



CWF Africa to the Americas 2013

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PRESS RELEASE

Trans-Atlantic rowers begin 1,000-mile countdown to history Crew set to achieve world record rowing between Dakar and Miami

Seattle, WA (4/2/13) – After rowing over 2,500 nautical miles from the shores of Dakar, Senegal and spending 70 days at sea, the four crew members aboard the most technologically advanced rowboat in the world are just 1,000 nautical miles from Miami – and history. When they reach the sandy beaches of the Sunshine State, the Seattle-based OAR Northwest team will set a Guinness World Record for the first ever human-powered trans-Atlantic crossing from mainland Africa to mainland North America.

To accomplish this singular journey, crewmembers Adam Kreek, Jordan Hanssen, Markus Pukonen, and Pat Fleming have endured dangerous conditions and faced unexpected setbacks. From the very beginning of the *CWF Africa to the Americas Expedition*, the crew has dodged 1,000-foot container ships, battled fierce headwinds and large seas, and suffered debilitating seasickness. Frustrating wave patterns have broken two oars leaving the crew to complete the rest of the row with no spares. One particularly tense day, work on a malfunctioning wind turbine that provides electricity for the 29-foot fiberglass rowboat caused a near electrical fire. As a result, for the rest of the voyage the crew is closely rationing power from solar panels, and limiting the use of the water maker and other life-saving electronics.

Despite these immense challenges, the crew is successfully tackling its expedition goals of advocating ocean conservation, educating students worldwide via free online expedition-specific content, and researching the ocean and themselves for science, all while rowing into the record books. The ocean rowboat *James Robert Hanssen* is expected to arrive in Miami on/around April 20th, escorted to shore by local rowers and paddlers - final landing location TBD.

For the most up-to-date information and a live position map, visit OARnorthwest.com and YourWildAdventure.ca.

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ABOUT OAR NORTHWEST

Founded in 2005, OAR Northwest is a non-profit organization specializing in ocean adventure rowing and education. Face-to-face interactions with expedition crew members, innovative online tracking technology and an adventure learning curriculum help OAR Northwest achieve these goals. For more information, visit OARnorthwest.com. FREE adventure learning curriculum available at OARnorthwest.com/education.

ABOUT THE CANADIAN WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Founded in 1962, the Canadian Wildlife Federation is a national, not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to fostering awareness and appreciation of our natural world. By spreading knowledge of human impacts on the environment, sponsoring research, developing and delivering education programs, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources, recommending changes to policy and co-operating with like-minded partners, CWF encourages a future in which Canadians can live in harmony with nature. For more information visit CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca.