

2024 Pacific Cup Sustainability Report: Setting the Course for a Greener Future

Introduction

The 2024 Pacific Cup was more than just "The Fun Race to Hawaii"—this year, we made significant strides in environmental stewardship, embracing new and innovative ways to ensure that our race is not only exciting but also sustainable. From the start of planning through the final awards ceremony on August 2nd, we prioritized reducing our environmental impact in every aspect of the race.

We're proud to say that this year, Pac Cup took a big step forward in our commitment to the ocean we sail on. Working closely with Sailors for the Sea, we participated in their Clean Regattas program, the world's leading sustainability certification for water-based events. Together, we hosted specialized training sessions for our competitors, equipping them with practical tips and strategies for "greening" their boats and race preparations.

Our excitement for these initiatives extended to the launch of the new "Green Challenge," a fun competition that inspired our teams to take sustainable practices to heart as they prepared for the race. From reducing waste to using eco-friendly provisions, this challenge allowed us to showcase our collective commitment to safeguarding the marine environment.

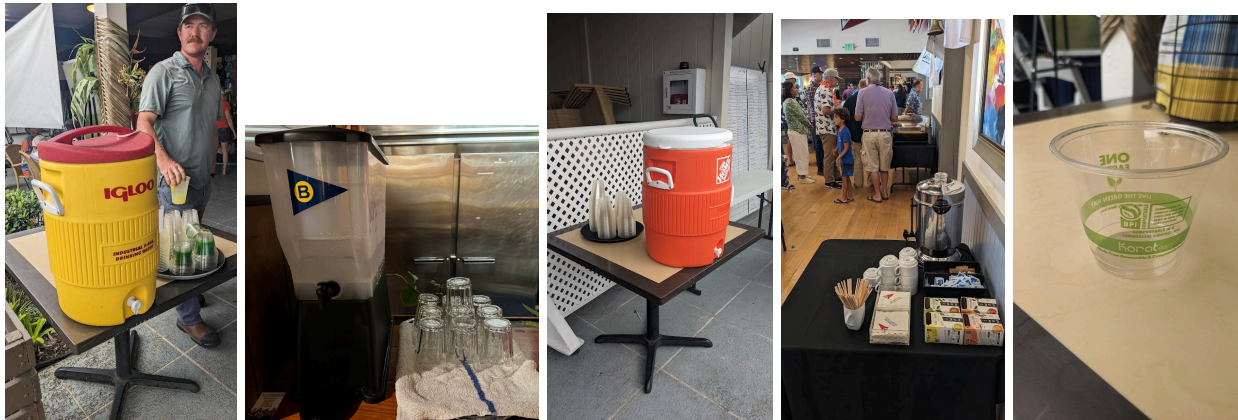
This report will dive into the details of our efforts to reduce single-use plastics, compost food waste, and ensure responsible event management. We're excited to share how Pac Cup is leading the way in adopting green practices, ensuring that our race not only delivers on adventure and camaraderie but also sets a new standard for sustainability in the sailing community.

1. Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations

This year, we took significant steps to reduce plastic waste at our events, particularly by eliminating single-use water bottles at our events. We held several on-site educational and social gatherings at yacht clubs throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and at Kaneohe Yacht Club in Hawaii. At these events, we always encouraged attendees to bring their own reusable water bottles, and we provided water refill stations to make it easy for them to stay hydrated sustainably.

In addition, we did our best to offer reusable glasses that could be washed and reused during these events. However, with some of these gatherings running late into the evening, our hard-working volunteers sometimes had to switch over to compostable or recyclable plastic cups when the demand outpaced the ability to wash the reusable glasses. Even then, we ensured that all plastic waste was responsibly sorted for composting or recycling, depending on the type of plastic.

While we acknowledge there were some challenges, we're proud of the earnest efforts we made to minimize unnecessary plastic waste and promote sustainable practices throughout our events.



2. Eliminating Plastic Straws

Throughout all of our events leading up to the race, we made a concerted effort to eliminate plastic straws entirely. In most cases, we opted not to offer straws at all, but when they were needed, we provided biodegradable alternatives, such as the compostable straws made of paper or sugarcane pictured here. By offering eco-friendly options and reducing unnecessary plastic use, we were able to further align our event practices with our environmental goals, ensuring that we left as little plastic waste as possible in our wake.



