



## Superyachts and Philanthropy – the vessels doing a whole yacht of good across the globe

### Introduction

Just when we thought the world was getting over its obsession with the stereotype that superyacht owners are all Bond villains or tax evaders, out came Tenet – probably still the last big film release since the pandemic struck last year. In the film, Kenneth Branagh dons his best Russian accent in his role as an abusive billionaire oligarch perched on his superyacht as he attempts to play out a dark and twisted scheme. There are no spoilers here, but for those of you who didn't see the film, rest assured Christopher Nolans' latest offering was no Inception or Dunkirk!

As many around the world still hope that 2021 could be the antidote to 2020 (come on, there are still five months left!), in this article we shine a light on some of the good news stories across the superyacht (and wider nautical) world, from scientific research and the promotion of marine biodiversity to those making the world of sailing accessible to all.

### REV Ocean

For several years now we have seen the growth in the trend for expedition style yachts sweep across the fleet, with most of the larger shipyards now offering its vision of the class.

While we had hoped that 2021 would mark the launch of one of the most exciting yachts to be built in recent times, the recent news of REV Ocean's delay will have come as a disappointment to many. But let's look on the bright side, we now have something to look forward to over the coming years. Unlike those that have gone before her in the race to be "World's largest", REV Ocean will be a true expedition vessel. Proving that a yacht can have both brains and beauty, REV Ocean's mission statement is clear, "to make the ocean healthy again" by focussing on three key areas: plastic pollution; climate change and ocean acidification; and over-fishing and the environmental impacts of fishing.

And REV Ocean won't be all pants and no trousers – the yacht shares its name with the charitable organisation she will serve whose CEO, Nina Jensen, left her position as Secretary General of WWF Norway to fill her current post.

Only time will tell how many owners will be inspired by REV Ocean, and the work of its funder Kjell Inge Røkke, the message is clear – where there's a will, there's a way.

## **YachtAid Global**

Elsewhere in the world of good-news yachting, some readers will be familiar with YachtAid Global – a charity which utilises (among other things) the assistance of superyachts to provide humanitarian aid, conservation and disaster response leadership when natural disaster strikes.

One such example of YachtAid Global's work is Operation Beagle which, in October and November of 2018, saw the charity collaborate with M/Y Dragonfly, M/Y Nomadess and M/Y Arctic P to bring water storage and filtration systems to 8,000 children across the Galapagos Islands to combat the issue of water contamination across the archipelago.

Another example is Operation Topaz, which in September 2019 saw numerous yachts including M/Y Loon, M/Y Turquoise, M/Y Hospitality and M/Y Wabash (ex Perla) travel to the Bahamas to assist in the relief effort in the wake of Hurricane Dorian. This operation, again led by YachtAid Global, saw the yachts deliver aid cargo as well as putting their desalination plants to good use to provide fresh water for the local population.

Finally, M/Y Slipstream was awarded for its work alongside YachtAid Global providing much needed tools and materials to aid the rebuilding effort across the Caribbean following the disastrous 2017 hurricane season.

## **Jubilee Sailing Trust**

No article about using superyachts (or in this example, tall ships) for good would be complete without mentioning one of the countless charitable organisations providing opportunities to those from all walks of life and of all abilities to experience life on the water.

Having worked as a sailing instructor for most of my high school and university years teaching sailing to people of all ages, abilities, disabilities and backgrounds, the work of charities such as Jubilee Sailing Trust is very close to my heart.

I recently had the pleasure of speaking with Jubilee Sailing Trust Chief Executive Patrick Fleming who shared his insight into the work of the charity.

The charity's mission is simple but important– “to give people of mixed abilities and circumstances the freedom to explore their ability, potential and place in the world through inclusive adventures at sea”. Jubilee Sailing Trust's weapon of choice? Its tall ship S/V Tenacious.

Participants can join the vessel's crew for voyages all over the World and experience life on the open waves no matter what their level of sailing experience and regardless of ability. Tenacious possesses many modifications to enable those in wheelchairs and with varying levels of physical ability to access all areas of the vessel and take the helm

I have seen first-hand the positive impact sailing can have on people from all walks of life, but none more so than those to whom society has all too often tried to protect by saying “you can't do that”. They can do that, and Jubilee Sailing Trust is one of countless charities working hard to re-write the narrative.

## Concluding remarks

Of course, the examples given in this article barely scrape the surface of superyachts and other vessels being used for good all over the World. Indeed, Slipstream was one of no fewer than 44 yachts which contributed to the 2017 hurricane relief effort.

It is sometimes easy to cast a superficial eye over the superyacht industry and get lost in the phenomenal sums of money spent building, buying and enjoying these most exclusive of luxury assets. But look a little deeper and those same deep pockets are funding tremendous good causes which should be celebrated and embraced.

Superyachts may be the epitome of wealth, but they are also an extraordinary tool for philanthropy, and long may that continue.



### DOMINIC BULFIN - Director

Dom is a Director in the Firm's superyacht group based in London.

Dom advises owners and their representatives on all aspects of superyacht ownership and management.

## CONTACT

Bargate Murray  
44 Worship Street  
London EC2A 2EA  
[www.bargatemurray.com](http://www.bargatemurray.com)

T: +44 (0)20 7375 1393  
E: [yachtgroup@bargatemurray.com](mailto:yachtgroup@bargatemurray.com)  
[aviationgroup@bargatemurray.com](mailto:aviationgroup@bargatemurray.com)  
[propertygroup@bargatemurray.com](mailto:propertygroup@bargatemurray.com)