



Press release – September 2026

THE ECO-NAVIGATION & SUSTAINABLE INNOVATIONS AREA AT GRAND PAVOIS LA ROCHELLE: CONTINUING TO GROW

Key highlights:

- **40 companies showcasing products and innovations, both on land and on the water**
- **A rapidly growing refit hub at Grand Pavois La Rochelle**
- **Start-ups in the spotlight within the “Sustainable Innovations with EDF” hub**
- **The 6th “Sustainable Maritime” round table with EDF, as part of the Maritime Innovation Days**
- **The 7th edition of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Nautical Innovation Awards, to be held on Thursday 24 September, under the patronage of Laurent Ballesta**

An Eco-navigation & Sustainable Innovations Area with EDF, bringing together 40 exhibitors

Right from the entrance to the show, visitors will discover a dedicated area featuring 40 companies and committed start-ups. Divided into two sections, the area will showcase products both on land and on the water. A major benefit of the boats displayed afloat is that some will be available for sea trials.

Electric and hybrid-powered boats; the refit of cruising and racing boats into dayboats; electric propellers and engines; environmentally friendly antifouling solutions; boat refurbishment yards; options for converting conventional combustion-powered boats into electric or hybrid craft; pleasure-boat dismantling; committed associations: a wide range of solutions will be on display throughout the six days of the show.

A rapidly growing refit hub at Grand Pavois La Rochelle

The refit of pleasure boats is expanding rapidly, and Grand Pavois La Rochelle will be a prime example of this trend, both on land and on the water. This significant movement lies at the intersection of several major factors: the cost of new boats, the search for greater sustainability,

technological advances, changing expectations among boaters, and a growing commitment to environmental responsibility.

Pleasure boats have a long lifespan. In Europe, their average service life is estimated at around 30 to 40 years, with some lasting far longer. This has created a vast market for pre-owned boats, as well as a dynamic second-hand sector. Many boats are not ready to be scrapped but do require upgrading.

Several refitted boats, restored by marine professionals, will be displayed afloat. They will also be presented ashore, at the heart of the Eco-Navigation & Sustainable Innovations Area with EDF. This is no coincidence: Reboat, Flotte SAS, Yuniboat and the Passe-Coque association will all be taking part.

Start-ups in the spotlight: “Sustainable Innovations with EDF”

EDF (Électricité de France) is a French energy company that produces and supplies electricity. It is one of the largest electricity producers in the world.

Launched in 2019, this partnership with EDF aims to showcase the new solutions that are already shaping — or will shape tomorrow — the boating industry. As a player in the energy transition, EDF promotes and supports eco-design, helping companies evolve their business models through new features and a rethink of how products are used.

This dedicated hub within the wider area will be reserved for start-ups working for the boating industry:

Beyond the Sea will showcase its wind propulsion solutions, including traction wings for ships.

Weenav will present its electric outboard motors and can also offer retrofit solutions, converting conventional combustion engines into hybrid or fully electric systems.

Eco Nautik offers low-carbon alternatives for engines and generators, using biogas, CNG, LNG, hydrogen and, more generally, e-fuels.

La Coopération Maritime will present a model and a film highlighting electric solutions for shellfish farming.

The French Association for Electric Boats (AFBE) will also be present in this area.

Sealoop will showcase its solar-powered electric catamaran for 20 passengers, designed for sea tourism and scheduled to be launched in 2027.

Gilles Reigner, builder of the GR63, will present this 63-foot offshore catamaran project, which is 100% electric. Powered by solar and wind energy, as well as methanol/water fuel cells, the GR63 was successfully tested at sea in 2026.