3. Serving Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware

We are proud to say that at no point during our events was food ever served on plastic plates. At many of our events including our signature Bon Voyage party, we elevated our commitment to sustainability by using metal flatware and ceramic plates, ensuring that no disposable dinnerware was necessary. For events where ceramic plates and metal flatware weren't

feasible, we always provided compostable alternatives—paper plates and flatware made from compostable bioplastics.

There are photos included in this report that showcase the eco-friendly dinnerware options we used throughout the year, highlighting our ongoing dedication to reducing plastic waste and making sustainable choices at every opportunity.



4. Use or Provide Reusable Bags

To distribute key materials to captains before the fleet's departure, the Pacific Cup Yacht Club provided each skipper with essential items in reusable, eco-friendly cotton tote bags. These bags, made from 100% natural cotton with reinforced seams, were carefully chosen for their durability and environmental sustainability. They're reusable, lightweight, and feature long handles for easy carrying, whether by hand or on the shoulder.

Each tote included crucial race resources: the Communication Plan, Kaneohe Bay Finish Line instructions, protest and Hawaii agriculture forms, the Race Guide, and the all-important YB Tracker device that updates the race committee on each boat's position throughout the journey. Our commitment to sustainability extends even to these practical touches, minimizing waste while ensuring captains have everything they need for a safe and successful race.



5. Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy

In keeping with Sailors for the Sea's recommendation to use upcycled materials or perpetual trophies, we took great care to ensure that our awards were both meaningful and environmentally responsible. The bowls and plaques presented to our winners were crafted from a log of Cuban mahogany that was salvaged from a construction project on Oahu twenty years ago. This wood was then aged naturally in the weather on a farm before being transformed into beautiful awards by renowned Hawaiian woodworker Robert Butts. By repurposing this material, we honored both the craftsmanship and sustainability behind each piece.

Additionally, we continued our tradition of presenting several perpetual trophies, including those for First in Overall Corrected Time and Fastest Passage, further reducing the need for new resources. These thoughtful choices reflect our commitment to sustainability while also providing meaningful, long-lasting awards to our competitors.

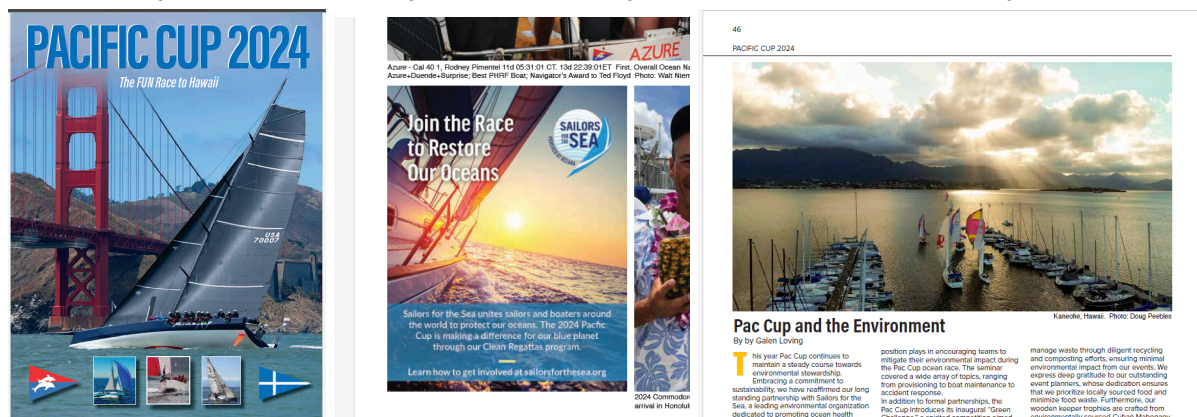


6. Publicize Your Sustainability Efforts

This year, Pac Cup made sustainability a key focus in our communications. The 2024 Race Guide included a full-page article detailing our environmental initiatives, along with an ad promoting our collaboration with Sailors for the Sea, ensuring widespread awareness among participants and the sailing community.

A special highlight was our online seminar featuring Emily Conklin from Sailors for the Sea and Christina Wolfe, US Sailing's Yachswoman of the Year 2023. This session, dedicated to green boating, introduced participants to the concept of designating an 'Environmental Steward' to oversee eco-friendly practices on each boat.

