordinance 2/98, emanating from Annex V of MARPOL (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) where guidelines are established for management plans of garbage (PGB). The owners of fishing vessels are forced to notify the accidental loss and discharges of fishing gear, recording these incidents in the garbage record book or in the official logbook of the vessel.

Our country has also recently published the provision 4/2023, based on FAO guidelines, where any Argentine flag trawler fishing vessels operating in the area adjacent to the Exclusive Economic Zone, must identify fishing gear in accordance with the provisions of this measure, report loss or abandonment of the same, declare the number of existing plastic boxes in the hold at the beginning and at the end of each trip and the number of empty and/or broken plastic boxes not used to store fishery products.

Although there are measures in this regard, they are still insufficient for the problem we face. A specific approach is required in the ongoing negotiations for the new legally binding international instrument. While some progress has been made through intergovernmental forums to address elements of plastic pollution from fishing, no instrument or agency has adopted a global strategy that provides for interventions throughout the entire life cycle of fishing gear and the ability to address the magnitude of the problem. It is really a social and ecological challenge; and currently an ungovernable challenge, which reflects a failure in the management of common resources on a global scale, for which collective actions are urgently required. Footnote of the photos.



*Fibras rojas de MPs aisladas en mejillón de consumo humano / Red fibers of MPs isolated in mussels for human consumption.*

# LA VUELTA AL MUNDO CONTRA LA CONTAMINACIÓN POR PLÁSTICOS

Por PFC Hugo Klopstein, Flota Guayaquil Ecuador

Miembros de la Flota Guayaquil Ecuador, tuvimos la oportunidad de abordar el navío PLASTIC ODYSSEY durante su permanencia en la Ciudad de Guayaquil.

Fue una linda experiencia visitar esta embarcación científica y compartir gratos momentos con su capitán y miembros de la tripulación, quienes nos dieron a conocer algunos detalles de su expedición que viaja por todo el mundo en busca de soluciones para luchar contra la contaminación por plásticos en el Océano.

Cada minuto, 20 toneladas de plástico acaba en el océano. ¿Cuánto plástico existe en los océanos en 2023? Se calcula que hay más de 5.25 trillones de macro y micro piezas flotando. Esto equivale a 46.000 piezas por milla cuadrada. Cada día, alrededor de 8 millones de piezas de plástico llegan a nuestros océanos. Cifras más que preocupantes.



La limpieza del mar de los desechos de plástico es casi imposible, esto se debe a que se convierten en micropartículas irre recuperables. Por esa razón Simón Bernard, CEO & Cofundador de Plastic Odyssey, explicó que reciclar y reutilizar son las dos acciones que pueden crear mayor impacto contra la polución del plástico invisible.

Fue en 2016 que Simon Bernard junto a sus amigos Alexandre Dechelotte y Bob Vrignaud, decidieron promocionar soluciones para combatir la contaminación. Es así que nace Plastic Odyssey, y, para el 1° de Octubre de 2022 junto a un equipo capacitado zarparon desde el puerto de Marsella en el navío que lleva el nombre del proyecto.



Esta expedición ha realizado paradas previas en el mar Mediterráneo (Líbano, Egipto, Túnez, Marruecos ), África Occidental ( Senegal, Guinea, Cabo Verde ), América del Sur , Caribe y Centro América ( Brasil, Guayana, Santa Lucía, Antillas Francesas, República Dominicana, Colombia, Panamá, Costa Rica.

El navío transporta la exposición nominada "Los Baúles de los Tesoros ", una especie de biblioteca de soluciones y objetos de todo el mundo que reemplazan al plástico. Esta exposición itinerante se enriquece con nuevos objetos en cada escala y permite difundir las soluciones descubiertas a medida que avanza la expedición.

Durante el recorrido por el navío, un verdadero laboratorio flotante, también pudimos apreciar, la transformación de plástico no reciclable en combustible.

La tripulación de 19 personas de Plastic Odyssey también está en la búsqueda de reducir el uso de plásticos. Un ejemplo es que, en lugar de subir botellones de agua durante sus travesías, cuentan con un sistema de potabilización de agua, algo que se puede ver durante el recorrido por la embarcación.

La expedición continuará con su travesía del Océano Pacífico, el Sudeste de Asia, el Océano Índico, circunvalando África para regresar a su puerto de partida en el 2025.





