



## Newsletter

August 27, 2016

### Up to Norway

We made it to Norway after a very turbulent week full of oh's and ah's. Surprised by visitations from pilot whales and dolphins that jumped from the water in front of our bow, while the most common things suddenly became very challenging. Do we wear a bikini today or full foul weather gear? Do I stay inside or could I make it outside? How am I going to make it to the toilet? Actually, what is up and what is down? Luckily after the first day of 4 meter high waves, rough weather conditions and a bit of seasickness among the crew, we made it into smoother waters. Check out our [movie](#) for an impression.

It was finally time to collect our first samples of the surface of the North Sea, to measure the concentration of micro plastics. What a feeling! Now, only a few days later and only halfway our expedition, we are all much more aware of the vastness of this problem; we have seen plastics floating by in the middle of

the ocean, miles and miles from the coast and a spontaneous clean up in the little harbor of Tavanger showed that even places who seem to be clean can be heavily polluted. Using our jute bags from sponsor [Tulper](#) we collected many kilos of plastic trash from between the rocks in just half an hour. Plastics are everywhere.



### Expanding our research

Yesterday we visited researcher Alessio Gomiero of the International Research Institute of Stavanger (IRIS) in Mekjarvik. After introductions from both sides we discussed future research plans of BTOWU and the ecotoxicology department of IRIS. In the coming days we'll be collecting samples of the bottom of the waters in the area of Stavanger to look at the dispersal of micro plastics through water treatment plans that discharge water into the sea.

### What's next?

This weekend we'll be sailing around Stavanger, searching for the beautiful fjords Norway is known for. Conducting our research and cleaning our ocean.

On Monday morning a bus awaits to drive us to Bergen at the dawn of day. After a 5 hours bus ride, filled with ferry crossings and spectacular views. We will visit a specially organized seminar at the University of Norway, with Dr. Marte Haave. Different colleagues from the research to micro plastics will be present. At the end of the day we'll be travelling northwest to meet Pia Ve Dahlen and her students of the university. We'll be spending the night in and around their property and Tuesday will join their program in the field. Plastics, fish, crabs but also moths, butterflies and even sheep shit will be



## BY THE OCEAN WE UNITE

collected. Especially last named sample collecting is causing quite the fuss, we wonder who will be the "lucky winner" of that spot in research activities. After all of this we've got 5 hours to relax on the bus ride back to our ship.

On Wednesday the expedition will be split into 2 groups. A small group will be visiting the International School of Stavanger to present By the Ocean we Unite to the kids and their teachers. Keeping them aware of the need for this kinds of organizations and the need to not spill plastics. The other will be continuing the research on board of expedition Up to Norway.

### Your donations

We have been moved by you donations. Kids collecting plastic bottles and giving us the deposit, enormous amounts of generosity and all other initiatives to make sure we can do what needs to be done: spread awareness about our plastic pollution. Thank you so much and please [keep supporting us](#), in action and funding.

### As posted on our [Facebook](#)

Curious about the "green" product on board that friends of By the Ocean we Unite provided? Have a sneakpeak with this goodybag!

The first 4 donations above €100,- will receive this bag, products and a few secret gifts 😊

Don't forget to put your address in the comment field when you transfer!

[www.bytheoceanweunite.org/donations](http://www.bytheoceanweunite.org/donations)



### After Norway

Missed out on this expedition? No worries! We've already got two new expeditions planned for 2017! In the last two weeks of May By the Ocean we Unite will set sail for Scotland and in the summer we'll be heading down south to Spain and Portugal. Join us in October on our next information evening in Rotterdam, date and time will follow soon. We'll keep you posted!