



## PRESS RELEASE

### Wave International supports record breaking Arctic challenge

Concern about global warming and melting sea ice has inspired a young sailor, Ella Hibbert, to attempt two world records in a bid to raise funds and increase awareness of the fragile Arctic ecosystem.

Hibbert, 26, aims to circumnavigate the Arctic, solo and without stopping. She is currently fitting out her 38 ft steel-hull Bruce Robert's designed yacht, *Yeva*, from her base in Gosport, and hopes the five-month expedition will take place in summer 2024.

In order to help protect the environment, Hibbert will be fitting out *Yeva* with a Wavestream System I. This in-line bilge filter will ensure that no pollution is pumped overboard. Its multi-media filter cartridge captures trace oils and particles such as microfibres and microplastics as well as many other waste products which often end up in bilges.



Ella says, "I'm really delighted to be supported by Wave International. My expedition is called 66.5N, which is the latitude I'll be sailing around. But it should not be possible; there should be sea ice preventing this circumnavigation."



She continues: "Some scientists are estimating we could see an ice-free summer in the Arctic as early as 2035. It's crucial that people across the globe understand that we and the Arctic are intricately linked – conditions in one location impact the future of the other. Without Arctic sea ice, there will be deep blue water, absorbing heat from our atmosphere, instead of ice reflecting heat back into space, which results in more intense heat waves worldwide. It also means colder winters, which we see already with the polar jet stream deviating from its usual course. Additionally, rising sea levels endanger coastal and oceanside communities."

Amongst the challenges she will face include the extremely low temperatures and the wide range of weather conditions expected from fog to storms. With 24 hours of daylight, adjusting her sleep patterns for solo sailing over such an extended period will also be a challenge.

By fitting a Wavestream bilge filter, alongside other environmental products such as solar panels and wind vanes, Ella intends to ensure her journey leaves minimal impact behind her.

Currently working as an RYA Yachtmaster Instructor – one of the youngest to achieve this level – she is appealing for more marine organisations to support her with the vital equipment and funds to enable the record-breaking attempt to take place. “Once I’ve completed the challenge the aim is to auction *Yeva* and its equipment, with all proceeds donated to Polar Bears International and Ocean Conservancy environmental charities,” she says.

Ella is doing much of the work required on *Yeva* herself, and will be undertaking extensive training alongside a series of long-distance offshore passages with other experienced Arctic explorers to gain experience before setting off from Haslar Marina, Portsmouth heading towards Norway, from where she will cross the 66.5 degrees North of the Arctic Circle and circumnavigate in an anti-clockwise direction.



Wave International products are available worldwide through its international network of dealers. For more details visit [www.waveinternational.co.uk](http://www.waveinternational.co.uk)

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*July 2023 PR171*