

Press release

French sailor on the tracks of the Arctic explorers

The Northwest Passage

Luc Dupont, a ski instructor and a sailor-adventurer, dashed the challenge to Join the Pacific Ocean by the Northwest passage as the Norwegian Roald Amundsen had done between 1903 and 1906. Even today, few sailboats enter this route and even less the small boats. Luc is one of those men passionately fond of sailing who dare venturing in these surprising waters, full of traps and particularly of icebergs.

Luc's trip

Aboard Roxane, a 10 meter sailing boat, Luc has already done several Atlantic crossings and a solo world tour (on the clipper road by the Cape Horn). Since four years, he's been living only to realize his dream to explore the « Big North seas ». In 2008, he leaves French coasts and heads towards Norway. The year after, he sails up to Spitzberg and in 2010, passes by Iceland and finally goes up to the south of Greenland. Last year, Luc starts the first part of the Northwest passage to Ikaluktutiak. He prefers focusing on sailing rather than speed that's why he chose to cross the passage in 2 times. He had to wait the 30th of July to take back the sea and buckle his trip.

His arrival at Nome

« *A little bit of action and adrenalin are going to make me feel good* » Luc said before his start Nevertheless, his challenge is not easy : solo at the helm because his autopilot too much near the magnetic pole does not work. But Luc is very motivated after his unique call at Tuktoyaktuk (Beaufort offshore) to join Nome by the Bering Strait at the end of September.

A self-taught step respectful towards environment.

An atypical, modest and solitary character, L.D.attaches great importance to simple values and all these projects are in keeping with a process of effectiveness to reach the main point. He is certainly one of the least polluting Westerners in the world ! He's got no car, he travels by train, by boat or hitchhiking. On his boat, he uses very little fuel oil. He is equipped with solar panels and wind turbines to supply his instruments on board. These ones are reduced to a minimum : Luc uses his own sailing technique which proves to be reliable and efficient.

His future project

As he clearly adapted himself to the rough conditions of this natural environment, L.D. is already thinking of his new project : the Northeast passage. Planned for 2013, this voyage has only been crossed once by a French crew. But first of all, he must get the authorization to sail on the Russian territorial waters. A challenge which is just as important.