

# **Sail-shipping platform : imminent departure !**

## **Sail shipping around Brittany : the first 2015 route is opened by sailing ship “Biche”.**

With TransOceanic Wind Transport - TOWT as operating agent, Brest Iroise Technopole launches in 2015 a “sail-shipping platform”, as the project is now endorsed by the regional council of Brittany as part of the program “Coastal Heritage”. The platform is a concrete tool to build a “shipped-by-sail” certification, thanks to traditional riggers that will now provide steady sea routes. This year, two major charters will move more than 20 tons of freight transported by sail around Brittany, from Bordeaux to Plymouth, saving near to 10 tons of CO2 emissions.

### **“Biche” has left for 1000 milles.**

From 10 April onwards, Biche will be TOWT’s working sail for a one-month and 1000 milles journey. More than 20 tons of fine products from local producers - organic wines, ciders, canned vegetables and fish, fresh groceries and fruit jams will be transported by the dundee from Bordeaux to Saint-Malo. Chocolate from Republica Dominicana, tea from the Azores or organic real ale, the famous Exeter Brewery’s “Avocet” will be on board as well and for sale at 50+ stores around Brittany.

### **Biche Circumnavigation between Bordeaux and Saint-Malo**

Biche will stop at 15 ports of call and deliver 200 references from 25 different producers. Shipped by sail, these products will be labeled and distinctively display TOWT’s engagement towards sustainable shipping and low-carbon logistics. The label will enable access to a variety of data, such as logbooks, navigation and position of the ship, in order to keep track of the product.

After Lorient (10.4) Biche will stop at the island of Yeu to reach Bordeaux (13-15.4), Nantes (19-20.4) with short stops at Royan and Paimboeuf, then back to Lorient and Belle-Île (26.4), Douarnenez (27.4), Saint-Malo (30.04), Brest (2-3.5), Camaret. Biche will then reach Lorient, her berthing place, via Groix island (5.5).

## **“Digital boarding”**

At sea, a 4G antenna and camera set on the mizzen mast, will relay the on board events and manoeuvres, allowing all “e-sailors” to keep track of the journey online, thanks to the Orange and MVG on board system.

## **Traditional sea counter**

On the quay, a traditional stand made of natural materials open to visitors, will host an exhibition on maritime heritage, future technologies of sail-shipping and partners of these maritimes routes opened by TOWT. Thanks to Brittany regional council’s “Coastal heritage” program, old riggers are now bridging past and present for the next generation of sailing cargoes, as they fulfil their missions as working sails. Biche will welcome on board any passenger willing to crew for the ship and the platform.

## **TOWT - Wind Propulsion for the future**

Using wind propulsion towards low-carbon maritime logistics, sail-shipping offers perspectives of economic development and innovation. Trans-regional maritime routes opened with the “Sail-shipping platform” make clean transportation possible, moreover when energy transition is at stake considering the background of COP 21-2015.