Throughout the year, we also promoted the "Green Challenge" to encourage teams to adopt sustainable practices, making environmental stewardship an integral part of the race experience. Across all our events and communications, we ensured that our commitment to sustainability was shared clearly and consistently with the Pac Cup community.



7. Involve Local Organizations

In preparation for this year's race, our Green Team actively engaged local marine conservation groups for expert guidance on environmental responsibility. A key focus was managing human waste—a complex issue for smaller vessels with limited facilities. The 5 Gyres Institute, a nonprofit dedicated to reducing plastic pollution, offered valuable input on compostable bag options. Their guidance helped inform our technical team's approach to minimizing environmental impact through practical, biodegradable solutions.

We also partnered with Ocean Voyages Institute (OVI - www.oceanvoyagesinstitute.org), an organization focused on large-scale ocean plastic cleanups. OVI's founders joined us at the Bon Voyage Party, where they met with participants and shared insights on ocean plastics, highlighting the scale of their clean-up missions in the Pacific. This collaboration not only

informed our race practices but also connected our community with organizations making real strides in ocean conservation, reinforcing our commitment to protecting the marine environment.



8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

To encourage environmental responsibility at every event, we created educational signage focused on sustainable practices. This year, our reusable signs highlighted key initiatives like avoiding single-use plastics, using refillable water bottles, and waste sorting for recycling and composting. Displayed prominently at our pre-race seminars, Bon Voyage Party, and other gatherings, these signs served as constant reminders to our community, reinforcing our commitment to sustainability in both the short and long term.



9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably

Whenever possible, we made a concerted effort to source food locally and sustainably for our events. For example, our Bon Voyage Banquet featured seafood options like shrimp ceviche and prawn cocktails, which are fished sustainably and present minimal threat to marine ecosystems. We also prioritized local sourcing for other menu items, balancing our commitment to sustainability with budget considerations to keep event costs reasonable for participants. By making thoughtful choices, we aimed to support local producers and reduce the environmental impact of our catering whenever feasible.

10. Organize a Green Team

This year, we took a significant step forward in fostering environmental stewardship within the Pacific Cup community by introducing the role of "Environmental Steward" to each team. This initiative was inspired by recommendations from Sailors for the Sea and aimed to empower participants to take ownership of their environmental impact. To introduce this concept, we hosted a special online seminar in February featuring Emily Conklin (Program Manager, Sailors for the Sea) and Christina Wolfe (U.S. Sailing Yachtswoman of the Year 2023), who emphasized the importance of this role and provided guidance on how to execute it effectively.

Our Green Team was also expanded this year, with the Environmental Chair, Galen Loving, working closely with other Pac Cup board members and the technical committee to bring sustainability initiatives to life. One such initiative was our first-ever Green Boating Challenge, a fun and spirited competition designed to encourage teams to adopt green practices as they prepare for the race. The technical committee played an integral role in this challenge, contributing ideas and conducting essential research into more sustainable solutions for managing human waste, particularly the concerning practice of using plastic bags that are discarded overboard. Addressing this issue was a priority for the team, and their efforts are helping ensure safer, more environmentally responsible practices on the water.

By creating this Green Team and promoting the role of Environmental Steward, we have not only engaged our racers in taking action but also established a lasting culture of sustainability within the Pacific Cup community.

11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

At all of our events—ranging from parties and socials to educational seminars—we prioritized proper waste management by providing clearly labeled bins for recyclables, compostable waste, and landfill waste. To ensure everyone knew how to sort their trash correctly, we displayed prominent signs near the bins with simple, easy-to-follow instructions.

This effort helped in reducing contamination between waste streams and maximizing our ability to divert recyclables and compostables away from landfills. Photos included in this report highlight our waste management setup, showcasing the placement and clear signage that helped our community contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable event environment.



12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill

At all of our events this year, we took careful steps to minimize food waste and divert any unavoidable waste from the landfill. One key strategy was the pre-sale of tickets for event

attendance, allowing us to obtain accurate headcounts and order food accordingly. By knowing exactly how many participants to expect, we were able to avoid over-ordering and ensure that food portions were appropriately sized, reducing the risk of waste.

