The “Flying Boat” Hydroptère Preps for Transpacific Record Attempt

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On Friday September 4, 2009, in the Bay of Hyères, the Hydroptère – from Greek Hydros [water] Pteron [wing] - broke the sailing speed record with an average speed of 55.5 knots (103 km/h / 64 mph) over 500 meters (0.31 mile).

This summer, the Hydroptère team will attempt to break the record set in November 2005 by Olivier de Kersauson, who sailed the 2,215 miles between Point Fermin Lighthouse in Los Angeles, CA and Diamond Head Lighthouse in Hawaii in 4 days, 19 hours and 31 minutes at an average speed of 19.17 knots (35.5 km/h / 22 mph).

The Hydroptère DCNS has been optimized for this new challenge. The flying vessel is now lighter, the sail surface has been increased, it is now equipped with “all terrain” hydrofoils and it has an automatic pilot system for the tail assembly designed by DCNS to improve the stability of the boat in rough seas.

The Hydroptère DCNS has been on standby at the Rainbow Warrior Marina in Long Beach, California since mid-July. The crew is waiting for the next stretch of good weather to take off for Honolulu (follow the Hydroptère adventure on https://www.facebook.com/hydroptere.lhydroptere).

The Hydroptère DCNS Team:

- Alain Thébault — Skipper
- Yves Parlier — Sailor
- Luc Alphand — Apprentice Sailor
- Jean Le Cam — Sailor
- Jacques Vincent — Co-Skipper
- François Cazala — Technical Supervisor
- Jeff Mearing — Electronics and Measurement systems
- Warren Fitzgerald — Boat Captain
- Mickaël Lepersonnic — RIB Pilot, Safety
- Emilie Monthioux — Logistics
- Nicolas Baverez — Strategy
- Julie Roure — Administrative and Financial Manager
- Thomas Lesage — Communications

Video - Hydroptère: 30 years of an epic adventure:

See also The Hydroptere on Los Angeles consulate website.