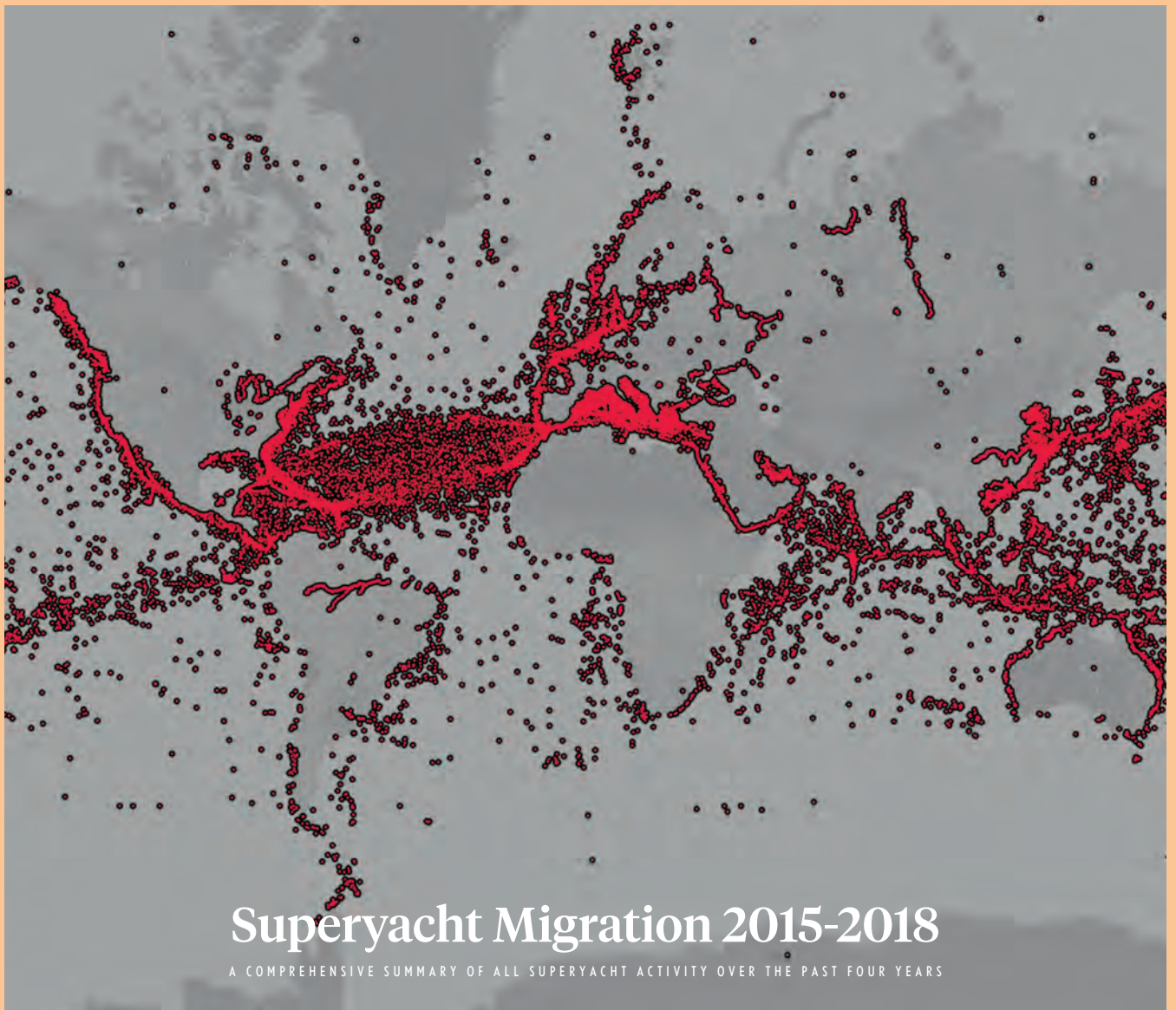


The Superyacht Migration Report





Considering conservation

The majority of superyachts navigate from A to B in the same manner as other seafaring vessels – in the most efficient and safest way possible. But it's even more interesting to focus on yachts that are choosing new routes, forgoing efficiency and safety along the way. Here's why ...

