

WINTER 2024

Win Forward Wip's Wing Harness Line 2.0 and Wing Belt 2.0 combo, explore Jack Galloway's safety tips for offshore foiling, and dive into Rou Chater's harness debate. Head to South Africa with Armstrong's Cash Berzolla for big-wave action in The Wild Coast. Jen Tyler catches up with Alby Rondina in Sicily, uncovers Alina Kornelli's unexpected collab, and

introduces Iset Segura—a fearless waterwoman with a surprising fear of water! Get inspired by rising stars Hugo and Toby Wigglesworth, Sil Romeijn's journey to Harlem, and tech highlights like AFS Foils' Enduro range and Naish's Chimera board. Plus, gear tests, festival highlights, and a chance to be in our Readers' Gallery!

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- THE WILD COAST -

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EDITORIAL



THE WILD COAST -
BEHIND THE SCENES
OF CASH



TO HARNESS OR NOT
TO HARNESS?



THE INTERVIEW -
ALBY RONDINA



WATERWOMAN -
ISET SEGURA



THERMAL REBOUND



UP & COMING -
WIGGLESWORTH
BROTHERS



CROZON FOIL FESTIVAL



SIL ROMEIJN'S JOURNEY
TO HARLEM



TECHNIQUE



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TRIED AND TESTED



THE DRY ZONE



MOVIE NIGHT



READERS GALLERY



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RIDER GUY BRIDGE
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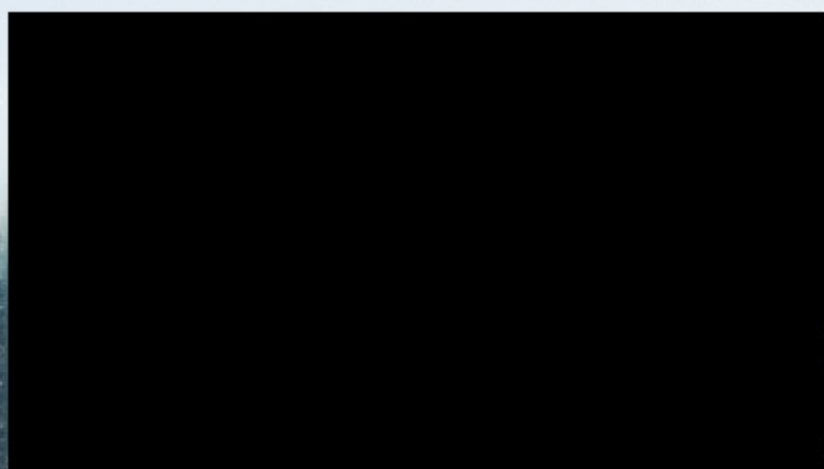
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...THE ULTIMATE WING HARNESS LINE 2.0 & WING BELT 2.0 COMBO!

In Issue 22, we've teamed up with Forward Wip to offer one lucky subscriber a chance to win the Wing Harness Line 2.0 and Wing Belt 2.0 combo. This setup is perfect for all body sizes and designed for lightweight functionality and versatility.

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ISSUE ??

I don't know about all of you, but the more progress I make in this wonderful sport, the more I find myself pushing the boundaries regarding safety. In the past, I'd limit myself to a certain distance offshore, and now, I find myself going further and further out to sea in search of perfect downwind bumps. What's bizarre is that I feel more and more comfortable doing it; I'll explain why that is in due course.

I want to use this piece to discuss safety in our sport and consider the pros and cons. I certainly won't be dictating what I think should be done, but rather, I will be offering a broader range of options and discussing whether we should be doing it or it's over

the top. Understanding the potential risks and adopting safety measures can differentiate between a thrilling session and a dangerous situation.

I'll start with some of the basics and go from there. One of the most important things you can do, especially if you're going alone, doesn't require any equipment. Especially when downwinding, I'd also argue this for regular wingfoil sessions: telling someone on shore where you plan on going and what time you're expected back is crucial. If they don't hear from you by then and can't contact you, they can call emergency services and let them know where you were meant to be, what you were wearing and what

gear you had. Speed is of the essence in any rescue situation. Apps and devices that allow you to share your live location can also provide a layer of reassurance in this situation. I often use this feature, so my wife knows where I am.

Next up is the buoyancy aid. I'm now in the habit of wearing mine every time I go downwind foiling; it helps that my BA has pockets for my phone, PLB, water bladder and snacks, so it's a no-brainer, really. However, I understand they can feel a little bulky and 'uncool'. Something I found really interesting featured at the Crozon Foil Festival. Several athletes were wearing 'Airbelts', a Personal Flotation Device (PFD)



that sits folded up around your waist, ready to be inflated with a pull cord and gas canister when needed. It's an awesome idea, especially for people who are too cool to wear conventional BA's.

The leash is an obvious one, but it's amazing how many videos I see of people far out to sea not using one. A story from a few years ago that Simeon of the Voyager Foilers shared stuck with me. He wasn't wearing a leash on his downwind SUP and when he came off his board, it was floating downwind quicker than he could swim. Fortunately, one of his buddies stopped the board, but he'd have been in real trouble and had to swim miles back to shore in treacherous waters if he hadn't gotten his board back. Your board is a bigger flotation device than any buoyancy aid, so it's worth staying connected to it!

Communication is next up. As a first instance, the Apple Watch (with cellular connection) is a great shout. Based on Erik's recommendation from the Progression Podcast, I got one a few years ago, and it has been fantastic. Mainly, when I surf foil in a very remote part of Dorset when doing a sport where it is just not practical to wear any other safety gear, it gives me real peace of mind to know that I could contact the Coastguard in an emergency from my wrist. I highly recommend it. Beyond that, when out on the downwind SUP, it's pretty easy to have a phone in a waterproof case, and it was a requirement at the recent Crozon event, rightfully so.

Here in the UK, a VHF radio is a great shout, and I now carry one when downwind SUP foiling. Not only is it direct access to emergency channel 16 in the case of an actual emergency. It can also be a way of monitoring the channel, allowing you to stop accidental callouts.

There are, unfortunately, plenty of dog walkers & members of the public on our coastlines who have no idea what SUP foiling is and will call the Coastguard thinking they've seen someone in trouble. Having a VHF could help you stop the emergency services from wasting their time coming to you if you hear a discussion on Channel 16. I'm unsure of the situation in other countries, but it is worth considering.

Onto a vital part of our bodies, the head. Arguably, it holds the biggest risk: if you get knocked unconscious out at sea, especially if you're on your own, your chances of survival are slim to none. So why don't we all wear helmets? I grew up in a time when helmets were only just becoming popular. I used to ride my bike without a helmet all the time... Nowadays, fortunately, it's pretty rare to see a child not wearing a helmet on their bike, and I feel like I see kids doing watersports wearing helmets more often. So why hasn't it caught on for adults? People make their own assessments of risk vs reward, and the reward most likely, in this case, is comfort and style. I'm at that point where I feel like the risk is super low, and I'm just not that comfy wearing one, but the risk is still there. The reality is that I should be recommending you wear one; I'll leave it at that.

This summer, Andrew Sayre had a serious incident in Hood River. Have a listen to his story on the Progression Project. It's an incredible tale with exceptional luck and fast-acting friends, one of whom used his leash as a tourniquet. However, The situation raises the question of whether an actual tourniquet is a sensible addition to your equipment, especially considering how sharp some foils are! I've yet to buy one myself, but I'm sure it's a good idea,



and I can't imagine it taking up much space in a BA pocket.

Other items to consider are things like a whistle, mirror or flare to make you more visible at sea. Also, dressing for the weather is essential; a decent wetsuit is a must when offshore in the UK. Ultimately, all of these things come down to personal preference. Back to my point at the start, I believe the reason I

feel so comfortable far offshore these days is due to the safety gear I have with me and the precautions I have taken. This all results in far more success in my search for epic downwind conditions and adventure. If safety gear and consideration can help me find that, I'm all for it.

Jack Galloway, Editor



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INSPIRED BY NATURE DRIVEN BY THE ELEMENTS

THE WILD COAST

BEHIND THE SCENES OF CASH SOUTH AFRICA

Armstrong Foils team rider and recently minted GWA Wingfoil Wave World Champion Cash Berzolla, cinematographer Slater Neborsky, and local legend Robin "Gumby" Moulang took on South Africa's epic swells in July, capturing the daring world of big-wave foiling in high-res. Armed with the best gear, they ventured across the rugged coast, pushing foiling and filmmaking boundaries. Jen Tyler chats with them and uncovers what went on behind the scenes in this exclusive feature.

WORDS JEN TYLER, CASH BERZOLLA AND SLATER NEBORSKY
PHOTOS SLATER NEBORSKY, ROBIN "GUMBY" MOULANG, NICK CHRISTY



“ TO CREATE SOMETHING THAT CAPTURED THE WILD ESSENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S COAST AND THE THRILL OF FOILING ON SOME OF THE BIGGEST WAVES OUT THERE. ”

South Africa set the stage for an unforgettable trip as Cash Berzolla teamed up with cinematographer Slater Neborsky and local film legend Robin “Gumby” Moulang to create a one-of-a-kind film showing the daring world of big-wave foiling. They planned to chase massive swells and capture each moment in stunning, high-res footage that would elevate the visual experience and challenge the usual foiling films. With some of the best filming equipment on the market, the team ventured across the South African coast, battling conditions and logistical challenges to push the sport—and their storytelling—to new extremes!

Cash’s journey to South Africa began with a vision to foil Jeffrey’s Bay, one of the world’s most iconic surf spots. The idea of capturing this on film wasn’t initially part of the plan. Still, as he dreamed of wingfoiling the renowned break, he realised that documenting it would bring a new level of inspiration to the foiling community. The trip was as much about exploration as it was about progression, a chance to create something that captured the wild essence of South Africa’s coast and the thrill of foiling on some of the biggest waves out there.

