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## **First-of-its-Kind Pacific Rowing Race from California to Hawaii to Contribute to Ocean Conservation**

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Monterey, CA – May 30, 2014 – The Inaugural [Great Pacific Race](#) and its organizers, New Ocean Wave, have agreed to enlist the support of the 13 ocean-rowing crews to gather an ambitious set of samples across 2,400 miles of Pacific Ocean for [Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation's](#) (ASC) [marine microplastics project](#). The race is the first organized ocean race of its kind on the Pacific, with boats powered only by the bodies of the crew, and will start June 7 from Monterey and finish in Honolulu.

With 100% participation by all 34 people rowing in 13 crews, dozens of valuable samples will be gathered across approximately 30,000 combined nautical miles for scientific analysis.

Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic debris 5mm or smaller and, while not visible to the human eye, are an enormous source of contamination to marine systems with far reaching effects. When ingested by smaller marine organisms, microplastics and associated toxins can propagate through the food chain, bioaccumulating in larger marine mammals, sea birds and even humans. The effects of this microscopic debris are largely un-studied and there is a global need for further sampling and continued research.

Samples collected by race participants will be analyzed by ASC for microplastic contamination including number, color and type of plastic particles. The data collected will provide key insights into the scope of the marine microplastics issue.

"This is a global problem, and we are looking for creative solutions by partnering with the crews of The Great Pacific Race," said Jordan Holsinger, ASC Scientific Manager. "This historic race provides us a tremendous opportunity to collect data on a massive transect across the Pacific Ocean on a scale that greatly increases the scope of the project. While we've worked with countless expeditions and individuals, the Great Pacific Race is the first large scale adventure race to be an official partner of the ASC microplastics project."

"Our crews were thrilled to contribute to this effort in the name of science," said Race Director Chris Martin. "The motivations behind this historic effort are often deeply personal, but all the crews want to protect and conserve the waters in which they row. We found ourselves aligned with the goals of the ASC in bringing the adventure and science

communities together for real conservation."

As an official partner of the Great Pacific Race ASC will be working with every crew in the race on this vitally important ocean conservation project. Each crew will be required to collect at least two samples during the race. In addition, many of the crews in the Great Pacific Race have demonstrated their commitment to environmental issues by choosing to partner with other organizations individually. For more information about the partnership, the race and the microplastics project please visit [www.adventurescience.org/greatpacificrace](http://www.adventurescience.org/greatpacificrace).

### **About the Great Pacific Race**

The Great Pacific Race is the first human powered race on planet's largest ocean, the Pacific. The race sees crews of one, two and four row non-stop across 2,400 miles of ocean from Monterey, CA to Honolulu, HI. The boats don't have sails or engines; instead the crews rely on 100% muscle power to propel the boats up to 100 miles a day towards the finish line. Boats are ruggedly designed and capable of self-righting if inverted by the 40ft high waves that they will encounter during storms. Boats are well equipped with satellite navigation and communication, anti-collision systems and water desalination units to provide drinking water, all powered by the solar panels mounted on the cabin roof. The race is run bi-annually and race organizers are already taking entries for the 2016 event. The start is scheduled for June 7<sup>th</sup> 2014. [www.greatpacificrace.com](http://www.greatpacificrace.com)

### **About Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation**

Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation (ASC) was established with the understanding that many people traveling in the outdoors genuinely want to do more for the places they visit but often struggle with how to help. ASC exists to provide meaningful opportunities for contribution by pairing adventure athletes already traveling to some of the earth's most difficult-to-reach places with the scientists who need information from these areas. By working with outdoor enthusiasts, ASC can rapidly affect conservation while saving millions of dollars in data collection costs. For more information visit [www.adventurescience.org](http://www.adventurescience.org)

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