## AROUND THE WORLD AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION

By PFC Hugo Klopstein, Fleet Guayaquil Ecuador

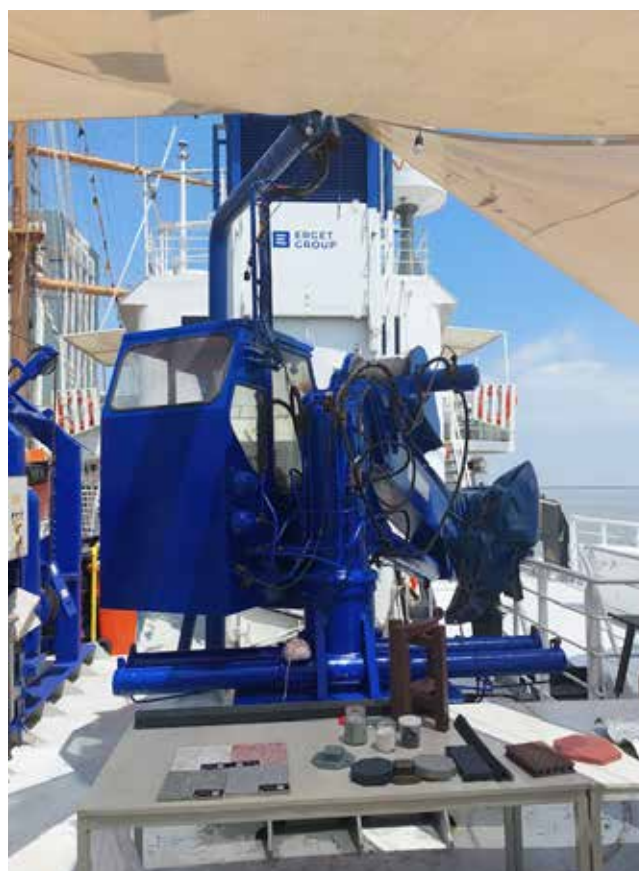
*Members of the Guayaquil Ecuador Fleet, we had the opportunity to board the PLASTIC ODYSSEY ship during its stay in the City of Guayaquil.*

*It was a nice experience to visit this scientific vessel and share pleasant moments with its captain and crew members, who gave us some details of their expedition that travels around the world in search of solutions to fight against plastic pollution in the ocean*

*Every minute, 20 tons of plastic ends up in the ocean. How much plastic exists in the oceans in 2023? It is estimated that there are more than 5.25 trillion macro and micro pieces floating around. This equates to 46,000 pieces per square mile. Every day, around 8 million pieces of plastic end up in our oceans. More than worrying figures.*

*Cleaning the sea of plastic waste is almost impossible, this is because they become irrecoverable microparticles. For this reason, Simón Bernard, CEO & Co-founder of Plastic Odyssey, explained that recycling and reusing are the two actions that can create the greatest impact against invisible plastic pollution.*

*It was in 2016 that Simon Bernard, together with his friends Alexandre Dechelotte and Bob Vrignaud, decided to promote solutions to combat pollution. This is how Plastic Odyssey was born, and on October 1, 2022, together with a trained team, they set sail from the port of Marseille on the ship that bears the name of the project.*





*This expedition has made previous stops in the Mediterranean Sea (Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco), West Africa (Senegal, Guinea, Cape Verde), South America, the Caribbean and Central America (Brazil, Guyana, Saint Lucia, French Antilles, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica.*

*The ship carries the nominated exhibition "The Treasure Chests", a kind of library of solutions and objects from around the world that replace plastic. This traveling exhibition is enriched with new objects at each stop and allows the solutions discovered to be disseminated as the expedition progresses.*

*During the tour of the ship, a true floating laboratory, we were also able to appreciate the transformation of non-recyclable plastic into fuel.*

*Plastic Odyssey's 19-person crew is also on a quest to reduce plastic use. An example is that, instead of carrying bottles of water during their voyages, they have a water purification system, something that can be seen during the tour of the boat.*

*The expedition will continue its journey through the Pacific Ocean, Southeast Asia, the Indian Ocean, circumnavigating Africa to return to its port of departure in 2025.*