“I never really thought about pushing the sport and its boundaries. I was so excited to go on a strike mission, which I had dreamed of doing since I was a little kid. Little did I know I would have two world-renowned filmmakers telling me what to do and



“CASH WAS BLOWN AWAY BY SLATER’S ABILITY TO CAPTURE GRITTY REALISM AND CINEMATIC BEAUTY,”

making me look good. This is by far what made the short film what it was; it wouldn’t have happened without Slater and Gumbo. Both of these guys didn’t seem to search for the perfect shot but instead managed to find it on every wave. Whether shooting on land, in the water, or from the sky, every shot was needed, making the film more diverse and exciting.” - Cash.

When it came to equipment, Slater wasn’t willing to compromise, and he made a strict rule: no GoPros or iPhones! While these cameras serve their purpose, Slater knew achieving a cinematic look required a far higher resolution. They shot most of the footage in 5K or 8K, making sure that each wave, turn, and aerial shot kept the same level of clarity. Slater brought a fleet of three RED DSMC2 cameras, including the RED Monstro VV 8K, for lifestyle shots. They used two RED Helium 8K cameras for action, one for land-based shots and the other for underwater housing.

Slater’s creativity and energy made him a total force on set. Fueled by endless coffee, he was more than just the filmmaker; he was also the hype man, strategist, and go-to problem solver, bringing a dedication that Cash loved. Cash was blown away by Slater’s ability to capture gritty realism and cinematic beauty, managing to find the perfect shot on every wave. With Slater’s experience in the surf industry and his eye for the best angles, Cash could just focus on his riding, knowing each moment was in good hands. “Slater’s creative eye and nonstop energy elevated the project,” Cash said. “His presence brought the whole film together—he’s not only incredibly talented but just a great guy to work with.”

“SLATER USED THE SACTLER VIDEO 15 TRIPOD HEAD—
A GAME-CHANGER THAT KEPT SHOTS SMOOTH, EVEN IN
GUSTY CONDITIONS.”

Each camera choice played a specific role. The team brought a RED Komodo X, sourced locally, as an emergency backup and a DJI Mavic 3 drone for aerial shots in 5.2K resolution. They also used a set of Xeen Cinema Lenses, primes T1. 5 16mm, 24mm, 35mm, and 85mm for most of the shots on land and in water housing. The difference in quality from standard lenses was noticeable, with the Xeen lenses giving the film a high-end feel. A Sigma 150-600mm lens captured long-distance shots, and for stability against intense wind conditions, Slater used the Sachtler Video 15 tripod head—a game-changer that kept shots smooth, even in gusty conditions.

Transporting all this equipment across South Africa’s remote coastlines was no easy feat! Cash, Slater, and the team travelled in a truck and van, carrying all the equipment in large Pelican cases. Early starts, with the gear loaded and heading out before sunrise to catch the best conditions. Moving the equipment in and out each day was tiring, but it quickly became part of the rhythm of the shoot.

No film of this scale could come to life without a dedicated team. Alongside Cash and Slater, Gumby worked as both guide and cinematographer, capturing aerial footage with the DJI Mavic 3 drone and diving into the water with the RED cameras for up-close shots. His local knowledge of the tides and conditions made him a valuable team member. Gumby was crucial for many of the water-based shots, and his drone work highlighted the sheer scope of the South African coast.





Gumby led the crew through unknown terrain, sharing his insights on each location and guiding them to the best spots to capture the action. They used iPhones for initial scouting, photographing potential angles to refer back to once the shooting began. This planning helped the team stay efficient, making sure they'd be ready when the big waves hit.

Nick Christy joined the crew for two of the biggest days of the swell, capturing a third camera angle. Then there was the water safety team: Dustin Harding and Jole Dace,

"GUIDING THEM TO
THE BEST SPOTS TO
CAPTURE THE
ACTION"



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“WINGFOILING AND FOILING INVOLVED NAVIGATING POWERFUL SWELLS AND DEALING WITH UNPREDICTABLE CONDITIONS”

stationed on jet skis, ready to keep Cash safe and get him out of dangerous situations quickly. Their support allowed Cash to take risks, knowing he had a solid backup in case conditions got sketchy.

“The team we put together was made up of the absolute best for a project like this—

no weak links whatsoever. With decades in the film industry and unmatched knowledge of the area’s logistics, Gumby was essential. Nick Christy and I, fresh from the surf industry and working full-time with athletes like Jordy Smith and Albee Layer, brought a wealth of experience in capturing the best possible shots in waves like these, so we needed almost no briefing on how to get ‘the shot.’ When the big day comes, everyone knows the drill.” - Slater

The trip wasn’t without its risks. Wingfoiling

and foiling involved navigating powerful swells and dealing with unpredictable conditions, and Cash knew the importance of safety protocols. The jet ski was essential, allowing quick pick-ups if he was too close to rocks or in a dangerous situation. Foiling near jagged rocks, especially on waves he’d never seen before, was nerve-wracking. “There’s always a certain level of controlled chaos,” Cash said. “You just have to assess the situation, know your limits, and then go for it.” The safety measures allowed him to push boundaries while staying grounded, making even the sketchiest sessions manageable.

“THE CREW CONSTANTLY ADAPTED TO THE IMPRESSIVE LANDSCAPE, FROM ROCKY COASTLINES AND TOWERING DUNES TO UNEXPECTED WILDLIFE MEETINGS!”



“Foiling is super fun, but the risks are real, so safety was our priority. The jet ski was a game-changer, giving us rapid pick-up options in case things got sketchy—especially when foiling waves we’d never seen before, right in front of rocky areas. With Jole Dace at the helm and two other filmmakers watching the action, I felt safe pushing boundaries. Most sessions felt intense since every wave was new to me. “Controlled chaos” sums it up—there’s a balance of assessing the risks and just going for it. One memorable off-water moment came on a windless lay day when we ventured out to spot wildlife. After hours of seeing zebras, water buffalo, and ostriches, we entered a dense area of thorny trees. Suddenly, a massive elephant appeared, stopping us in our tracks. For a brief second, I thought of tossing Slater out of the van, but we just watched in awe. Slater, of course, managed to capture the whole surreal encounter. It was probably the craziest, albeit not the safest, moment of the trip!” - Cash.



South Africa was more than just a filming location; it provided a wild and rugged backdrop that brought a new level of intensity to the film. The crew constantly adapted to the impressive landscape, from rocky coastlines and towering dunes to unexpected wildlife meetings! On a lay day, they explored the local area, hoping to spot some of South Africa’s iconic animals. What started as a casual drive through the wilderness quickly turned into an adrenaline-pumping encounter when a massive elephant emerged from the brush,

“THE SHEER SCALE OF THE WAVE, COMBINED WITH CASH’S SKILL AND SLATER’S TALENT, MADE IT AN UNFORGETTABLE PART OF THE PROJECT.”

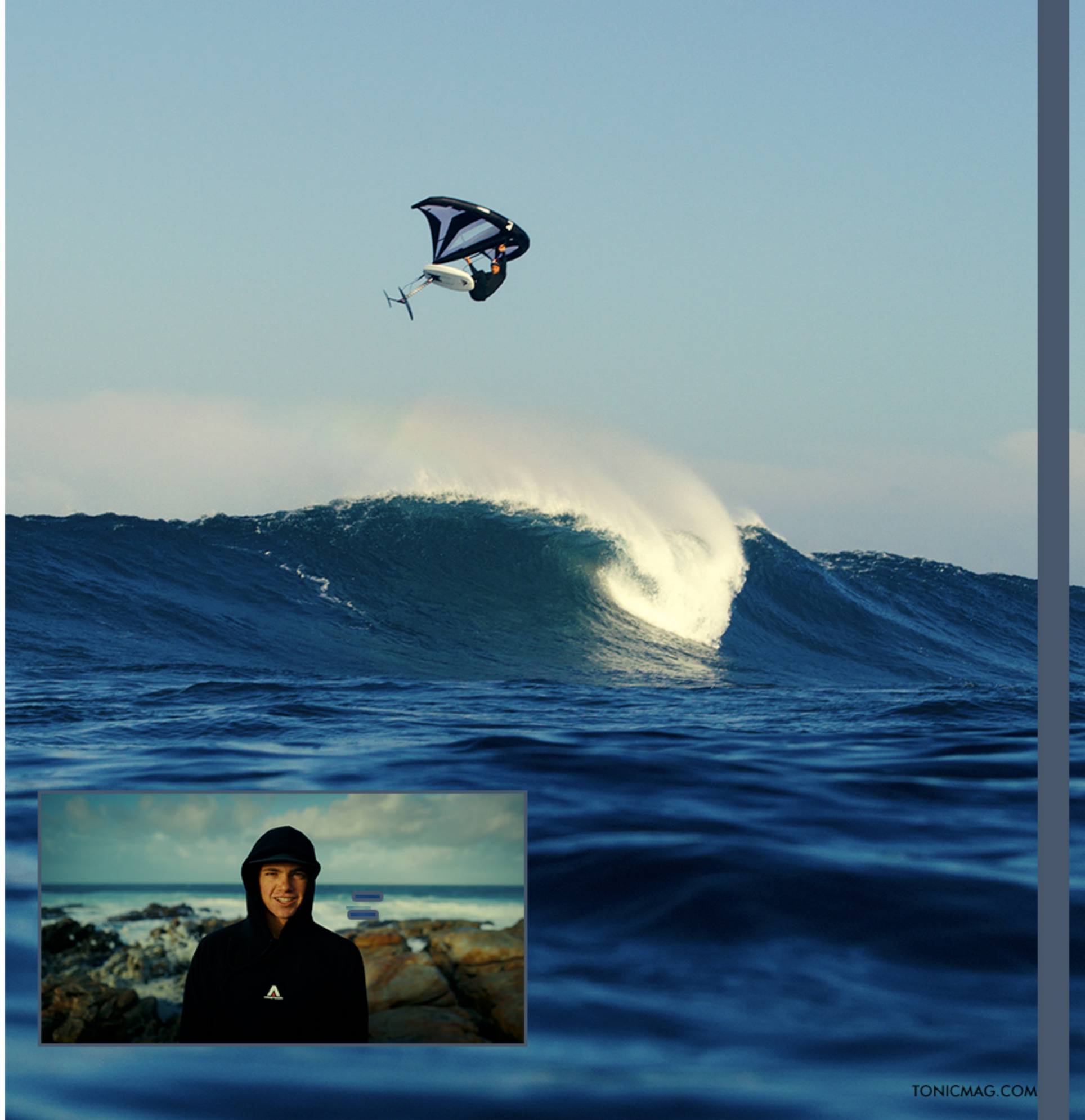
stopping the team in their tracks. Slater, camera in hand, managed to capture the entire experience.

“South Africa was such a different and raw environment from what Cash and I were used to, so we just wanted to see and experience everything—and make a film that captures that diversity. It’s not just about the riding for us; it’s about the journey and the culture surrounding it. From rugged coastlines and dunes to elephants and everything in between, we packed in as much as possible and filmed it all.” - Slater.

One of the most unforgettable moments of the trip came during Cash’s unexpected ride at Jeffrey’s Bay. Initially, the team had set up to shoot at another spot, but Cash caught up in the power of the swell and ended up riding a massive wave at J-Bay, South Africa’s premier big-wave spot. Realising the opportunity, Slater grabbed his 35-pound rig and sprinted along the coast to capture the shot, eventually setting up on a boardwalk as Cash rode a 15-foot wave. The energy at that moment was electric, with Cash riding a line he’d only dreamed of, and Slater managed to capture the shot from the perfect angle.

This wave was the film’s highlight, encapsulating the trip’s spirit and the team’s determination. It was a moment that would have been impossible to plan but became one of the defining images of CASH. The sheer scale of the wave, combined with Cash’s skill and Slater’s talent, made it an unforgettable part of the project.

We hope you enjoy the video!



Rou Chater looks at the pros and cons of the humble harness, an accessory adopted by windsurfers in the late 1970s and used ubiquitously across pretty much every wind-powered sport ever since—until winging came along. When you consider the benefits of a harness, it's often hard to comprehend why they aren't more widely used...



TO HARNESS OR NOT TO HARNESS

“ THE KIT CHANGES BECOME MORE EFFICIENT AND LOOK TO MINIMISE THE PRESSURE ON YOUR ARMS AND IMPROVE EFFICIENCY. ”

It feels a bit strange writing this article, as I expect a 50/50 split of people thinking, “What the hell are you talking about?” depending on what side of the fence you sit on. Reading this, you’ll either be a harness lover or a hater; there doesn’t seem to be much of a happy in between, although perhaps that is changing as downwinding continues to stamp its authority on the sport of foiling.

When I first learned to wing foil in 2019 at the Naish launch of the Wingsurfer, and arguably the launch of the sport, I found it incredibly physically demanding. As I sit on the very wrong side of 40, I figured this was a good thing, a sure-fire way to peak physical fitness and that six-pack that’s been eluding me for the last twenty years or so. Wing foiling was physically demanding, not just the climbing on and off the board endlessly, but your upper body and shoulders got a beating an army PT would be proud of.

Like any sport, with time, you improve, fall in less, spend more time on the foil, and the wing’s resistance diminishes. The kit changes become more efficient and look to minimise the pressure on your arms and improve efficiency. It didn’t take long before a one-hour session that would leave me lying wrecked on the beach; gasping for breath became a breeze, and then a two-hour session seemed easy.

I did all of this without the aid of a harness and just used my body to conduct the power from the wing to the foil. In time, wing foiling became effortless,





“ I CAN HOOK IN AND SMASH THE UPWIND OUT WHILE SAVING ALL MY ENERGY FOR THE DOWNWIND MISSION. IT’S BEEN ENLIGHTENING. ”

especially if you had the right size wing for the conditions. My hopes of a six-pack faded fast. It is still, pound for pound, one of the best workouts I do, and by workouts, I’m talking kitesurfing and surfing. It’s a great workout across your whole body, as many of you will agree.

Harnesses have been around in wing foiling since the beginning, and in the UK, spot-led as to whether they are used or not. I’ve seen the same thing overseas; some places seem to love them, and others barely feature. Here in Pembrokeshire, there is a really low uptake. We mainly ride waves, and I think the feeling of freedom gets people here. However, having a harness can extend your session indefinitely, meaning more waves, more fun, and a minimal payoff from strapping one on at the beginning of your session.

These days, I mix and match; if I ride around the wave spot and have some fun in a smaller area, I’ll not bother with the harness; I’m never slogging upwind long enough to feel I need it. Downwinders are the same; I don’t feel it is necessary. However, we have been doing many more ‘Upwind/Downwind’ sessions lately, and a harness is a game changer. I can hook in and smash the upwind out while saving all my energy for the downwind mission. It’s been enlightening.

Other instances of use include racing, speed, endurance sessions, and just wanting to reduce fatigue, but let’s dive into the pros and cons and look at the arguments from each side...



“ THE ADDED POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE HARNESS CAN PROVIDE INCREASED STABILITY WHEN DEALING WITH CHOPPY WATERS OR LARGE WAVES. ”

Advantages of Using a Harness in Wing Foiling

1. **Reduced Arm Fatigue:** One of the biggest challenges in wing foiling is maintaining control over the wing for extended periods, which can be tiring on the arms and shoulders. A harness lets you rest your arms by transferring some of the wing's pull to your torso. This can be a game-changer on long sessions, as it helps you stay out on the water longer.
2. **Better Power Control in High Winds:** Holding the wing without a harness can be tough in higher wind conditions. With a harness, you can hook in and use your body weight to counterbalance the force, giving you more control and enabling you to handle stronger gusts with less physical strain.
3. **Improved Stamina for Long Distances:** A harness can be invaluable if you plan to cover longer distances or go on exploratory sessions. It reduces the need to grip the wing continuously, helping you conserve energy. This benefits wing foilers looking to do endurance-focused rides or even race events.
4. **More Stability in Choppy Conditions:** The added point of contact with the harness can provide increased stability when dealing with choppy waters or large waves. This added leverage can help maintain a smoother ride, as you can engage your core and legs more effectively to stabilise the board and wing.

“ USING A HARNESS CAN LIMIT YOUR ABILITY TO MAKE SHARP MOVEMENTS, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL FOR TURNS, MANOEUVRES, AND FREESTYLE TRICKS.”

5. Cold Weather: In the depths of winter in the UK, it gets pretty chilly, and while palmless mitts are a revelation for winging, a harness can also help you get the blood flowing back into your hands. You can let go of the wing with one hand much easier and give it the magic blow or shake, or even just hang it by your side and allow gravity to help the blood back into your fingers.

6. Waving at Your Mates: We've all been there. You see your mate kiteboarding, and you can't wave at them, especially if you aren't skilled and riding handles and not a boom. It also means you can blow your nose more easily, which is excellent if you have just had drilling and filled your sinuses with seawater.

Disadvantages of Using a Harness in Wing Foiling

1. Reduced Mobility and Flexibility: Using a harness can limit your ability to make sharp movements, which is essential for turns, manoeuvres, and freestyle tricks. Since wing foiling often involves quick shifts in body position, being hooked in can hinder your freedom to manoeuvre fluidly. For those who enjoy a more free-flowing style, this can be restrictive.

2. Increased Risk of Falling with the Wing: Hooking into the wing introduces the risk of getting tangled or “dragged down” if you lose control. Being attached can cause an unwanted pull or create difficult situations where you cannot quickly release from the wing.





“MANY INSTRUCTORS RECOMMEND WAITING UNTIL YOU’VE BUILT CONFIDENCE BEFORE CONSIDERING A HARNESS.”

3. **More Gear to Manage:** The beauty of wing foiling lies in its simplicity. Adding a harness adds more equipment, which means more things to manage and adjust. For those who prefer a minimalist approach, the harness might feel cumbersome and unnecessary, particularly if they’re only out for short sessions or light winds.

4. **Potential Learning Curve Issues:** For beginners, managing a harness while focusing on wing control, balance, and foiling can be challenging. Adjusting the harness lines and learning when to hook in and out require extra skills, which might complicate the learning process. Many instructors recommend waiting until you’ve built confidence before considering a harness.

Who Should Consider Using a Harness?

A harness can benefit intermediate to advanced riders prioritising longer sessions, distance, or efficiency in high winds. If you’re experienced with foiling and comfortable controlling the wing, a harness may offer the support needed to take on more challenging conditions without burning out your arms. If you’ve never tried one, ask yourself why not. If you feel like your sessions might benefit, give it a go; you might be surprised; if you don’t like it, no one is forcing you to carry on either...



“PLAY AROUND AND GET IT SET UP HOW YOU LIKE IT. THERE ARE NO HARD AND FAST RULES HERE; EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT.”

Tips for Using a Harness Safely in Wing Foiling

- Practice Hooking In and Out Quickly: Practice releasing from the harness under different conditions to build muscle memory and confidence. Do this on the beach at first. This is also really important when setting up the harness lineup. Getting it dialled in on the beach is much easier than on the water.
- Choose the Right Harness and Lines: Lightweight waist harnesses with easily

adjustable lines are popular in wing foiling. Some great impact vests have built-in harness options, too, meaning you can kill two birds with one stone.

- Adjust for Comfort and Control: Be prepared to adjust your set-up and tune it to your needs. No one is the same, and some riders like a shorter harness line while others prefer something longer. Play around and get it set up how you like it. There are no hard and fast rules here; everyone is different.

Don't Just Take Our Word For It

We asked a couple of people in the know how they felt about a harness...

“Harnesses can make a real difference to your comfort, body position and sustained

performance over a long session, particularly in stronger conditions and when you want to get upwind fast and efficiently. That's why we have two harness options: the Connect Wing Wing V2, which offers higher levels of support, and the Wing Waist Padded Belt, which is super light and offers more support than a standard belt. These designs are about comfort and free body movement when you're not hooked in. Minimum restrictions with important support benefits.”

- *Torrin Bright - Ozone Product Manager*

“I fully understand the purist view of not wanting to use a harness. It can be viewed as a non-essential piece of gear for wing foiling. And I will even say for myself, I like the purity of not having to use one and being free. But! The harness has found its way into my gear selection in certain circumstances.