Exhibitors in the Eco-Navigation & Sustainable Innovations Area:

The area will bring together companies, start-ups, associations and public-sector stakeholders working to accelerate the environmental transition of the boating industry:

- **3D Refit** – giving boats a second life through eco-responsible solutions
- **ADV Propulse** – electric propulsion systems and motors
- **AFBE** – the French Association for Electric Boats

- **APER** – the pleasure-boat dismantling and recycling sector
- **Bateaux pour la Planète SAS** – Phoebus® eco-friendly boats, built using recyclable materials and powered by solar energy
- **Beyond the Sea SAS** – traction wings for vessels
- **Biotop** – waste recovery solutions, giving materials a second life and supporting responsible, sustainable purchasing
- **BlueNav** – electric propulsion systems that can convert any type of boat into a hybrid vessel
- **Constructions Louis Boyer** – pleasure-boat construction
- **DGAMPA** – the French Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture, a central government body committed to the sustainable development of maritime and coastal activities
- **Echo-Mer** – educational activities, awareness campaigns to end pesticide use, and material recovery initiatives for the protection of the marine environment
- **Ecoboats** – conversion of combustion-powered boats to electric propulsion
- **Econautik** – rapid conversion of marine combustion engines and generator sets to hydrogen
- **EDF** – fuel-saving solutions
- **E-Nav Systems** – electric motors and solar panels
- **Flotte SAS** – refit of racing sailboats and their conversion into dayboats
- **GR63, 100% Electric Catamaran** – a 63-foot, fully electric catamaran designed in France by Gilles Reigner, built in Thailand and sea-trial validated in 2026
- **Kaori Concept** – low-carbon sailboats, motorboats, racing prototypes and offshore-racing craft
- **K-Ren SAS** – environmentally friendly antifouling solutions, displayed both ashore and afloat
- **La Coopération Maritime** – supporting collective-interest projects for small-scale fishing and marine aquaculture
- **MG Energy** – an inflatable sail developed by Michelin and Michel Desjoyeaux, displayed afloat
- **MV Yachting** – solar-electric catamaran
- **Nouvelle-Aquitaine Mobilité Électrique** – promoting the development and decarbonisation of electric mobility in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region
- **Pyréo** – the eco-organization for pyrotechnic distress flares
- **Reboat** – a French brand and workshop dedicated to the refurbishment of boats
- **Resoltech** – development and deployment of electric conversion kits
- **Robert Bosch France SAS** – high-performance marine electric propulsion, displayed ashore and afloat
- **Sailiz** – electric propulsion
- **SAL3T SAS** – eco-designed boat equipment
- **Sea Loop Marine** – next-generation boats designed as genuine living spaces on the water, with a strong focus on inclusion and reducing environmental impact
- **TEMO** – electric Motors
- **Transfluid** – industrial and marine transmission systems and components
- **Weenav** – bespoke conversion of combustion-powered boats to electric or hybrid propulsion, displayed ashore and afloat
- **Yamaha Motor Europe** – electric motors
- **Yuniboat** – refit solutions, displayed ashore and afloat

Highlight: the 7th Nouvelle-Aquitaine Nautical Innovation Award under the patronage of Laurent Ballesta

The winners of the 7th Nouvelle-Aquitaine Nautical Innovation Awards will be announced on Thursday 24 September.

These awards recognize projects that bring innovation to a product, service or concept directly or indirectly connected with boating. They must make a significant contribution either to reducing carbon footprint, environmental impact and/or energy consumption; to improving performance, comfort or safety; or to making boating more accessible.

Following Antoine Albeau in 2025, Laurent Ballesta will chair the jury. A French photographer, diver and naturalist, Laurent Ballesta received the Wildlife Photographer of the Year award from London's Natural History Museum in 2017, 2020 and 2021. As a privileged witness to the health of our oceans, he is deeply committed to protecting marine ecosystems.

The awards ceremony will take place on Thursday 24 September at 6:00 pm, on the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region stand A29. Laurent Ballesta will also host a talk at the Salle de l'Oratoire in La Rochelle, from 7:30 pm on Thursday 24 September.

Highlight: the 6th « Sustainable Maritime» round table, Friday 25 September, 10:15 am-1:00 pm

As part of the Maritime Innovation Days organized by the French Ministry for Ecological Transition, Regional Planning, Transport, Cities and Housing, EDF will host two round tables on Friday 25 September. Attendance is by registration and invitation only.

Following an introduction from the French Nautical Industries Federation on its long-term vision for the boating sector, the first panel discussion will focus on **“Electric and Solar Propulsion”**. Participants will include Bénéteau, Fountaine-Pajot / E-Lektra Marine, AFBE, Millikan Boats, Seazen and CLYD / Hy Naval.

