

Ocean Rowing Roundup for May

May 11, 2022
Rebecca McPhee
Ocean Rowing



Rowing complete. Next: cycle from Florida to Pittsburg. Photo: Facebook/@zerowemission



In our **last update**, just two rowing expeditions were still underway. One has finished, one continues, and a few others are waiting to start.

Completed

Zerow-Emission: Julen Sanchez completed his row on April 17. He began in Portugal on November 29 but had to pause in El Hierro 13 days later to make minor repairs after a large storm. He restarted on December 24. Over the course of 131 days, 9 hours, and 30 minutes, he rowed across the Atlantic.

His journey has not been easy. On February 9, he lost the use of his third and final phone. Since then, he used passing ships to forward his updates home.

He had planned to stop for a second time in Puerto Rico to check his technical equipment and get a new phone. Just days before he was due to land, his family received news that he had decided to press straight for the U.S.

A particularly tricky section came at the Great Bahama Bank. Here, the shallow waters are rife with sandbars and rocks. Rowing through them was not his initial plan, but northerly winds forced him through. Sanchez did not sleep for 48 hours to make sure he safely navigated through this difficult passage. After completing his row, he said, "the beauty of this spot...was breathtaking and worth all the navigational hassle."

His row is part of a larger challenge: to complete a zero-emission trip from Europe to America. On the first leg, he cycled from Paris to Portugal. The row was his second leg. He will now complete the journey by cycling to Pittsburgh.