“ USING A HARNESS IN WING FOILING HAS CLEAR BENEFITS, PARTICULARLY FOR LONGER RIDES AND WINDIER CONDITIONS, BUT IT ALSO PRESENTS UNIQUE CHALLENGES. ”

If I am just going out for a lunch rip, I don't use it as I will be on the water for 30 to 45 minutes tops and just chasing short laps of swell. But, if it is the weekend and I am going for a mega up-winder to downwinder, a harness is 100% a necessity for these multi-hour missions. Also, depending on the set-up, a harness can make or break a good session in the surf. For example, in my second home of Peru, having a harness to rip back up the point is nice to let the arms take a breather and allow me to point upwind just that bit more relaxed to make it in one reach.”

- Gary Siskar - Ride Engine Product Line Manager/Director of Marketing.

Final Thoughts

Using a harness in wing foiling has clear benefits, particularly for longer rides and windier conditions, but it also presents unique challenges. It's an excellent option for those looking to conserve energy or gain extra control in high winds, while freestyle riders or beginners may find it restrictive. The choice ultimately comes down to your riding style, goals, and comfort level.

As with all things in water sports, experimentation and finding what works best for you is critical.

We've put together some of the best options on the market right now from some of the biggest brands so you can see what might suit you and your style...

PROLIMIT DRIFT

[View Product](#)



- Pre curved 3D shape
- Maximum freedom of movement
- Camlock closure system
- Sliding hook system
- Double D ring leash attachment points

RIDE ENGINE VINAKA PRO WAIST

[View Product](#)



- Thermo formed moulded design
- Rash free non water absorbing design
- Hook and loop closure system
- The Nug sliding hook
- Dual D ring leash attachment points

PROLIMIT SHIELD FR VEST

[View Product](#)



- Armadillo Armor high density foam for maximum protection
- Soft shell back plate for maximum support
- YKK Side zipper for easy entry
- YKK zippered front pocket for storage
- Sliding hook

RIDE ENGINE FREE FLOAT CHEST

[View Product](#)



- 4 Point Chest Cradle minimalist perfect for downwinders
- Integrated hydration bladder
- Hook and loop closure system
- The Nug removeable hook
- EVA padded back for comfort

OZONE WING WAIST PADDED BELT V1

[View Product](#)



- Removable, sliding hook can be folded out of the way
- Soft ergonomic EVA pad
- Leash attachment point
- Super lightweight approx 180grams with hook
- Strong adjustable buckle closure

MYSTIC MAJESTIC

[View Product](#)



- Self-reinforced PET Bionic Core Frame
- EVA grip padding and EVA spreader bar padding
- Double velcro closure
- Injection moulded slider hook
- Leash attachment loops on back

MYSTIC MAJESTIC X

[View Product](#)



- Carbon Composite Bionic Core Frame
- EVA grip padding and EVA spreader bar padding
- Double velcro closure
- Injection moulded slider hook
- Leash attachment loops on back

MYSTIC WING FOIL HARNESS

[View Product](#)



- Light weight design
- Injection moulded slider hook
- Selflocking webbing strap
- Padded back support
- Board leash attachment loop on back

FORWARD WIP WING BELT 2.0

[View Product](#)



- Simple and ultra light
- Won't absorb water
- Two adjustable sizes to fit everyone
- Ergonomic 50mm sliding hook - easy hook in and out
- Leash attachment points for your board and wing

FORWARD WIP WING HARNESS LINE 2.0

[View Product](#)



- Adjustable from 64 to 94 cm
- Simple and ultra light
- Retractable so you can be free to move
- Magnetic attachment system, easy to remove
- Works with all wings

HEAD PROTECTION REDEFINED

IMPACT CAP



boundless waters

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DAKINE SOLO

[View Product](#)



- Hanger Wing Sliding Hook
- Posi-Lock Buckle
- Soft neoprene construction

- Lightweight and packable
- Low profile fit

DAKINE FLY

[View Product](#)



- Hanger Wing Sliding Hook
- Spreader Pad
- Posi-Lock Buckle

- Curv Composite Flex Shell
- Lightweight



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WORLD'S FIRST 100% NEOPRENE-FREE WETSUIT

WITH NO COMPROMISE ON STRETCH,
WARMTH OR STRENGTH.

119 litres
of water is saved per
wetsuit during the dyeing
process.

This is a
-91%
reduction of water in
normal dyeing processes.

SUIT UP FOR CHANGE

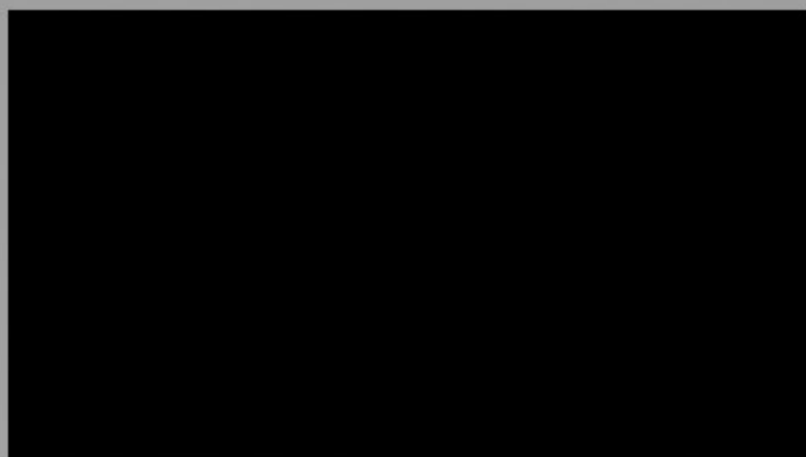
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Free Float Wing Foil Chest Harness



Crafted for ultimate freedom and minimal obstruction, the Free Float Wing Foil chest Harness features a 4-point suspension chest cradle design that distributes harness line pressure while enabling unrestricted movement.

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THE INTERVIEW

Jen Tyler catches up with Alby Rondina to talk about his journey as a pro kiteboarder and wingsurfer. He shares what hooked him on winging, how it complements his love for kiting and surfing, and the amazing flat-water lagoons of Sicily! Plus, he gives us a sneak peek into the future of winging and the exciting new gear coming up. Read on!





“THE DREAM CONDITIONS WERE JUST UNREAL, BUT EVEN IN THE SMALLER WAVES WE OFTEN GET IN ITALY, IT WAS PERFECT FOR SQUEEZING IN WAY MORE WATER TIME!”

Hi Alby, it's great to catch up with you! Let's start from the very beginning. You've been a pro kiteboarder for years. Who convinced you to give winging a go? Was it love at first sight, or did you struggle initially?

Ciao, guys! I'm super stoked to chat with you! I've been surfing since I was a kid

whenever I wasn't kiting. So, when foiling came along, and Cabrinha started making surf foils, I was all in—I fell in love instantly! In Maui, the dream conditions were just unreal, but even in the smaller waves we often get in Italy, it was perfect for squeezing in way more water time! I actually started out windsurfing as a kid, way before I got into kiting, so when winging came around, it felt natural to give it a shot. Combining my experience from kiting, windsurfing, and surf foiling, winging just clicked—it's that perfect bridge for those days when the other sports wouldn't quite hit the spot!

Do you still prefer kitesurfing over wingsurfing, or has your passion shifted?

I'd say it's been a great addition to my quiver and passions, but it hasn't really replaced anything. What I choose totally depends on the conditions—some days I'll go kiting, others winging. I love mixing it up, so I never get tired of just one thing!

What's your go-to Cabrinha winging setup?

For light wind, I'm using the Vision wing in 5m and 6m—it's super light and powerful, and the compact shape makes it easy to handle and spin, even in bigger sizes. For smaller sizes, I'm all about the Mantis—it's stiff, powerful, and has amazing lift for tricks and jumps.

Plus, its flat design keeps it super stable for wave riding; it just sits there, letting me focus on the ride. My go-to board is the Link 50L; it's an awesome all-rounder for any condition. For foils, I switch from the H1000 for light wind, surf foiling, and pumping to the 800H for maximum efficiency. When the waves are rolling in, I'm all about the medium aspect wings—the 930X and 700X are incredible for stability and control in bigger surf, and they turn so smoothly on a solid wave!

“THE REASON I'M HERE IS BECAUSE OF THIS INCREDIBLE FLAT-WATER LAGOON—IT'S PERFECT FOR TEACHING ALMOST ANY WATERSPORT.”

What's it like running your own school? Do you still teach, or do you mainly manage day-to-day operations?

I really love connecting with newcomers to the sport, sharing the stoke, and watching their excitement as they progress and get hooked. I mainly focus on overseeing and organising all operations to make sure every work and teaching day flows smoothly.

How does the spot at Prokite Alby Rondina compare to other places you've ridden?

The reason I'm here is because of this incredible flat-water lagoon—it's perfect for teaching almost any watersport. No matter the wind, the water stays flat, and it's mostly shallow, so you can easily walk back in any situation. It's ideal for learning and practising tricks, allowing people to make huge progress even during a one-week vacation!

What are the conditions like at Lo Stagnone Lagoon? Does the tide affect when you can go wingsurfing?