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



# SERVICIO DE SALUD: ASISTENCIA A JARDÍN DE INFANTES EN ISLAS DEL DELTA

By Carlos Barrios Cardozo, Fleet Commodore Delta fleet



El 18 de octubre, Flota Delta realizó un nuevo trabajo de servicio en materia de salud en el Jardín de Infantes 912 Antonio Berni, ubicado en islas de nuestro hermoso Delta Argentino, a unas dos horas de navegación del Puerto de Tigre. En esta oportunidad nos hemos trasladado a las instalaciones del jardín, acompañados por un equipo de profesionales compuesto de, médicas pediatras, licenciada en nutrición, licenciada en psicología y licenciada en enfermería. En el jardín, se realizaron talleres en grupos sobre medicina infantil, nutrición, psicología y vacunas infantiles. Se trabajó con las madres de los niños asistentes al jardín como así también con el personal docente y personal de asistencia. La Flota Delta coordina y desarrolla esta actividad de servicio rotario. Contamos con el apoyo de la Prefectura Naval Argentina, Autoridad Marítima Nacional y de estos solidarios profesionales.

La jornada de trabajo fue intensa y enriquecedora, volvimos a Tigre con la satisfacción de una nueva obra de servicio realizada por nuestra flota y con el compromiso de mantener esta actividad. Asimismo, se les entregaron a los profesionales, certificados de reconocimiento por el trabajo realizado. Compartimos con ustedes fotos de la tarea realizada en el jardín.



*On October 18, Flota Delta carried out a new health service at the 912 Antonio Berni Kindergarten. This school is situated in our beautiful Delta, just 2 hours sailing away from Tigre port. On this occasion, we went with two pediatricians, a nutritionist, a psychologist and university nurse. At the place, group workshops were held on children's medicine, nutrition, psychology and childhood vaccines. We worked with the children's mothers, as well as the teaching staff and support staff. The Delta Fleet coordinates and develops Rotarian services. In this opportunity, we had the support of the Argentine Coast Guard cutters and the professional crewmembers to go there. The different activities were intense and enriching. We returned to Tigre port with the satisfaction of a new service work carried out by our fleet and with the commitment to maintain this activity. Certificates of recognition for the work done were also given to the professionals. We share photos of the task developed at the school.*



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# The 2023 IYFR AREA3 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was successfully concluded

By Philippines RC Arturo Supangan

On December 6, 2023 IYFR AREA3 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING was successfully hosted by the Taiwan Southern Cross Fleet. The two-day event took place at the Fort Zeelandia Hotel in Anping, Tainan, attracting national commanders from Taiwan, Japan, and the Philippines, representatives from various countries, and nearly 200 sailors. The current International Commodore, Angélica Mesistrano, participated in the meeting virtually to convey her congratulations.



*IYFR Annual Meeting Group Photo.*

FC David Chen, the current commander of the Taiwan Southern Cross Fleet, expressed gratitude to the dedicated organizing team for their collaborative efforts in hosting the inaugural Asia-Pacific International Conference in Taiwan. He emphasized the conference's role in facilitating mutual exchange among fleets from different countries. Beyond the professional discussions, he highlighted the chance for sailors worldwide to experience the charm of Tainan's historic city. To strengthen international ties within IYFR, the Taiwan Southern Cross Fleet signed a strategic alliance agreement with the Philippine Dragon Fleet, marking a significant milestone in Taiwan's international maritime exchanges.



*Alliance Agreement Signing Ceremony between Taiwan Southern Cross Fleet Commodore, David Chen and the Philippine Dragon Fleet.*

During the annual gala dinner, the Taiwan Unique Seven Fleet hosted a chartering ceremony, highlighting a spirited formation with almost 70 sailors. Tresor, the founding team commander from the Taiwan Southern Cross Fleet, takes on the role of guiding commander, further enhancing the fleet's dynamic spirit.

Under the witness of International Vice Commander IRC Paul Yow, current Asia-Pacific Commander AC Edmond, and Taiwan's Regional Commander RC Marina, the entire crew takes an oath. Founding team commander Ho Yida, Secretary-General Shen Xinruo, and the executive committee members receive shoulder insignias symbolizing the maritime honor of IYFR Rotary International. The ceremony also includes the signing of an alliance agreement with the Philippine Titan Pacific Fleet.