The second panel discussion will focus on **“New Sustainable Uses in Recreational Boating”**, with representatives from the Charente-Maritime Department, Yuniboat, Sea Loop Marine, Coopération Maritime, and others, together with **Yves Parlier, President of Beyond the Sea**.

Franck Darthou, EDF Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Action Director, said:

“The maritime sector accounts for 3% of global greenhouse-gas emissions, as much as the aviation sector. Decarbonizing it has become both a climate necessity and an imperative for our sovereignty. The large-scale deployment of low-carbon electric solutions is a practical opportunity to replace fossil fuels that generate high CO2 emissions.

With its low-carbon electricity production and its purpose of building a CO2-neutral energy future, the EDF Group has worked for many years alongside stakeholders in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region and its maritime ecosystem — ports, industrial companies, manufacturers and users — to help speed up their eco-energy transition.

EDF also supports the Sud Ouest Innovation Awards. Their seventh edition, launched during the Arcachon Boat Show, rewards the women and men who are building tomorrow's boating industry locally. The initiative will conclude at Grand Pavois La Rochelle and demonstrates the wealth of local solutions available to support the sector. I invite you once again this year to discover, in the 'EDF Eco-Navigation & Sustainable Innovations' area, the solutions already helping to build a sustainable maritime, river and port future.”

A round table will also take place on Thursday 24 September at 10:15 am at Grand Pavois Beach, Le Spot.

INTERVIEW REQUESTS: PHONE: +335 46 44 46 39 –PRESS OFFICE

[LINK GOOGLE DRIVE FOR ROYALTY-FREE PHOTOS AND OFFICIAL SHOW VISUALS](#)

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Key Facts

Grand Pavois La Rochelle, the one for real fans

Venue: Port des Minimes, La Rochelle, France

Dates: Tuesday 22 September to Sunday 27 September 2026 10:00 am to 7:00 pm (Sunday until 6:00 pm)

Attendance: 70,000 visitors expected

Guest of Honour: Japan

Exhibition Areas: Boats ashore & afloat · Multihulls · Equipment · Services · Charter & Cruising ·

Heritage & Know-how · Fishing & Grand Pavois Fishing Competition · Grand Pavois Beach · Sea Trials ·

Guest of Honour Pavilion · Eco-Boating & Sustainable Innovation (with EDF) · **Boat trip experience**

Area (NEW) · Tourism Area (NEW) · Start Boating Area (NEW)

More information: [Homepage - Grand Pavois La Rochelle](#)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GrandPavois

Instagram: @grand_pavois_official

LinkedIn: @GrandPavoisOrganisation

GRAND PAVOIS ORGANISATION, CREATOR AND ORGANISER OF NAUTICAL EVENTS!

Grand Pavois Organisation (GPO) provides the nautical and marine industries with tailor-made expertise, consultancy services, know-how and unique experience in the organization of nautical events in France and internationally.

As a non-profit organization, GPO maintains close ties with international marine industry and has developed recognized expertise in nautical event management, including offshore sailing competitions, corporate events and boat show organization.

References: Organizer of Grand Pavois La Rochelle International In-Water Boat Show since 1973, Nice Boating Tomorrow 2026 (France), Salao Nautico de Salvador (Brazil, 2023 & 2024), "Les Nauticales" Boat Show, La Ciotat (France, 2013–2021), Shenzhen China International Boat Show (China, 2009–2011), Partner of the China Qinhuangdao Aranya-Westport (Grand Pavois) International Boat Show 2025 & 2026, Rallye des Îles du Soleil (since 2017), Défi Atlantique Guadeloupe / Horta / La Rochelle (2019, 2023 & 2027), Class40 World Championship (2010 & 2022), Transat 6.50 Charente-Maritime/Bahia – Mini Transat (France/Brazil, 2001–2011), Naming ceremonies for Imoca 60 *Maître CoQ V* of Yannick Bestaven (2022), *Macif* of François Gabart (2011), Class40 *Le Conservateur* of Yannick Bestaven (2014), Inauguration of Chantier de l'Arsenal / Yacht Concept (La Rochelle, 2026)

More information: [Homepage - Grand Pavois Organisation](#)

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