Wind conditions here are incredibly consistent throughout the season. We get strong wind days in





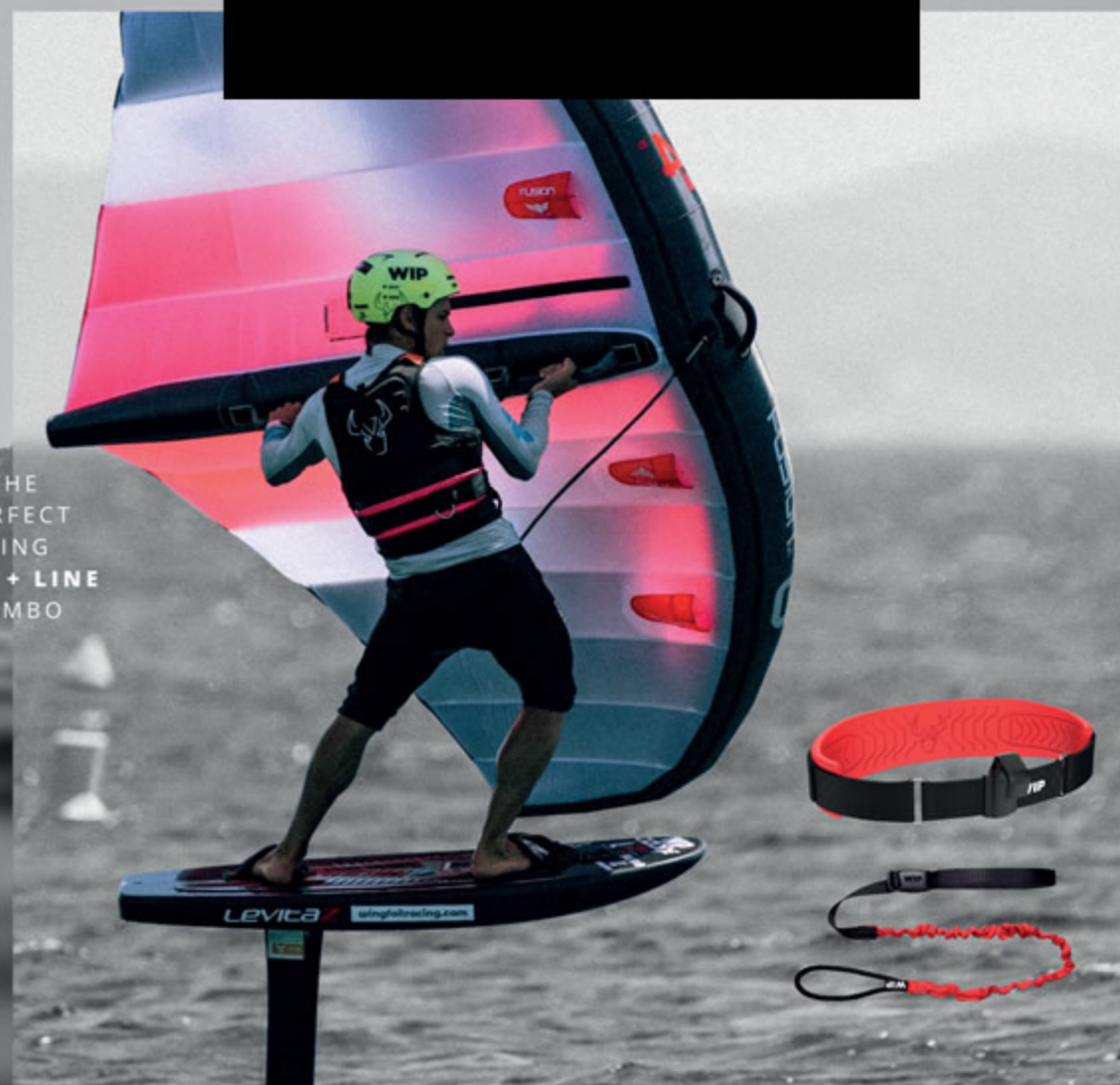
spring and autumn, while summer brings this super reliable thermal wind that blows from the north almost every day. The lagoon is relatively sheltered, so we don't really see much tidal change; it's mainly the strong wind pushing water in and out. With over 13 km of lagoon to play in, there are spots where you typically need a short mast to wing any day. We teach using a 40 cm mast, and it's usually rideable with a 60/65 cm mast right in front of our school! Other areas can easily accommodate 80/90/100 cm masts, all while enjoying flat water conditions inside the lagoon.

“ THERE ARE SPOTS WHERE YOU TYPICALLY NEED A SHORT MAST TO WING ANY DAY ”

WIP

WATER PROTECTION

WORLD
SPEED
RECORD
WING
FOIL



THE
PERFECT
WING
BELT + LINE
COMBO

- MATHIS GHIO -



How do you balance your time between kitesurfing, wingsurfing, and running your school?

I like to keep a nice balance between different sports, but it depends on the conditions when I make my choice. I try to go out every day, even if it's just for a short session, to hang out with my instructors and team, shoot a few videos with my good friend Kobulsky, and stay healthy and fit. It keeps things exciting and helps me avoid any boring routines!

What new wingsurfing tricks are you currently working on?

I've been into freestyle (kiteboarding) for over 20 years, so my focus in winging has been less on learning new tricks and more on accessing waves that would otherwise go unridden. I do enjoy jumping on flat water days, but just like in kiting, I love hitting kickers and big ramps. Right now, throwing big backflips off those ramps is one of my favourite feelings, right up there with riding waves!

"THE YEAR-ROUND FLAT WATER AND THOSE DREAMY WINTER WAVE CONDITIONS FOR WINGING AND KITING ARE HARD TO BEAT."

What's Sicily like for waves and winging? Do you have some good spots?

Summer can be hit or miss in the Mediterranean, but it's great to hear that spring and autumn bring consistent wind and waves. It is actually one of the main reasons I chose Sicily as my new home! The year-round flat water and those dreamy winter wave conditions for winging and kiting are hard to beat. Just keep that secret under wraps!



“ THE MID-LENGTH CONCEPT WAS A FANTASTIC BREAKTHROUGH, AND THE DESIGNS KEEP GETTING REFINED AND UPDATED EACH SEASON WITH INPUT FROM AROUND THE GLOBE—IT’S SO EXCITING TO SEE! ”

Is it hard to keep up with the young kids? They seem to be on another level at the moment.

It’s amazing to see where the freestyle level is right now and how effortlessly they’re bringing it to new heights. That’s the beauty of being young and a bit carefree! It reminds me of the early days of kiteboarding.

I’ve been following all the World Cup events, and whenever I get to spend time with my good mates Ancor and Benji on Cabrinha trips, it’s just incredible. Watching them ride live is on another level—they go huge while still being pretty skinny teenagers!

Have you tried downwind foiling yet? Is it something that appeals to you?

I haven’t quite got the right conditions or setup here in Sicily yet, but Cabrinha is about to launch a super light wing that’s easy to pack! I can’t wait to ride it upwind, pack it up, and then cruise downwind—it sounds like so much fun!

New mid-length style boards like the Swift have been really popular this year. What other breakthrough designs do you think there will be in the sport? Is there still room for development?

Winging gear is evolving and improving every year, and it’s incredible to witness the progression of the sport across various disciplines. The mid-length concept was a fantastic breakthrough, and the designs keep getting refined and updated each season with input from around the globe—it’s so exciting to see! I also believe there’s a lot of potential with materials; as brands gain access to new materials from different board and wind sports, I can’t wait to see stiffer and even lighter wings hit the market soon!

How do you think wing surfing will evolve over the next few years?

I see it really getting specialised across the different disciplines with better materials and shapes. Crazy wings for racing, lightweight wings for surfing and downwinding, easier handling, and a wider wing range for everyday conditions—I can't wait to get my 2025 Cabrinha wings! There are some insane new products in the pipeline!

“ FROM A PHYSICAL STANDPOINT, STAYING INJURY-FREE IS CRUCIAL FOR ANY ATHLETE, AND MY GYMNASTICS BACKGROUND, ALONG WITH A SOLID STRETCHING ROUTINE, HAS REALLY HELPED WITH THAT ”

You have a pretty unique role at Cabrinha: distributor in Italy, pro rider and the main guy on most of the shoots; what would you say to young riders looking for a career in the sport?

I feel grateful to have been part of the Cabrinha family for so long, and I'm still going strong! I value loyalty and commitment, which I think are qualities that brands also admire. From a physical standpoint, staying injury-free is crucial for any athlete, and my gymnastics background, along with a solid stretching routine, has really helped with that. I always push the kids to prioritise stretching! I know it's not super fun after a long day on the water, but it's key to keeping your body flexible and ready to go day after day!

You're going on a trip but can only take one set of equipment; what do you pack?

If I had to choose, I'd definitely go for the Mantis 4m wing, paired with the Link 4'8 board and the 84 Carbon Mast.





And if I could only pick one foil, it would have to be the 930X—it's such a super all-rounder! It makes planning easy and is so much fun in the waves. Plus, it's great for boosting!

"IT MAKES PLANNING EASY AND IS SO MUCH FUN IN THE WAVES."

**Awesome, thanks Alby!
It's been great to catch up with you.**

Thanks, Jen, for giving me this opportunity. I hope to see you in Sicily next season!



WATERWOMEN

QUESTIONS JEN TYLER PHOTOS ROBERT HAJDUK

ISET SEGURA

Meet Iset Segura, this issue's waterwoman, who has been on the waves since childhood! Raised on sailboats and now made her debut on the wingfoiling scene, Iset's love for the sea runs deep, even if she has a surprising fear of water! With big plans for the future and a carefree, go-with-the-flow attitude, Iset shares her story with Jen Tyler in this exclusive feature!

“ MY DAD GOT FED UP WITH ME BEING SO ANNOYING AND TOSSED ME OVERBOARD! ”

Isset, it's great to meet and feature you as this issue's Waterwoman! Tell us about yourself, where you grew up, and how the ocean influenced your childhood. You mentioned being practically born on a sailboat. Can you tell us more about that?

Thank you for having me; it's an honour! I live in the mountains, so getting to the water when I'm home is quite a mission. That's why I tend to travel around a lot. My parents had boats when I was growing up, so I was an ocean child. I spent a lot of time on and by the sea, and it always felt like home. I think people who have grown up by the water or participated in water sports can relate to this feeling of peace and belonging when near the ocean. I grew up spending weekends and vacations on my dad's boats.

What is your earliest memory of being in the water?

It's actually not a pleasant memory—even though my sport is all about being in the water, I'm pretty scared of it! I think it's because, when I was young, I was always bursting with energy, asking questions and pushing boundaries—my parents' boundaries, to be exact. One day, my dad got fed up with me being so annoying and tossed me overboard! Hahaha, I can still picture it so clearly ever since I've had this irrational fear of falling into the water. Whenever I'm in it a bit too long after falling off my board, I imagine a shark heading my way or just thinking about how vast and deep the ocean is—and how alone and vulnerable we are. And honestly, we are! You'll hardly ever catch me just swimming at the beach.





“ THE CONNECTION I FELT WITH MYSELF WAS THE QUICK PROGRESS AT THE START —IT WAS ALL SO SIMPLE ”

How did your family’s sailing lifestyle inspire you to pursue water sports professionally?