Additionally, we posted event menus in advance to gather feedback from the community, giving us the opportunity to fine-tune meal selections based on preferences and dietary needs. This proactive approach helped ensure that the food provided was well-received and enjoyed, with minimal excess.

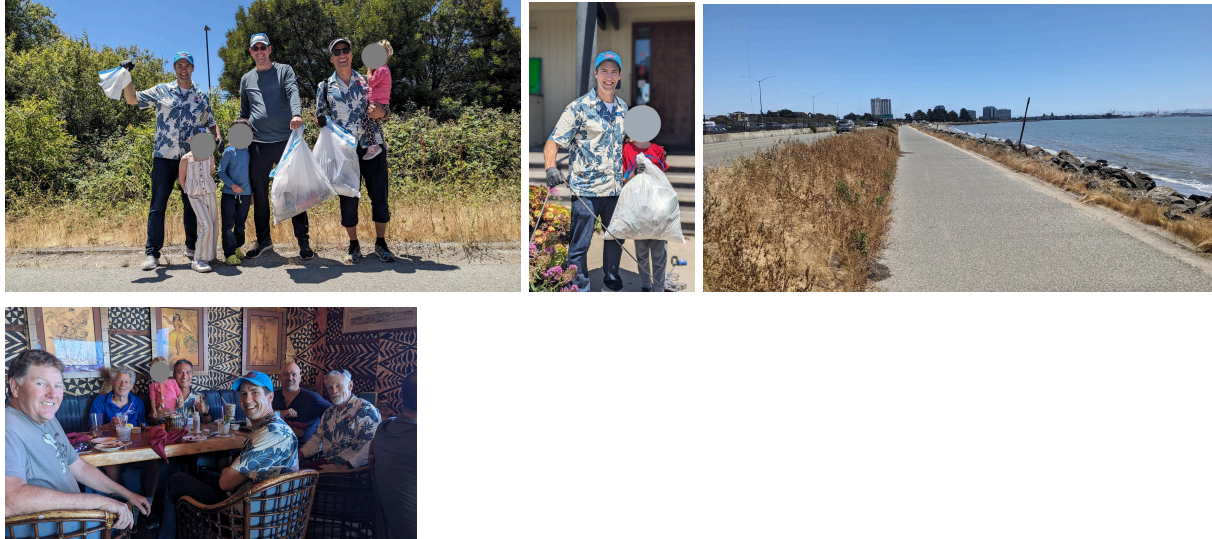
For any food waste that was generated, we made sure compost bins were readily available at each event. This effort ensured that organic waste was properly diverted away from landfills, supporting our commitment to sustainability and reducing our environmental footprint. Through these measures, we not only reduced food waste but also fostered a culture of responsible resource use within our community.

13. Use Paperless Event Management

Building on our ongoing commitment to reduce waste, we continued our paperless approach this year by handling all registrations, certifications, and forms electronically. Instructions and checklists were also distributed digitally, allowing us to retire the traditional binders that had been a race staple for over 25 years. Now, instead of pages and plastic covers, participants received links and three recyclable or compostable sheets of heavy paper. While some teams opted to print essential documents for safety, we minimized non-essential materials, offering digital versions to reduce physical paper and plastic use wherever possible.

14. Host a Beach or Marina Clean-up

To foster community engagement and care for our local environment, we organized a beachfront cleanup and social mixer on June 15th. Our Green Team led the effort along a three-mile stretch of Barkley Beach, paralleling I-580 from the Berkeley Yacht Club to the Emeryville Marina at Trader Vic's. This stretch, popular with joggers, cyclists, and families, faces constant litter challenges from its urban surroundings. Despite a modest turnout, volunteers of all ages joined us and successfully collected over 30 bags of trash, significantly improving the area for both visitors and wildlife. Following the cleanup, we gathered at Trader Vic's for refreshments, celebrating the meaningful impact of our collective effort.



15. Promote Alternative Transportation

While promoting alternative transportation for a large and logistically complex event like the Pacific Cup presents unique challenges, we recognize the importance of minimizing travel-related environmental impacts where feasible. Many of our event venues, such as yacht clubs, have limited parking, which naturally encourages carpooling among participants and attendees. Additionally, a significant number of competitors choose to sail their boats back from Hawaii rather than shipping them or flying their crews home—a choice that substantially reduces carbon emissions associated with transportation.