*IYFR International Ambassador PRIP Gary Huang*



*Chartering Ceremony for Commodore Ho Yida of Taiwan Unique Seven Fleet*



*Group photo of Taiwan Unique Seven Fleet Sailors*

The annual meeting featured collaborative discussions on the future development direction of IYFR in the Asia-Pacific region. Participants shared experiences and insights from their respective countries. On December 7th, a special PCC cruise was arranged, guiding international sailors through Anping Harbor. The commitment to maintaining close connections and promoting marine welfare persists, contributing to global efforts in marine conservation.



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# ZERO WASTE TO NATURE: A JOURNEY FROM ZAMBALES BEACHES TO NATIONWIDE CHANGE

By Zedrik Avecilla, FC Subic Bay Fleet, Philippines

Zero Waste to Nature Journey.

Is it even possible?

A decade ago, if someone had asked me about achieving a zero-waste world, I'd have responded with skepticism. The overflowing trash during our beach cleanups in Zambales, where I serve as the Area Coordinator for the International Coastal Cleanup Philippines and Managing Director of the Lighthouse Marina Resort Legacy Foundation, seemed insurmountable. It felt as though the waves of waste were relentless, always outpacing our efforts. But times have changed, and so has my perspective.

## Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

The lesson?

No individual, regardless of commitment or resources, can single-handedly combat the waste crisis. It necessitates a synchronized effort from policymakers, industries, and consumers.

EVERYONE, from government leaders to ordinary consumers, holds the brush to paint a green future.

Our planet is at a tipping point. We're consuming and wasting at rates that aren't sustainable and to change

course towards a zero-waste world is just impossible to attain.

## The Economic Model Dilemma: Linear vs. Circular

Circular economy is the way to go. Linear Economy is clearly not sustainable.

At present, the world runs on a linear economy—extract, produce, consume, and discard.

Yet, this model blinds us to its true costs: immense waste, environmental pollution, and irreversible ecological harm. It's an outdated system that hinges on mass production and a throwaway culture.

In contrast, the circular economy operates in harmony with nature. Instead of a one-way path culminating in waste, resources continuously cycle—used, recycled, reused. This sustainable model emphasizes sharing, maintenance, and the principle of "waste not, want not."

## Turning the Tide: Steering the 'Zero Waste to Nature 2030' Vision

My journey has now led me to the role of Program Director for 'Zero Waste to Nature 2030' under the Philippine







Alliance for Recycling and Materials Sustainability. It's invigorating to join forces with visionaries across sectors, all dedicated to transforming our nation's approach to waste.

Because technology alone won't solve our issues. At its core, change is fueled by communities, collaboration, and meaningful partnerships.

The spirit of sustainability thrives on collective ambition and enduring bonds between people.

## Beyond the Price Tag

Our buying choices have repercussions.

A new pair of shoes, for instance, carries costs often unseen: from environmental footprints to societal implications. We must recognize the broader stories products tell, looking beyond the glimmer of advertisements.

## Embracing Global Standards with SDG 12

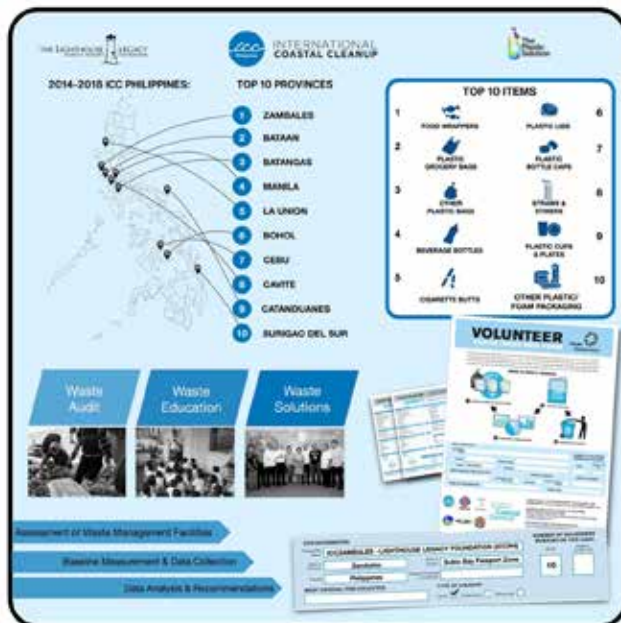
The United Nations' SDG 12 is more than just a guide-

line—it's a compelling call to action. It advocates for a global shift to sustainable consumption and production, emphasizing innovation, efficiency, and a decisive reduction in waste.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a vision for people and planet to be achieved through partnership and solidarity.