Well, “professionally” is a bit of a loose term; we’re still figuring that out! The first trophy I ever got to hold was my dad’s from a big cruising regatta called the Route of Salt in the Balearic Islands. I remember it as one of the coolest moments of my life—I must have

been 4 or 5, and I thought, “Wow, this is the best feeling!” I was the most competitive kid back then, and honestly, I still kind of am, though I don’t cry if I lose the race to the door anymore... But yeah, being around sailors I looked up to, I knew I wanted to try sailing alone. Once I did, I fell in love with the sport and never looked back.

How did you discover wingfoiling, and what made you fall in love with it?

I saw some people on the beach doing it, and a few of my friends were into it, too. Last winter, while I was still competing on

the Nacra17 and focusing on my Olympic campaign—which wasn’t exactly a smooth ride—I went to Lanzarote for three months to train. I started winging after my training sessions and on my rest days, and, well... I guess I just never stopped! What drew me in was the feeling of total freedom—being alone on your board with nothing but the sounds of the wind and the sea. The connection I felt with myself was the quick progress at the start—it was all so simple, especially compared to the Nacra, a super technical boat. It was all down to me, and I loved that! The speed, freedom, and sensations were the perfect mix. Winging is just amazing!



How did your background in competitive sailing prepare you for wingfoiling?

I think discipline is crucial in any sport, so I'm grateful for the foundation sailing gave me. It taught me many tools and strategies to analyse and break down my training, helping me evolve and develop my skills more efficiently. It's so important to pinpoint where you're struggling or what your weak points are so you can plan accordingly and improve, making the learning curve as optimised as possible—especially when time is limited, and even more so when you're juggling studies like I am.

" I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE FOUNDATION SAILING GAVE ME. "

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“ IT’S RARE TO FIND BRANDS THAT ALIGN WITH YOUR GOALS AND VISION, ESPECIALLY IN RACING ”

How have your sponsors, Ozone and Sabfoil, supported you on your journey?

Having the right gear is essential in any high-performance class or discipline, so being supported by these brands and knowing I have equipment that won’t hold me back but will help me progress faster and perform at my best is such a blessing. I’m grateful for them. Sabfoil makes the best foils—they work perfectly for me, whether racing or doing freestyle. And with Ozone, it’s amazing to compete using their gear—their Fusion wing is such an innovative and high-performance design. Both brands have fantastic teams, and I genuinely feel supported. It’s rare to find brands that align with your goals and vision, especially in racing, so I’m super happy to be with them.

What skills did you bring from sailing that have benefited your wingfoiling career?

The most relevant skills are understanding tactics and strategy on the racecourse and knowing how to efficiently improve specific skills like manoeuvres or speed. The key has been breaking down the learning process so it’s simpler and more accurate to improve.

What is your favourite wingfoiling trick that you haven’t yet mastered?

Every time I see someone doing a backflip, I’m so amazed. I would love to learn it this year. The times I’ve tried have been a bit gnarly, but I think I’ll be able to land it without breaking anything...

“ I COMPETED IN ALL THE EVENTS, AND IT’S BEEN SUCH A FUN TIME—I LOVE THE RACING AND THE PEOPLE. ”

I just think it’s incredible that people can do tricks like these so effortlessly and with so much style. There’s such a high level right now, with so many amazing athletes pulling off the coolest tricks—they inspire me.

What are some of your biggest passions besides watersports?

I love painting and drawing—it’s been one of my favourite things since I was young. Maybe music, too; I love playing the piano, and creating anything is so beautiful. I have so much fun doing it. I also love snowboarding, although the tricks there hurt more when you fail... I don’t get to be in the snow as much as I’d like, but I enjoy it so much every time.

What’s next for Iset Segura?!

Brazil is next for me, the final stop of the Wingfoil Racing World Tour, which has been amazing. This year, I competed in all the events, and it’s been such a fun time—I love the racing and the people. The people are amazing, motivated, dedicated, and chill.

I’ve made great friendships this season, and I will always be grateful for them. I plan on competing next season, so I’m really looking forward to training this winter and keeping up with my studies... But I go with the flow; I don’t plan too far ahead, so I guess we’ll see what the future brings for Iset, hahaha!

Thanks, Iset, it’s been a pleasure!

Thank you so much, Jen!



WORDS LINDA VAN LAKWIJK PHOTOS MARIUS BROSSET & THOMAS ROOS

THERMAL REBOUND

When you're out on the water, staying warm is about more than just comfort—it's about performance and safety. Prolimit's 4-layer Thermal Rebound technology leads the way in wetsuit innovation, keeping you warmer for longer so you can push your limits. Discover the science behind this groundbreaking tech and why it's a game-changer for watersports!



“ WE’VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT STAYING WARM ISN’T JUST ABOUT COMFORT BUT ALSO PERFORMANCE AND SAFETY. ”



REBOUND THE COLD: PROLIMIT’S 4-LAYER THERMAL REBOUND TECHNOLOGY - KEEPING YOU WARMER, LONGER!

When you’re out on the water, every gust of wind and splash of cold water challenges your body’s ability to stay warm. At Prolimit, we’ve always believed that staying warm isn’t just about comfort but also performance and safety. Our 4-layer Thermal Rebound technology is at the forefront of wetsuit innovation, designed to keep you warmer for longer so you can push the limits without feeling the chill.

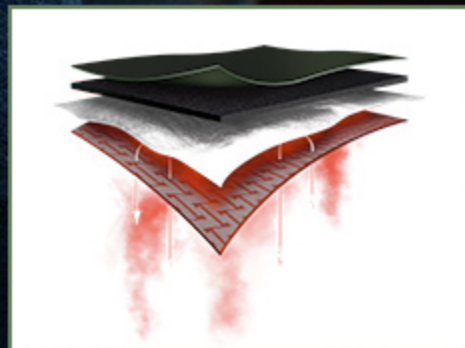
Let’s explore the science behind this groundbreaking technology, why body heat retention is key in watersports, and how our innovative Thermal Rebound technology creates a protective barrier like no other.

THE BATTLE AGAINST THE COLD – WHY WARMTH MATTERS...

As any water sports enthusiast knows, staying warm is critical, especially as the air and water temperatures drop. Cold isn’t just uncomfortable—it drains your energy, affects your performance, and can even become dangerous.

When you’re cold, your body uses energy to warm vital organs, pulling heat away from your extremities and causing muscles to stiffen. This can reduce reaction time, flexibility and overall enjoyment. But beyond performance, staying warm is a matter of safety. Prolonged exposure to cold temperatures without proper protection can even lead to hypothermia, a condition where your body loses heat faster than it can produce. Even the most experienced riders may find themselves in situations where their gear fails, or they’re delayed in returning to shore.

“ THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT ADDING MORE NEOPRENE — IT'S ABOUT INTELLIGENT HEAT RETENTION AND PROTECTION FROM THE COLD. ”



Prolonged exposure to cold water without proper insulation can have serious consequences.

The core goal of our wetsuit design isn't just to insulate — it's to actively retain body heat, creating a protective shell between you and the elements.

BREAKING DOWN THE 4-LAYER THERMAL REBOUND TECHNOLOGY

At the heart of our Vapor, Mercury, and Oxygen wetsuits is our pioneering 4-layer Thermal Rebound technology. This isn't just about adding more neoprene — it's about intelligent heat retention and protection from the cold.

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“THE INNERMOST LAYER IS A COZY, QUICK-DRYING THERMAL FLEECE THAT FEELS SOFT AGAINST YOUR SKIN.”

Inspired by the principles behind survival blankets used in extreme environments, this system reflects body heat, providing superior insulation without sacrificing flexibility.

HERE'S HOW THE FOUR LAYERS WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP YOU WARM:

1 Outer Layer: The outer layer ensures resilient protection against wind and water.

It's designed to prevent cold air and water from penetrating the wetsuit.

2 Neoprene Layer: A super stretchy neoprene (free) layer provides insulation and unrestricted movement. From our winter '24/'25 collection onwards, NaturePrene2 which is 100% neoprene-free.

3 Thermal Rebound Layer: The game-changer. This layer is where the magic happens. Inspired by survival blankets used in extreme environments, the blankets are shredded into small pieces and added to this layer. The Thermal Rebound layer reflects body heat, providing additional insulation.

4 Soft Fleece Inner Lining: The innermost layer is a cozy, quick-drying thermal fleece that feels soft against your skin. The Zodiac2plush thermal grid enhances this layer for optimal warmth.

These layers create an unbeatable combination that protects you from the cold and keeps you comfortable during extended sessions on the water.

MORE WARMTH WITHOUT SACRIFICING FLEXIBILITY

Many people believe that a thicker wetsuit equals better warmth, but that can come at the cost of flexibility. Thick, non-stretch neoprene can feel restrictive, limiting mobility and reducing performance. This is where Thermal Rebound technology makes all the difference. By integrating heat-reflecting layers,

“ THIS INNOVATION ALLOWS YOU TO ENJOY LONGER SESSIONS AND PUSH YOUR LIMITS WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE COLD. ”

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PROLIMIT OXYSTER
- Recycled Oyster shells
- Replaces limestone neoprene
- Increased stretch while not impacting

PROLIMIT

our wetsuits provide the warmth of a thicker suit while maintaining the flexibility of a thinner one.

Our Mercury and Oxygen wetsuits are crafted with ultra-flexible Neolight Heather Duotone 550+ NaturePrene, and the Vapor series uses Airflex 550+ Neoprene, ensuring that even in a 6/4mm wetsuit, you won't feel restricted.

EXTENDING YOUR TIME ON THE WATER, THE PROLIMIT ADVANTAGE

With Prolimit's Thermal Rebound technology, you can face cold conditions head-on, knowing you'll stay warm and flexible. This innovation allows you to enjoy longer sessions and push your limits without worrying about the cold. Experience the Prolimit advantage and feel the difference in body heat retention with our cutting-edge wetsuits.



UP & COMING

WIGGLESWORTH BROTHERS

QUESTIONS JEN TYLER WORDS HUGO AND TOBY WIGGLESWORTH

Jen Tyler catches up with 'Up & Coming' Hugo and Toby Wigglesworth! With a love for wingfoiling and kiteboarding, a bit of friendly sibling competition, and the support of FLYSURFER and Armstrong Foils, they're making their mark in the world of watersports. In this interview, they share their journey, favourite spots, and what's next for them on the global stage - check it out!