Pac Cup actively supports these return passages by providing satellite tracking and maintaining daily communications, ensuring the safety and coordination of these crews as they complete their voyages. While traditional public transit and biking may not be practical for many participants given the nature of the event, we remain committed to supporting and encouraging environmentally conscious travel decisions where possible. These efforts align with our broader goals of fostering sustainability while respecting the logistical realities of a global sailing event.

16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

This year, Pac Cup made significant efforts to raise awareness about wildlife and habitat protection through our inaugural Green Survey Challenge. Participants were asked to address marine wildlife guidelines, such as maintaining safe distances from whales in accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act and avoiding anchoring near reefs or protected habitats. By encouraging teams to adopt these best practices, the challenge promoted respect for marine ecosystems and ensured competitors were informed about minimizing their environmental impact while racing.

In addition, we engaged with Mary Crowley, the founder of Ocean Voyages Institute (OVI), who attended our Bon Voyage Party to share insights into OVI's groundbreaking work. Mary provided our community with valuable information about the threats to marine habitats and highlighted her organization's efforts to clean the Pacific Ocean. OVI has retrieved more than 700,000 pounds of plastic debris—including abandoned fishing nets and household waste—and, in 2020, completed the largest open-ocean cleanup in history by recovering, recycling, and repurposing 340,000 pounds (170 tons) of plastics. This engagement further reinforced our commitment to marine conservation and inspired our community to take action.

17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

While we recognize the growing interest in vegetarian and vegan diets as part of broader environmental conservation efforts, this was not a significant focus for this year's Pacific Cup events. That said, we remain open to exploring how dietary choices at future events might align with our sustainability goals. As we continue to evaluate and expand our green initiatives, we welcome thoughtful feedback and insights from our community to help inform how we can address this area in a meaningful way. Our commitment to environmental conservation remains steadfast, as demonstrated by the many efforts highlighted in this report.

18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques

Pac Cup embraces eco-smart race management techniques that minimize environmental impact and promote sustainability. This year's Green Survey Challenge encouraged teams to adopt energy-efficient practices, such as using LED lighting, renewable energy sources like wind and solar, and optimizing battery charging systems. By fostering these strategies, we advanced our mission to reduce fossil fuel reliance and carbon footprints during the race. Impressively, the challenge saw 55% of teams participate, with over 82% achieving silver status or higher, highlighting our community's dedication to sustainable practices.

In addition to team-focused efforts, Pac Cup integrated several eco-smart measures into race management itself. We enforce Rule 47 of the World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing, which prohibits competitors and support persons from intentionally discarding trash in the water, ensuring accountability for waste disposal at all times while afloat. Compliance with this rule was also a central focus of our technical committee this Spring, who conducted an in depth investigation into the practice of using compostable bioplastic bags for human waste management. This work led to the publication of a community white-paper detailing the committee's findings that these bags were unacceptable for this function and recommending paper bag alternatives.

To reduce diesel consumption, Pac Cup does not use a committee boat at the start line. Instead, the race committee monitors the start line from the upper deck of the St. Francis Yacht Club. This approach eliminates the need for motorized support boats while providing an ideal vantage point for spectators, who can comfortably observe the race start from the yacht club or the shoreline without adding to on-water traffic.

Additionally, we avoid the practice of issuing disposable bow stickers for competitor boats. Instead, we provide durable and attractive division flags (see pic), which not only help identify teams but also serve as meaningful keepsakes for participants. These efforts reflect Pac Cup's ongoing commitment to reducing waste, conserving resources, and setting a high standard for environmentally responsible race management.



19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water

Addressing the prevention of toxins in the water was a cornerstone of this year's challenge. Participants were asked about their use of non-toxic cleaning products, reef-safe sunscreen, and environmentally friendly toilet paper. The survey also included questions about managing hydrocarbons, such as having spill kits onboard, inspecting fuel lines, and placing absorbent pads under engines to catch drips. By bringing these practices into focus, Pac Cup emphasized the importance of preventing harmful chemicals from entering the ocean, protecting marine life, and preserving water quality.