## Journey to Zero Waste: A New Dawn with the EPR Law

In the face of mounting waste challenges, the Extended Producer Responsibility Act of 2022 shines as a beacon. Mandating corporations to be accountable for their products throughout their lifecycle, this groundbreaking law paves the way for an eco-friendlier Philippines, fostering sustainability and green entrepreneurship.



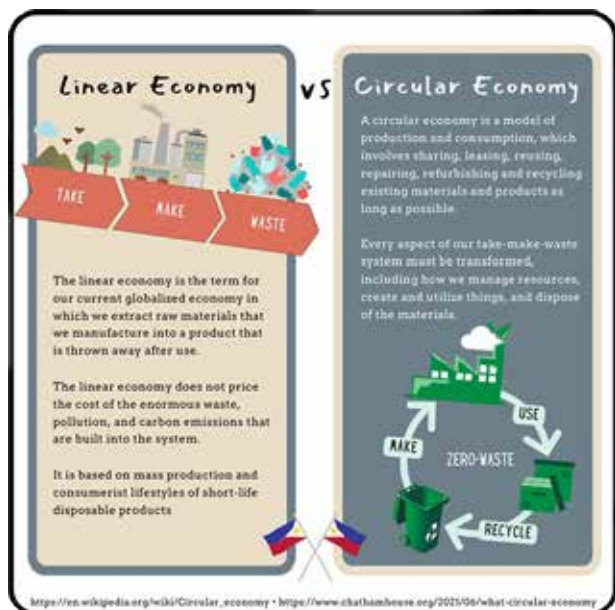
## What is the EPR Law?

This legislation obliges large enterprises to manage the plastic packaging of their products' environmental impact, from design to end-of-life disposal. It targets plastic items used for packaging, including various forms of plastics, classified as Rigid and Flexible.

Large Enterprises must create an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program that involves measures like reducing plastics, adopting reusable items, enhancing recyclability, adopting an MRF, and setting up recovery & recycling centers. These initiatives can be carried out individually or in groups, and reports must be submitted to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

While non-compliance brings penalties, compliant businesses receive incentives, propelling them towards a circular economy mindset.





aware of the repercussions of their choices." In essence, zero waste isn't just a trend; it's a vision—a call for change. Let's champion a circular, eco-friendly world, together.

Understanding and advocating for effective waste management policies is more than a responsibility—it's our legacy.

I invite all of you to be part of this pivotal movement as we sail towards the horizon of zero waste. Let's immerse ourselves in the spirit of the EPR Law, understand its mechanisms, and harness its potential. Be the vanguards of change. Foster sustainable practices, immerse yourself in community recycling efforts, and ignite a nationwide transformation towards ecological balance.

The result?

A significant reduction in emissions and the ushering in of cleaner, trash-free marine environments.

This legislation is not just regulatory; it's transformative, heralding an era of green revolution in the Philippines. It's a catalyst for creating sustainable job opportunities and promoting enterprises that prioritize environmental consciousness at their core.

## Why the EPR Law is a Game-Changer in Our Journey to Zero Waste

Today's choices sculpt tomorrow's reality. As conscious consumers, understanding and supporting progressive waste management is crucial. Embracing practices like waste minimization and proper segregation is a start. Engaging in local recycling programs, deposit-refund schemes, and other green initiatives propels us further.

As Jonathan Co, President of Sentinel Upcycling Technologies, aptly put it, "A sustainable Philippines, and by extension, a sustainable planet, is one where citizens are acutely



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



# "HOW THE PHILIPPINES REGION ENCOURAGES ITS FLEETS TO PARTICIPATE IN BEACH AND OCEAN CLEANUP"



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS FLEET

By Regional Vice Commodore Nelia Cruz Sarcol



The IYFR Fleet of the Circle of Friends(IYFR-COF) in partnership with the Rotary Club of Makati Circle of Friends (RCMCoF), worked with the Philippine Coast Guard, the Philippine Coast Guard - Auxiliary, and the Philippine Marines, in their noble endeavor to revitalize marine life biodiversity in Ternate, Cavite.

IYFR-COF launched 1000 pieces of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) approved hollow blocks with the correct PSI into the sea to form circular artificial coral reefs.

