



Press release  
Tuesday, February 3, 2026

# A World First in Fishing : A vessel equipped with an automated kite traction system

*Cap Bourbon and Beyond the Sea announce a major breakthrough for sustainable fishing*

**Beyond the Sea, company founded by navigator Yves Parlier and a pioneer in wind-assisted propulsion using kite traction system, and Cap Bourbon, a Réunion-based company committed to sustainable fishing in the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (TAAF), are announcing a world first: the installation of a 100 m<sup>2</sup> automated SeaKite® traction system on the longliner Cap Kersaint.**

**Beyond the Sea and Cap Bourbon unveiled this exclusive innovation on Tuesday, February 3, at the Euromaritime trade show in Marseille, an event dedicated to connecting, inspiring, and guiding the maritime industry toward transformation, modernization, and success.**



*The fishing vessel Cap Kersaint equipped with a 100m<sup>2</sup> SeaKite® system - Copyright © Jérôme Balleydier*

## **A wind-assisted propulsion solution adapted to Southern Ocean Fishing**

Developed by Beyond the Sea, SeaKite® is an automated traction kite solution that harnesses wind energy to assist vessel propulsion. Controlled by an intelligent system, it reduces the load on propulsion engines, lowering fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Installed aboard the vessel at the end of 2025, the SeaKite® represents a major step forward in decarbonizing fishing activities. The *Cap Kersaint* is the world's first fishing vessel equipped with an automated traction kite, demonstrating that wind propulsion technologies can meet the operational requirements of deep-sea fishing, including in some of the most remote and demanding areas on the planet.

On the *Cap Kersaint*, a nearly 60-meter Southern Ocean longliner\* built by PIRIOU shipyards, the system integration was designed to be simple, robust, and compatible with the vessel's operating schedule: launch and recovery from the bow, a dedicated control platform on deck, and optimized integration of kite equipment.

\*Longliner: a vessel using long hook lines for selective deep-sea fishing.

## **A strategic choice based on the vessel's operational profile**

Cap Bourbon assessed several decarbonization solutions before selecting kite-assisted propulsion, which is particularly suited to the operational profile of the Cap Kersaint. The vessel conducts long fishing campaigns of approximately 90 days without resupply, in areas where wind conditions are highly favorable.

Primarily used during transit phases, the SeaKite® developed by Beyond the Sea is expected to significantly reduce fuel consumption, leading to a corresponding reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These environmental gains fully support Cap Bourbon's overall strategy of combining economic performance, crew safety, and marine ecosystem preservation.

This project is supported by the endowment fund established by CMA CGM to accelerate the decarbonization of the French maritime industry.

In the future, the kite could also be used during certain optimized-speed fishing phases, opening the door to additional savings and improved onboard generator efficiency.



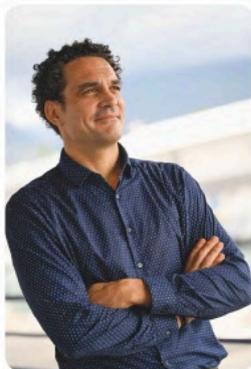
*The fishing vessel Cap Kersaint equipped with a 100m<sup>2</sup> SeaKite® system - Copyright ©Jérôme Balleydier*

## A Shared Vision for Maritime Transition



### **Yves Parlier, sailor and founder of Beyond the Sea**

*« This project perfectly illustrates our ambition: to demonstrate that wind-assisted propulsion using traction kites is a practical, operational, and immediately deployable solution to decarbonize the entire maritime sector, including fishing. With Cap Bourbon, we are reaching a major symbolic and technical milestone. »*



### **Tugdual Poirier, CEO of Cap Bourbon**

*« As a company committed to sustainable fishing, we have a responsibility to explore and adopt the most innovative solutions to reduce our environmental footprint. Equipping the Cap Kersaint with Beyond the Sea technology is a tangible step forward, supporting the sustainability of our operations and the safety of our crews. »*

Already MSC-certified, the Cap Kersaint further strengthens its role as a pilot vessel for more responsible fishing while paving the way for replicating this solution on fishing vessels worldwide. The operational deployment of the 100 m<sup>2</sup> SeaKite® is scheduled to begin in April 2026.

## Media bank



### About Beyond the Sea

Founded in 2014 by navigator and engineer Yves Parlier, Beyond the Sea is a pioneer in wind-assisted propulsion using traction kites.

Because every vessel and maritime environment has specific constraints, Beyond the Sea has developed a complete range of traction kite solutions covering all vessel sizes and maritime uses.

### About Cap Bourbon

Cap Bourbon has been a leading player in sustainable toothfish fishing in the waters of the French Southern and Antarctic Territories (TAAF) for 27 years. MSC-certified, the company is committed to preserving marine ecosystems by developing responsible fishing practices and innovative solutions designed in collaboration with its crews.

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