20. Encourage Green Boating Practices

The Green Survey Challenge was a cornerstone of our efforts to encourage environmentally responsible boating practices. This inaugural challenge inspired participants to consider a wide range of green initiatives in their race preparations, from minimizing garbage through thoughtful provisioning to avoiding single-use plastics and implementing effective onboard waste management systems. Participants also completed short-answer questions, sharing innovative approaches that provided valuable feedback for refining future Pac Cup best practices.

The survey highlighted the creativity and commitment of our racers. For example, the skipper of Vera Cruz noted, "I will proudly be depositing all non-organic garbage at the Kaneohe Yacht Club. I have made this the rule on all of my boats long before there was a rule." Similarly, the skipper of Carodon shared their system: "We have 3 separate sealable buckets. One for retaining plastics, which we cut to fit as small as possible and will keep till we return to the mainland for recycling. One for glass and another for plastic-lined tins which required a different type of recycling." These thoughtful solutions demonstrate how participants are leading the way in sustainable boating.

To celebrate their efforts, teams that participated in the Green Survey Challenge were recognized on the leaderboard with symbols next to their finish times: a seedling emoji for Silver, a green heart emoji for Gold, and an earth emoji for Platinum. Attached to this report is a photo of the leaderboard showcasing these achievements.

Additionally, all competitors received participation plaques at the end of the race, but those who achieved Silver status or higher in the Green Survey Challenge also earned a beautiful green dolphin enamel pin appended to their plaque. This special recognition symbolized their commitment to sustainability and reinforced the importance of keeping Pac Cup green.

The Green Survey Challenge not only encouraged racers to think critically about their environmental impact but also provided a platform for sharing ideas that will shape future sustainability initiatives. Its success underscores the enthusiasm within the Pac Cup community for fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and innovation.



Goslings PHRF 2 Start at Jul 15 10:50 PDT							
Name	About	Rating	PAU	Fin HST	Elapse	Corr	Br
Tweety Olson 30 Robert Schroer	Duluth Yacht Club, Barker's Island Yacht Club, Great Lakes SingleHanded Society	0.8503	PAU	07/28 10:23:20	13d 02:33:20	11d 03:28:00	-
Hultaj 30 Figaro One Szymon Kuczynski	Zew Oceanu	0.8237	PAU	07/29 12:05:26	14d 04:15:26	11d 16:16:12	12
Young Betty 27 M. Express 27 M. Tony Pohl	St Francis YC, Marin YC, Encinal YC	0.7924	PAU	07/30 10:18:54	15d 02:28:54	11d 23:13:50	15
FIASCO 30 OLSON 30 Arthur Hesford	Royal Victoria Yacht Club	0.8591	PAU	07/29 21:46:41	14d 13:56:41	12d 12:38:15	1c 05
Flexi Flyer 33 Sovereil 33 Mark Merritt	Santa Cruz Yacht Club	0.8432	PAU	07/30 4:30:34	14d 20:40:34	12d 12:44:57	1c 05
Cascade 27 Antrim 27 William Hughes	Pacific Cup Yacht Club	0.8913	PAU	07/30 3:35:43	14d 19:45:43	13d 05:05:26	2c 01
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Conclusion

The 2024 Pacific Cup was not only a testament to the joy of competitive sailing but also a remarkable step forward in environmental stewardship. Through our collaboration with Sailors for the Sea, the introduction of the Green Survey Challenge, and the many initiatives outlined in this report, we demonstrated a deep commitment to preserving the oceans we sail on. From reducing single-use plastics to promoting innovative green boating practices, this year's efforts reflect our dedication to sustainability at every level.

The enthusiastic participation in the Green Survey Challenge, with 55% of teams taking part and over 82% achieving silver status or higher, highlights the collective passion of our community to embrace sustainable practices. The creative and thoughtful solutions shared by competitors will inform and inspire the evolution of best practices for future races, ensuring that the Pac Cup continues to lead by example.

This year's race proved that adventure and sustainability can go hand in hand. By engaging with conservation organizations, implementing eco-smart management techniques, and celebrating the green efforts of our racers, we reinforced our role as stewards of the ocean and champions of sustainability. As we look to the future, we remain committed to building on these successes and setting an even higher standard for environmentally responsible sailing events. Together, we can continue to honor the spirit of the Pacific Cup while protecting the waters that make it all possible.