ABOUT ROBERT VAN TOL

YPY

ROBERT IS ON THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF THIS NETWORK

22

AGE HE ENTERED SUPERYACHT INDUSTRY WHEN HE GOT A MARKETING INTERNSHIP AND GOT HOOKED

DUTCH LAKES

WHERE HE WOULD SPEND HIS SUMMERS GROWING UP AND MADE HIM A PASSIONATE BOATER

11

THE NUMBER OF YEARS HE HAD WORKED FOR SYBASS WHEN HE CO-FOUNDED WATER REVOLUTION FOUNDATION

Inspiration from races

Racing yachts travel to parts of our oceans hardly ever visited by other vessels. The revered Southern Ocean is one place where, during races such as the Vendée Globe and Volvo Ocean Race, 60ft-plus sailing race boats compete to be the fastest and strongest. However, some of these boats are doing more than just sailing.

The Volvo Ocean Race, one of the most prestigious sailing races, is all about technical innovation, professional crew, strategy, speed, time and endurance. Recently, it went beyond the competitive element and launched its science programme. During the 2018 race, teams collected 68 water samples to check for microplastics (of which only two contained none) and used sensors to record additional oceanographic data including temperature, dissolved CO₂, salinity and algae content (as chlorophyll).

Boats such as *Malizia – Yacht Club de Monaco*, an IMOCA 60 that will compete in the Vendée Globe 2020 with German skipper Boris Herrmann at the helm, are doing more to help scientific research than many might realise. *Malizia* is equipped with a SubCtech ocean sensor that records CO₂, pH, salinity and water-temperature levels while the boat sails in these remote areas. The data is then sent to the Max Planck Institute and Geomar Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel to be verified and extracted before being sent to Surface Ocean CO₂ Atlas (SOCAT) for inclusion in its worldwide database.

This incredibly important data allows ocean scientists to understand changes in the condition, temperature and acidification level of the oceans. But why stop there? If racing yachts can record data during highly competitive races, then superyachts certainly can!

A fleet of labs

Considering that the oceans are at the heart of the superyachting lifestyle, it's

only logical for the industry to engage in ocean research. If you think about it, with a fleet of more than 1,700 yachts over 40 metres, all professionally crewed, migrating around the world, it's not stretching the imagination to suggest that we can be a fleet of laboratories – a scientific force that could make a significant contribution to the greater good. Not only would this improve the perception of yachting, it would also engage a whole new audience of charterers and owners. May I go so far as to coin a new trend of #purposefullyyachting?

I know that yachts engaging in ocean research is not new; the International SeaKeepers Society started connecting yachts with projects decades ago. There are already many great examples of owners taking action by making yachts and crew available to assist with research projects – from discovering iconic shipwrecks and releasing buoys for data collection to taking water samples and supporting local communities.

Notable philanthropists include the owners of superyacht *Ace* and its support vessel *Garçon*, who started the *Ace and Garçon Environmental Committee* to help local communities clear their natural habitats of waste and to teach children about the oceans and life below water. Motoryacht *E&E* and her owners' *Mind Your Waste Foundation* passionately fight waste, both within the yachting industry and outside. Even more extreme is the fantastic development of *OceanX* with its *Alucia* fleet which, as well as conducting ocean research, films its missions to share with the world. And, of course, the entire superyacht industry is counting down for the much-anticipated launch of *REV* in 2020.

These are just a few examples of proactive owners using their superyachts beyond their primary purpose of leisure and so making philanthropy a part of their yachting

lifestyle because of their love for the ocean.

Water Revolution Foundation's role

Because oceans lie at the heart of yachting, one of the goals of Water Revolution Foundation is to encourage the yachting industry and wider community to increase their engagement in ocean-conservation programmes. We won't just encourage; Water Revolution Foundation will actively bring together the yachting community and conservation programmes, facilitating this logical connection between the two. We will be listing various programmes on our website for yachts to participate in, prioritising projects that are part of internationally recognised programmes.

Of course, engaging in conservation does not reduce the actual environmental footprint of our fleet, so Water Revolution Foundation's main focus is on what the industry can do to make yachts more environmentally friendly. Our starting point is to develop a scientific measurement tool that can assess where we stand as an industry and what the current footprint of our fleet is.

With this tool, yachts can be assessed based on build materials and systems installed. Only when we can measure this can we identify where there is room for improvement and take constructive, meaningful steps forward. Measurable choices will also greatly help in conversations with clients during the design, build and refit processes.

But measuring is just the beginning. Find out more about Water Revolution Foundation's plans on waterrevolutionfoundation.org. As co-founder and executive director, I wholeheartedly invite you to get behind this initiative and join the revolution. Together, we can accelerate the shift towards more sustainable yachts and healthier oceans and, in doing so, future-proof our industry. **RT**