“ GROWING UP IN NEW ZEALAND HAS GIVEN US ACCESS TO SOME OF THE BEST SAILING CONDITIONS IN THE WORLD ”

Hi Hugo and Toby, it's great to have you here! Can you tell us a little about your home spots, family life, and what it was like growing up in New Zealand?

We grew up in Mission Bay, Auckland, where we're lucky to have plenty of beaches close by. Our go-to spots for winging or kiting are Kohimarama Beach and Glendowie Sandspit. Water sports have always been a big part of our family—everyone's into it, from water skiing and windsurfing to surfing, kiting, sailing, and now winging. Growing up in New Zealand has given us access to some of the best sailing conditions in the world, with everything from flat water to waves just a short drive away.

You both have made quite an impression on the WOO Worlds 2024 scoreboard in both kiteboarding and windsurfing! When did you both start wingsurfing and who initially got you into the sport?

Hugo: I started wingsurfing at the end of 2019, just before the sport really took off. I kept seeing more and more videos on social media, and they looked so exciting that I had to try it for myself. It was the increasing popularity of winging that caught my attention. Toby got interested a bit later and learned to wingfoil in 2021, and now it's something we both enjoy a lot!





RIDER TOBY WIGGLESWORTH PHOTO SAIL GP

“IT’S BEEN A GREAT WAY TO CHALLENGE EACH OTHER AND KEEP PUSHING OURSELVES IN THE DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES.”

What was it like learning to wingsurf? Did you find it challenging initially, or did it feel natural?

Since both of us had already learned to kitefoil, we had the foil skills down, so we just needed to focus on mastering the wing handling. Wings are pretty straightforward to get the hang of, so the learning process felt natural and came quickly for us.

As brothers, are you competitive with each other when it comes to watersports?

Absolutely! It’s been a great way to challenge each other and keep pushing ourselves in the different disciplines.

Do you wingsurf together mostly, or do you prefer riding separately?

We usually don’t wing together unless it’s for a competition or when we’re filming videos, but whenever we do ride together, it definitely motivates us to push harder.

Has being brothers helped you push each other to improve, or is it more about having fun?

In the early days, it was all about having fun, but as we’ve gotten older, we’ve started pushing each other more to keep improving.

Hugo, how did it feel when you won the WOO World 2024 max distance on a wing?

It felt amazing. Pushing myself to go as fast as possible for a full hour without stopping was a real challenge, so I’m really glad it paid off in the end.

What’s your go-to wingsurfing setup, and why do you love most about it?

Our go-to wingsurfing setup is the Armstrong 58L Wing FG board with the MA800, 180 SPEED, 60 fuselage, and 865 performance mast. Toby uses a 4.0m XPS wing, while I go with a 4.0m RH TAO wing.



“WHEN THE CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT, IT HAS LONG, ROLLING LEFT-HANDERS THAT ARE PERFECT FOR A GREAT WINGING SESSION.”

We love this setup because it offers great speed, can handle tight turns, and has a solid pop for jumping —everything we need for an exciting session.

How long has FLYSURFER sponsored you, and how has their support helped your journey?

Hugo: I've been a team rider for FLYSURFER for three years now, and their support has been invaluable in helping me progress across all disciplines. They've also opened the door to some incredible experiences that I wouldn't have had otherwise. I'm excited to keep building on our partnership in the future!

What's the best wingsurfing team trip you've ever been on together?

We had the opportunity to showcase winging at the Christchurch NZ Sail GP event. It was an incredible experience to showcase the sport to such a large crowd and share the excitement of winging with so many people.

Are there any specific spots in New Zealand that you consider your “home break” or favourite location?

Ngunguru Bar is about a three-hour drive north of Auckland, and it's our favourite spot for wings. When the conditions are right, it has long, rolling left-handers that are perfect for a great winging session.

“THERE’S A HUGE VARIETY OF CONDITIONS TO CHOOSE FROM, WHICH MAKES EVERY SESSION FEEL UNIQUE AND EXCITING.”

What’s one thing you love about wingsurfing in New Zealand that other places don’t offer?

It’s a great spot because it’s uncrowded! On any windy day, you might find yourself in a perfect spot with no one else around. Plus, there’s a huge variety of conditions to choose from, which makes every session feel unique and exciting.

Do you see a future for yourself in wingsurfing? Would you like to enter the GWA Wingfoil World Tour?

Toby: Competing on a world stage would be incredible. A lot of the competitions are in places that are pretty expensive to get to from New Zealand, but it’s definitely a goal I have for the future.

Hugo: Right now, I’m aiming to compete in future Big Air kiting competitions. But who knows, I might try my hand at a wing competition down the line!

Thanks, boys! Looking forward to seeing what the next chapter brings!



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CROZON FOIL FESTIVAL

WORDS JACK GALLOWAY PHOTOS LOIC OLIVIER & JACK GALLOWAY

Our editor, Jack Galloway, heads to his first international foil event: the Crozon Foil Festival, formerly known as the Downwind de France. With over 100 competitors from around the globe in downwind SUP, surf foil, and dock start, it did not disappoint!





“THE MAIN REASON WAS THAT THE OPPORTUNITY, WITH DOWNWIND FOILING IN ITS INFANCY, TO ENTER A COMPETITION AGAINST THE BEST IN THE WORLD IS STILL POSSIBLE.”

So why sign up for an event like this? I certainly wasn't going to be winning anything with the level of riders that were going, and I don't have the time or money to be racing worldwide in the future... The main reason was that the opportunity, with downwind foiling in its infancy, to enter a competition against the best in the world is still possible. How could I not get excited about that, to be able to race with and learn from the best? I foresee future events with qualification criteria with a series of local or international races, making entry for a busy family man like me impossible.

So, when the entry criteria were released in the spring, I sent my application ASAP. Athletes had to provide evidence of a 10km downwind run on GPS, footage of them surf foiling, and either GPS or video of them dock starting. Amaury, the man behind the event, got back to me pretty quickly - I was in!

I posted a message on a Facebook group called 'Downwind SUP Foiling UK' (it's great for sharing downwind stoke if you're UK-based) and found that Matt Arderne from Bude had joined, too. I met Matt during a prone foil session in Bude a few years ago. I hadn't seen him since, but I knew he was about as motivated as anyone when it came to downwind SUP. We decided to travel over together and get an Airbnb.



“WHEN ONE OF THE HAWAIIAN BOYS ASKED WHAT CONDITIONS TO EXPECT FROM THE RACE, HE SAID, ‘YOU ARE EXPERTS, CHECK THE FORECAST.’”

DAY 1 - DOWNWIND RACE 1

October came around quickly. Before I knew it, I was checking the 10-day forecast. It wasn't looking promising. Gutted! I had booked this event expecting autumn low-pressure systems bringing classic South-West winds and conditions. Still, things can change...

Due to busy work schedules, Matt and I could only arrive the day before the event, not a week before, like many competitors. So, as we boarded the overnight ferry from Portsmouth to St Malo, we got an email from Amaury—due to the wind forecast, they were going to start the race a day early! With a race briefing at midday on Thursday. We arrived in St Malo at 8 a.m. French time, leaving us little time to get to Crozon. We set off without delay and arrived in Crozon for the race briefing with just 10 minutes to spare! This was not ideal race prep, but we were happy to have made it.

It was super cool to arrive in the briefing room amongst some of the best foilers in the world. Amaury welcomed everyone to the event with some English, but mostly French, and a translator. When one of the Hawaiian boys asked what conditions to expect from the race, he said, ‘You are experts, check the forecast.’ It didn't fill anyone with confidence! The race was 15km downwind from Crozon to Plage de Lestrevet on the other side of the bay. The forecast was different on every app you looked at, but most showed around 10 - 12 knots, and a long swell was coming into the bay. Following some strong gusts in the car park, a deceiving video from the start line, and chatting to too many foilers rigging small,

“IT FELT AS THOUGH SUMMER HAD RETURNED FOR THE DAY; THE SUN WAS SHINING, AND THERE WASN'T A BREATH OF WIND.”

I rigged one of my medium foils, thinking I was 'playing it safe'. How wrong I was!

The wind dropped entirely as 100+ downwind SUP foilers paddled the 2km to the start line. We sat on the start line in less than 4 knots of wind for nearly an hour; everyone expected them to send us back to the harbour. Eventually, when some small gusts of wind came in, probably in the region of 6 to 8 knots and still with only ripples rather than bumps, the start flag went down, and we were off!

The foil I was on required a maximum effort to get on foil. Once up, I'd pump for as long as I could and then come down again as I had no glide. I eventually got picked up by a safety boat about halfway as I was told I didn't have time to finish... I was gutted and learned the lesson hard, and I should have rigged my biggest pump foil! About half the fleet had the same fate as me, unfortunately. The winner, Benoit Carpentier, was on a beast of a foil and annihilated the competition in just 58 minutes! As did the women's winner, Olivia Piana.

DAY 2 - SURF FOIL COMP

On Friday morning, the competitors flocked on mass to a beach break called 'La Palue' - a stunning West-facing beach on the Atlantic coast. That long period swell had stuck around - 2 meters and 12 seconds. It felt as though summer had returned for the day; the sun was shining, and there wasn't a breath of wind.





“IT WAS INCREDIBLE TO WATCH SUCH HIGH-LEVEL SURF FOILING UP CLOSE AND TO HAVE SO MANY FOILERS IN ONE SPOT TAKING OVER THE BEACH.”

The Crozon Foil Festival had been able to close a section of the beach for the competition - it was going to be a good day.

The heats were 15 minutes long, with four athletes in each heat. It was incredible to watch such high-level surf foiling up close and to have so many foilers in one spot taking over the beach. I won't bore you

with excuses for why I did so poorly in this event, but Matt smashed it and got some decent scores on the board, which was great to watch.

The format worked really well. Rather than the four competitors knocking each other out to go through, high scores were all put into a leaderboard, with the top 16 going through to day 2. Judges were looking for flow, execution, and position on the wave. Riders were only allowed to link one wave, with the highest possible score of 7 for one wave and 10 for two waves.

