



## Voice of the Oceans Expedition docks at the Newport International Boat Show



**NEWPORT** – September, 2022 – [Voice of the Oceans](#) is an organization led by the Schurmans, a Brazilian family that have been sailing the seas for 40 years as a modern-day cross between Robinson Crusoe and Jacques Cousteau. This mission will sail to over 65 destinations with the purpose of rid the oceans of plastics pollution by mobilizing people, businesses, universities, and governments around the globe, to adopt behaviors and policies that advance oceanic conservation.

The expedition's **sailing vessel SY Kat** is a fully contained biosphere that is currently docked at the Newport International Boat Show, one of the largest in-water events in the country and the premier show in New England, where the organization will receive on board the audience concerned about the health of the oceans and interested in the Voice of the Oceans' mission and the vessel's sustainable solutions. The expedition's leaders will also give lectures and will have meetings with representatives of the nautical industry, mainly from technology companies and sustainable innovations that can complement and further enhance the structure of the **sailing vessel SY Kat**. In all activities, they will promote discussions on measures that will improve the health of the oceans by minimizing the impacts of plastic waste.

"We saw strong momentum at the UN Ocean Conference this year for a global treaty to curb plastic pollution by establishing a legally binding international agreement over the next two years," said Wilhelm Schurmann, captain of the **sailing vessel Kat** and one of the Voice of the Oceans' leaders. "This agreement by 175 countries will take humanity a step closer toward a new plastics economy that incentivizes and rewards those who prioritize conservation-

centric behaviors. Our goal with the expedition's stop at the Newport International Boat Show is to intensify a new era of collaboration with industry leaders and develop innovations that can be applied worldwide on a large scale."

### **About sailing vessel SY Kat**

Custom built in Brazil in 2014 for expedition purpose and now with over 60,000 miles sailed SY Kat has some special features that really make her unique in the redundancy and the sustainability side. Her 17' hydraulically retractable keel when lifted changes the draft to only 7' permitting her to sail in shallower waters. With numerous sustainable solutions, the vessel uses clean energy (wind, hydro and solar) and has a custom made sewage treatment system. For the Voice of the Oceans expedition some upgrades and improvements have been made including the expansion of the capacity to generate clean energy, the use of lithium batteries and changes in the water treatment system with ultraviolet in the final phase. In addition, all paper/metal/plastic/glass waste generated is separated at the Recycling Center and properly treated by the trash compactor and glass crusher. The vessel also has a composting system for the processing of organic waste that is used on their green organic garden. There is also a collection bin for expired or unused medicines.

### Main technical specifications

Hull length: 24 m (78 ft)

Beam: 6.3 m (20 ft)

Max Draft (Keel down): 5.2 m (17 ft)

Min Draft (Keel up): 2.2 m (7 ft)

Displacement: 71t (156,528 lb)

Keel Weight: 18t (39,683 lb)

Hull: Steel

Deck: Stainless steel

Rig: Ketch; Main 30 m (100 ft) & Mizzen 23 m (70 ft)

Sail Area: 335 m<sup>2</sup> (3600 sq. ft) Main, Mizzen & Genoa

Engine: Twin Volvo Penta D3-150

*[Media Contact: Journalists interested in a tour of Kat and an interview should contact Alexandre Moreno at [alexandre.moreno@voiceoftheoceans.org](mailto:alexandre.moreno@voiceoftheoceans.org) or +55 (11) 98374-4664*

[Video](#) about Voice of the Oceans and [photos](#)

## About Voice of the Oceans

[Voice of the Oceans](#) is a global initiative committed to ridding the oceans of plastic pollution. Aboard the sustainable sailing vessel SY Kat, the crew will sail to over 65 destinations between Brazil and New Zealand by November 2023. Through the expedition, it has been opening a global dialogue about ocean pollution that includes not only protecting and preserving the rivers and beaches, but also fish and marine wildlife that are becoming contaminated by plastic waste that consequently enter the food chain and are threatening the human health. Micro- and nano-plastics found in the oceans also prevent the oceans from playing their role in sustaining the environment, such as producing oxygen and maintaining climate balance. The main purpose of the expedition is to inspire, engage and educate society to protect the oceans, spur innovation, and rid the world's oceans of plastic. In addition, the expedition is also a scientific platform for universities and NGOs. The Schurmann Family led this path with support from the [U.N. Environment Programme](#), the [Plastic Soup Foundation](#) and corporate partners supporting Voice of the Ocean in its ESG efforts include perfume brand Kaiak (Natura), beer brand Corona (Ambev), writing, drawing and creative products brand Faber Castell, Basic Sanitation Company of the State of São Paulo (Brazil) SABESP and pharmaceutical retail network RaiaDrogasil– and Tramontina USA is the U.S. sponsor of the expedition.

**|Alexandre Moreno**



|Cel: +55 (11) 98374-4664

|Tel: +55 (11) 4210-5988

|Rua Jesuino Arruda 769

|2º andar, Itaim Bibi

|São Paulo – SP

|Brasil

|A Schurmann Family initiative in partnership with the UN



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