Together with RCMCoF, IYFR-COF pledged to sustain this project annually for 10 years, not just to improve the marine life ecosystem as part of their advocacy, but also to improve the livelihood of the fisherfolks in the area.

## saving the seas

◀ **ARTIFICIAL REEF PROJECT.** On October 22, 2023, Regional Vice Commodore Nelia Cruz Sarcol and RCMCoF President Kenneth Rocete (wearing yellow vests), with the IYFR Circle of Friends Fleet member engaged other stakeholders in this marine environment protection project in Ternate, Cavite.



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



# ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP AT SEA

## The GSP-Sea fleet's marine environment project in Puerto Galera

By Fleet Commodore Jonathan Diaz

*November 11-12, 2023, Puerto Galera Bay, Mindoro*

In a remarkable display of commitment and fellowship, Members of the Genuine Service Presidents (GSP) Sea Fleet of Rotary District 3820 embarked on an environmental mission in Puerto Galera, Mindoro. The event, held on November 11-12, 2023, is a powerful statement of their dedication to environmental conservation and community service.



### The GSP-Sea Fleet: A Legacy of Service

The GSP-Sea Fleet, a newly-minted but promising group within the International Fellowship of Yachting Rotarians, is composed of past Rotary Club presidents known for their 'Genuine Service'. These leaders have continued their legacy of service beyond their presidential terms, focusing on impactful community and environmental projects. Fleet Commodore Jonathan Diaz of RC Bauan and Elvie Garcia, alongside Carlos Garcia of RC Puerto Galera Bay, played vital roles in organizing this event.



### A Trio of Environmental Initiatives

The project commenced with a Coastal Cleanup at Boquete Beach. Participants diligently collected plastics and other debris, aiming to restore the natural beauty and health of the coastline. The cleanup was a hands-on effort to address the pressing issue of marine pollution.

Subsequently, the team conducted an Underwater Cleanup near Palangan Bay. Here, the focus was on removing Crown of Thorns starfish, notorious for their detrimental impact on coral reefs. An adult starfish can devastate up to 10 square meters of coral annually, posing a significant threat to marine biodiversity.

The environmental endeavor concluded with Mangrove Planting in Barangay Sto. Niño. Approximately 200 mangrove seeds were planted by the GSP-Sea Fleet, contributing to coastal protection, habitat creation, and carbon sequestration. Mangroves are vital for the ecological and economic well-being of coastal communities, offering protection against storms and erosion.

### Fellowship and Future Endeavors

Post these activities, the members engaged in Yacht Photo Ops and fellowship, celebrating their hard work and the bonds forged. The GSP-SEA Fleet, chartered under the sponsorship of District Governor Gina Sy during the Rotary Year 2022-2023, exemplifies the spirit of Rotary's 'Imagine' theme, turning vision into tangible environmental action.

This project was not just a testament to the Fleet's dedication to environmental stewardship but also a beacon of hope and inspiration for communities and organizations worldwide. It reinforces the notion that collective action and persistent effort can bring about substantial positive change in our world.

The event was a resounding success, leaving an indelible mark on both the environment and the hearts of those involved. As the very first project of GSP-Sea Fleet, it sets a benchmark for future projects, showcasing how service and fellowship can intertwine to create meaningful and lasting impact.



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



# ECOSYSTEM MARINE PROJECT LAUNCHES BY IMAGINATIVE AMAZING TREASURE FLEET

By: Fleet Secretary Rollz Elan Maningas



The Coastal Clean Up project in Angono Lakeside Ecopark Wawa held last October 28, 2023 led by Imaginative Amazing Treasure (IAT) Fleet FC Arturo Bobby Tanyag and FS Rollz Elan Maningas in cooperation with various organizations namely the League of Global Presidents Inc. D3800, RC Angono, Philippine Dental Association (PDA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and special participation of Sendan Boys.

The Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) plays a vital role in monitoring the comprehensive development and preservation of the Laguna de Bay ecosystem. It entails multifaceted responsibilities which includes water quality management, biodiversity conservation, flood control, fisheries management and community engagement. It strives to ensure long-term health, sustainability and resilience of the aforementioned ecosystem both environment and socio-economic well-being.

Preserving the Philippine ecosystem requires a holistic approach that addresses conservation, sustainable development, and community engagement to ensure the long-term viability of its peculiar and invaluable diversity.

