

Turn the Tide on Plastic skipper Dee Caffari praises crew in Volvo Ocean Race

The yacht, partnered by Sky Ocean Rescue, is testing water for tiny fragments of plastic during its round-the-world journey.

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Turn the Tide on Plastic, which Sky Ocean Rescue partners, is competing in the 39,000 nautical-mile race



Dee Caffari says she is proud of how her young crew fared across the Southern Ocean during Leg 3 of the Volvo Ocean Race.

The Turn the Tide on Plastic yacht, which Sky Ocean Rescue partners, is competing in the round-the-world competition.

As well as raising environmental awareness it is also sampling the water en route for tiny fragments of plastic.

Team MAPFRE won Leg 3 from Cape Town to Melbourne, making it back-to-back leg wins for the Spanish vessel.



'Turn the Tide on Plastic' team's mission

The leg was worth double points, with MAPFRE finishing top of the podium ahead of Dongfeng Race Team and Leg 1 winners Vestas 11th Hour Racing.

Turn the Tide on Plastic finished sixth, arriving in Melbourne on Boxing Day after the 6,500 nautical-mile sail.

For the majority of the crew it was their first taste of the notoriously treacherous Southern Ocean and Caffari feels they gave a good account of themselves.

"Yet again I have watched the sailors develop before my eyes," the Turn the Tide on Plastic skipper said.

"They have now seen waves and winds they had never experienced before and have been driving and dealing with the cold and wet really well.

"We have been on the pace with the fleet and have shown again the defiance of a team that never gives up. Our time will come, of that I am sure."



As well as testing for plastic, the equipment on board the boat measures the water's temperature, salinity and carbon dioxide concentration.

Scientists know little about the ocean away from shipping routes, or areas that have been studied by research vessels.