



OceanoScientific Expeditions 2023-2030

Wednesday 10 January 2024

Reshuffle of the Board of Directors

At the start of January, the thirteenth anniversary of the OceanoScientific association (07/01/2011), where reshuffle is the order of the day in France, we are delighted to announce that our Board of Directors is now made up of: Yvan Griboval, President; Professeur Christian Siatka, Vice-President; Béatrice Witvoet, General Secretary; Charlotte Bouery, Treasurer; Philippe de Boucaud and Richard Houbron. We would also like to express our respect and gratitude to our outgoing members: Rupert Schmid, co-Founder of this NGO, Rémi Bollack, Juliette Declercq and Manon Praud. Over the past thirteen years, Rupert Schmid's comments, advice and contributions have enabled OceanoScientific to grow, sometimes overcoming difficult hurdles, by constantly moving forward in the spirit of conquest that befits a philanthropic association of general interest, whose priority objective is both to explore little-known maritime area under sail without CO2 emission, and to raise awareness among young people of the imperative need to RESPECT and LOVE the Ocean.



At sunset on 27 December 2023, on a calm Mediterranean Sea, the [Lagoon 570](#) catamaran *LOVE THE OCEAN*, skippered solo by Yvan Griboval, points its bows at Cap Lardier, the southern tip of the Saint-Tropez peninsula, on the way to the [Pôle Nautisme of Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône](#) to complete the preparation for the actual departure of the first of the [OceanoScientific Coral Reefs Expeditions 2023-2030](#). Photo OceanoScientific

Here are a few details about the new Board of Directors of the OceanoScientific philanthropic association of general interest, based in Nice, the host city from 5 to 15 June 2025 of the third *United Nations Ocean Conference - UNOC Nice 25*.

[Yvan Griboval](#), President, Director of the *OceanoScientific Expeditions* and skipper of the [Lagoon 570](#) catamaran *LOVE THE OCEAN*, wanted a scientific vice-president at his side who could take on three tasks in one.

His first mission: To guide the association in promoting the use of science, and specifically the genetics of marine reef organisms, for the benefit of Health (Human - Animal), Well-being (Dermatology - Cosmetology - Nutrition) and Environmental Services (Agriculture - Aquaculture - Depollution).

Its second mission: To design the molecular biology cabin on the 17-meter catamaran *LOVE THE OCEAN*, so that he can perform in-situ DNA sequencing of samples as soon as they leave the water, when the scuba-diving scientists bring them back on board after their coral reef explorations. This will be a real scientific innovation.

Its third mission: To run introductory workshops in genetics applied to marine organisms and DNA sequencing on board or ashore near the *LOVE THE OCEAN* catamaran, in order to promote the new professions of the *Blue Economy* to young people before they embark on the courses identified by Parcoursup. This third activity will be one of the innovative features of forthcoming stopovers on the Tour MER & MÉTIERS - *Revealing the vocations of Tomorrow*. It will be implemented as soon as April 2024.

The Vice-President is **Professeur Christian Siatka**: Geneticist, toxicologist, University Professor at the University of Nîmes, Deputy Director of the BIOTIN Master's program, Head of the Professional Degree of Biotechnology professions and member of the Unité Propre de Recherche CHROME (UPR CHROME). He teaches Molecular Genetics, Biotechnology, Toxicology and Regulation/Quality. Christian Siatka is Director of the Genotyping and Genomics platform at the École de l'ADN, chaired by Professor Philippe Berta, who is also Member of Parliament for the sixth district of Gard. He is involved in Research programs in Human Genetics, Environmental Genetics and Functional Genomics. Christian Siatka is a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Citizen's Reserve - Pôle Judiciaire of the National Gendarmerie and an Expert for the European Commission.

General Secretary, **Béatrice Witvoet**, Lawyer at the Paris Bar since 1992, has a degree in European Law from Paris II University, in collaboration with the Universidad Complutense of Madrid as part of the Erasmus program. She also holds a Master's degree in International Transport Economics and Law from Paris I University. Béatrice worked at the Bouloy Grellet et Associés Office for eight years before founding LBEW with two other lawyers. LBEW is a niche firm specializing in the maritime sector covering transport, logistics and industrial risks, working for transport operators, marine and industrial insurance players, both in France and abroad. In 2004, Béatrice and four other women founded the French branch of the Women International Shipping and Trading Association (WISTA) network, which now has around around 100 members. WISTA is present in forty countries and has three thousand members. Administrator of the French Maritime Cluster and the École Nationale Supérieure Maritime (ENSM), Béatrice Witvoet works on a number of large-scale and the attractiveness of marine business lines to women.

Treasurer, **Charlotte Bouery**, daughter of a Navy officer, spent her youth on the French coast in the major naval ports of Cherbourg and Toulon. After graduating with a Master's degree in Science and Management from the prestigious faculty of Paris-Dauphine, Charlotte then began a career in international finance as an equity trader with CDC IXIS. After a few years' break to devote herself to raising her three children, Charlotte Bouery moved to Monaco in 2005 to focus her career on real estate.

A graduate of the French school for new communications professions (EFAP), **Philippe de Boucaud** completed his academic training in cultural management at the University

of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), then in international relations in Buenos Aires. He then turned simultaneously to the art market in New York and event communications in Paris. However, Philippe took a six-year break for adventure, sailing the oceans on all types of sailing boats. These circumstances led him, for example, to finance and install electricity in Soweto; to collaborate with Paul-Émile Victor's teams; and to join President Carlos Menem's Cabinet. A man of networks, Philippe now heads the BeCLAM influence & Culture Office, helping private and public companies to develop their communications strategy, digital marketing, crisis management, lobbying and change management, using art as a lever for performance. A cultural agitator, TV program producer, fair creator and exhibition curator, this incorrigible entrepreneur has also set up a wine trading company!

Richard Houbron is co-Founder partner of the Paris-based multi-family office: *Experts en patrimoine*. He is Professor of Finance at the École d'Économie de la Sorbonne. His professional career began in investment banking, where he worked for fifteen years in the Technology - Media - Telecommunications (TMT) sector, before becoming an entrepreneur, looking after the wealth interests of his executive clients and their families.

After having strengthened its Board of Directors, the OceanoScientific association is enthusiastically and multi-skilledly committing itself to the 2024-2030 period, whose program will consist of three major actions: *OceanoScientific Coral Reefs Expeditions 2023-2030*; *OceanoScientific eDNA* Expeditions 2023-2027*; *Tour MER & MÉTIERS 2023-2030 - Revealing the vocations of Tomorrow*.

The next two weekly Wednesday newsletters from the OceanoScientific association will be devoted to what could be likened to a general policy statement.

In two parts, in the form of an interview reviewed and approved by the new Board of Directors, Yvan Griboval will set secondly, the purpose of all OceanoScientific's actions, namely : to guide young people, and in particular high school and university graduates up to Bac + 3, towards the new professions of the *Blue Economy* generated by the imperative need to adapt to the consequences of global warming/ climate change.

*environmental DNA



Cruising along the French Mediterranean coastline is a pure delight, especially when passing off the majestic Esterel massif, as in this image taken mid-afternoon on 27 December 2023.
Photo OceanoScientific