The BUSILAK (*Buhayin ang sapa, ilog, lawa at karagatan*) is one of the viable community organizations who are helping the Angono Ecopark and lake to uplift and clean the aforementioned environment. Indeed, the local folks are doing their best to clean the lake as a source of their livelihood. Having a clean water is tantamount to a clean living. The locals are selling fish and vegetables in the edge of Angono to help their peeps to uplift its economic status.



The IAT chose Angono because the BUSILAK group is constantly cleaning the rivers and canals, and the dredging or trenching of the Angono River are the main reasons why the river does not overflow during storms or heavy rains which are important to protect and preserve the life and property of the people.

The one-day marine activity brought another gigantic smile to the locals in order to have a beautiful life to live with a purpose. It also emphasized here the spirit of camaraderie and strong friendship among the locals and rotary clubs.

Moreover, conservation initiatives and community involvement like Angono folks play pivotal roles in ensuring the long-term health of this ecosystem. This is the beginning of IAT and other groups to strengthen the marine project in the aforementioned place.

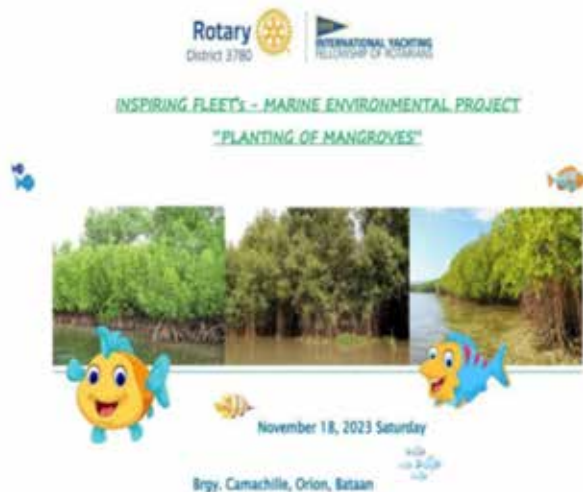


[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



# INSPIRING PHILIPPINE FLEET ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT – MANGROVE PLANTING

By Fleet Commodore Franco Martin Macatangay



The Inspiring Fleet members conducted Mangrove Planting in Barangay Camachille, Orion, Bataan last November 18, 2023. This project was in coordination with Rotary Club of Cosmopolitan Cubao of Rotary District 3780 headed by HCP Benjie Ganapin. The mangrove variety planted was BAKAWAN and there were about 300 young plants prepared. Also, several club presidents from the district and locals from the barangay participated in the planting while the area was on low tide. The Barangay Captain, Sir Jessie, on his last day in Public Office, did the orientation as to the proper way of planting BAKAWAN. We plan to go back to assist in the preparation of BAKAWAN nursery and coastal clean up next year.







[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



# COASTAL CLEANUP AND MANGROVE PLANTING PROJECT WORLD CLASS PHILIPPINE FLEET

By Fleet Vice Commodore Evelyn Yun



The Coastal Cleanup and Mangrove Planting Project took place last October 20, 2023. This initiative was spearheaded by the IYFR World Class Fleet in collaboration with the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarrians, and the IYFR Philippine Fleet.

We were privileged to have the support and active participation of various organizations, including the Rotary Club of Malabon, Rotaract Club of Malabon, Soroptimist SI Commonwealth, Zonta Club of Makati Paseo de Roxas, Maritime Police, BFP, Tanza Barangay Volunteers, and DENR. At Isla Pulo in Tanza, Navotas City, we collectively planted 300 mangrove propagules and engaged in a thorough coastal cleanup.







This event not only showcased our passion for seamanship but also served as a meaningful contribution to Rotary's area of focus on supporting the environment. Beyond our love for the sea, this initiative allowed Rotary mariners to address the crucial issue of environmental conservation. It presents a unique opportunity to raise awareness in local communities about sustainable living in coastal areas, all while safeguarding the vulnerable life within our waters.

By working together, we believe that we can make a positive impact on our world. Planting one tree and cleaning one water body at a time, we contribute to creating a better world for all.



[CLICK TO GO BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)





*We look forward to your submissions of  
articles, comments, photos and anecdotes.  
It will be a pleasure to meet again  
in March 2024.*

*Happy New Year!*