DAY 3 - DOCK START COMP

This was originally meant to be an evening event. However, with a very flat forecast, it turned into an all-afternoon extravaganza. At least 500 people came down from Crozon to watch. The local people in Brittany made everyone at the event feel very welcome, and this was no exception. The corner of the marina had music pumping, brand tents, and commentators.

50 people had signed up for the dock start event, with some people having travelled from across Europe just for this! The format featured 5 racers on a pontoon each, a gate to go through about 50 meters away,



“ IT TURNS OUT THAT THE PRESSURE OF COMPETITION AND HUNDREDS OF SPECTATORS MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT TO GET YOUR TAKE-OFF RIGHT! ”

and a sprint back to the finish line—which was shockingly close to the starting pontoon. There were two knockout rounds, followed by quarters, semis, and finals, as well as a separate women’s division. The result of all of the above was complete carnage. The event was quite simply hilarious and possibly the best part of the weekend, certainly from a spectator’s point of view. It turns out that the pressure of competition and hundreds of spectators makes it very difficult to get your take-off right! So many highly talented riders missed their take-offs or made mistakes during the race. It made for very entertaining viewing, with some races having all five riders paddling back to the start to try for a second take-off as quickly as possible.

One race saw Gwen Le Tutour, of YouTube fame, pump so fast for the finish line that he went full speed into the starting pontoon and had a mega crash! Luckily, he escaped relatively unharmed... I had a blast doing this event and was happy with a third and second in my respective races. I think this format has serious potential, especially for those classic demo events around the UK when the wind doesn’t show up.

DAY 4 - PRONE FINALS & DOWNWIND 2

A big shoutout has to go to Amaury and his team. The Crozon Foil Fest was organised impeccably. I honestly can’t fault it. The riders were looked after well, and no moment was missed when competing in the available conditions.

“IT FELT AS THOUGH SUMMER HAD RETURNED FOR THE DAY; THE SUN WAS SHINING, AND THERE WASN'T A BREATH OF WIND.”

With that in mind, they managed to host the surf foil finals at dawn (7:30 a.m.) and finish it off in time for an 11 a.m. shuttle and a midday start for the final downwind race. Impressive logistics, for sure!

La Palue provided outstanding conditions yet again, and our winners were decided:

1. Bella Gabriella Eliah
2. Naomi Eychenne
3. Camille Dubrana

1. Keoni Van Der Bij
2. Jack Ho
3. Oskar Johansson

It was to be a shorter downwind run of 8 km for the weekend's second race, this time with an Easterly wind and a slightly stronger wind strength of 10 knots. The route started at Place de Trez-Bellec and finished back in Crozon by the marina. I wasn't taking any risks this time, and I rigged the biggest foil I had with me, the Armstrong APF 1350. It seemed that everyone else had done the same, as most competitors were able to flat water start and pump towards the start line.

As we waited on the start line, it was evident that the bumps were a little better. There was about 5km of fetch from across the bay, but the wind was light. The start boats had a bit of trouble getting everyone on the start line, as some riders were a little confused as to which boats were the start boats. Eventually, everyone was in place, and the start flag went down—we were off!







“ IT TURNS OUT THAT THE PRESSURE OF COMPETITION AND HUNDREDS OF SPECTATORS MAKES IT VERY DIFFICULT TO GET YOUR TAKE-OFF RIGHT! ”

I got up first time and started making my way downwind. It was hard work, that's for sure, but this time, I knew I would make it. I crossed the line in 43rd place, having only come off foil a few times for a very short time. Once I reached a certain level of exhaustion and could no longer pump, I figured out that it was better to turn back and forth on the bump and ride super slow rather than continuously pump to the next bump I saw. It was a real learning experience as I'd never ridden in bay conditions in such light wind. What an experience, though. It was super satisfying to finish this time!

Matt also did well, coming in a short time after me. We packed up the van straight away and hit the road to Cherbourg for our overnight ferry, as we both had work the next day!

SUMMARY

Considering the forecast, the Crozon Foil Fest was pretty exceptional. As I mentioned, Amaury and his team did an amazing job filling every moment with some kind of competition. It made for a great weekend.

I know some of the downwind racers will be potentially complaining about racing in light wind... despite my failure on the first race, I'm all for it. If you've travelled for an event, you want to race regardless of the weather, and equipment is always improving. As James Casey said in his 'Thursday Thoughts' video after the event - 'as much as it sucks, giddy up!'.



“ WE HAD SOME GREAT LAUGHS LEARNING OF HOW, BEFORE THIS WEEKEND, HE'D LITERALLY NEVER WORN A WETSUIT ”

P.S. - A big shoutout to Gio de la Rosa from Puerto Rico. Gio had turned up in France only to find that his accommodation booking hadn't worked, and he had spent the first night in his hire van. Luckily, we had a spare room in our Airbnb for him for the rest of the trip. We had some great laughs learning of how, before this weekend, he'd literally never worn a wetsuit (that blew my mind) and that after the race briefing on day one saying that it would be 'warm', he only wore his 2mm shorty - the poor guy was nearly hypothermic by the end of the race!

RESULTS

OVERALL DOWNWIND - WOMEN

1. Olivia Piana
2. Gabriella Bella Eliah
3. Naumi Eychenne

OVERALL DOWNWIND - MEN

1. Clement Colmas
2. Benoit Carpentier
3. Tom Constant

DOCK START - WOMEN

1. Naumi Eychenne
2. Olivia Piana
3. Katrin Kolo

DOCK START - MEN

1. Haunui Haumani
2. Toaura Haumani
3. Oskar Johansson

OVERALL - ALL EVENTS COMBINED - WOMEN

1. Gabriella Bella Eliah
2. Naumi Eychenne
3. Olivia Piana

OVERALL - ALL EVENTS COMBINED - MEN

1. Haunui Haumani
2. Gage Schoenherr
3. Benoit Carpentier

Sil Romeijn's passion for water sports runs as deep as the ocean that shaped him. Born and raised in St. Maarten and Bonaire, Sil's journey has been nothing short of exciting. Now, as the newest member of the Harlem Family, Sil brings his fearless spirit and adventurous energy to the world of wingfoiling. He has an eco-conscious mindset and a drive for innovation and is ready to take on new challenges! Jen Tyler sat down with Sil to dive into his story, his love for the water, and what excites him about joining Harlem.

A person is captured in the middle of a wingfoiling maneuver on a body of water. The person is wearing a white hoodie and dark shorts, and is holding onto a blue and white wing. The wing is partially inflated and is catching the wind. The person is standing on a small, round, white foil board that is just above the water's surface. The background is a dramatic sunset with a bright orange sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the water and the sky. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The water is dark with some whitecaps.

SIL ROMEIJN'S JOURNEY TO HARLEM



Hi Sil, it's great to have you here. Congratulations on your recent move to Harlem! How does it feel to be part of the Harlem Family?

It feels fantastic to be part of the Harlem family. Honestly, it just feels like the right fit for me. Harlem shares my values and passion for the water, and I'm excited to see where this journey takes us together.

What drew you to the Harlem brand specifically?

What really drew me to Harlem was their ambition for constant development and their approach to everything with an eco-friendly mindset. I really appreciate and can get behind that. When I learned about their collaboration with Brainchild Production, I knew they were on to something special. It was clear they were taking innovation seriously.

We've got to ask, what was it like growing up on St. Maarten and Bonaire?


It was simply amazing. Growing up on those islands was like living in paradise. As a child, the beach and ocean were my playground. Every day felt like a new adventure, and it was like living through 17 years of continuous summer. I couldn't have asked for a better place to grow up.

Who first sparked your interest in water sports?


My parents, without a doubt, had a massive influence on my love for water sports. They were great sailors, and everything we did as a family involved the water somehow. Whether sailing, swimming, or hanging out by the sea, it was always part of our lives.

How has growing up in the Caribbean shaped the person you are today?

Growing up in the Caribbean has shaped my laid-back and spontaneous approach to life.



" HARLEM SHARES MY VALUES AND PASSION FOR THE WATER, AND I'M EXCITED TO SEE WHERE THIS JOURNEY TAKES US TOGETHER."

A photograph of a person standing on the deck of a sailboat at sunset. The person is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and dark shorts. A large, colorful sail (pink, blue, and white) is visible behind them. A bicycle is parked on the deck to the right. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, indicating the time is either dawn or dusk. The boat's rigging and mast are visible in the foreground.

"WHENEVER WE SAILED TO A NEW DESTINATION, THERE WAS ALWAYS TIME TO EXPLORE AND GET TO KNOW THE AREA AND THE WATER."

There was never a rush to do or be anywhere—life was simple and easygoing. Not everything was readily available, so I learned how to make do with what I had and appreciate the small things. Plus, being around people from all over the world taught me to appreciate different cultures, which has stayed with me throughout my life.

Living in the Netherlands must be quite a big adjustment. What have you found most challenging to adapt to?

Yes, moving to the Netherlands was a huge adjustment! I think my biggest challenge has

been adapting to the mindset here. People in the Netherlands always rush towards the next thing, always focused on what's coming next. In the Caribbean, it was all about living in the moment, enjoying what we were doing that day. My spontaneous nature wasn't always appreciated initially, but I've found my balance over time.

When did you first get into pump foiling and wingfoiling?

I first got into pump foiling in 2021, right in the middle of the COVID lockdown, when everything was shut down. I was living on a

sailboat then and wanted a way to surf straight from the docks in the marina. It wasn't long before someone lent me a wing to try wingfoiling. Since I already knew how to pump foil, it didn't take me long to figure it out, and after that, I was completely hooked. Wingfoiling became my new passion.

How does being raised in a sailing community impact your approach to wingfoiling?

Being raised in a sailing community had a huge impact. Whenever we sailed to a new destination, there was always time to explore and get to know the area and the water.

I think wingfoiling is one of the best ways to explore a place, and that mindset—of discovery and connection to the environment—definitely comes from my sailing background.

How do you think wingfoiling will evolve in the coming years?

The gear will keep getting lighter and stronger, which is exciting. As for the foils themselves, I think we'll see even more efficiency and agility in their design. Wingfoiling is still a young sport, so there's a lot of room for innovation, and I can't wait to see where it goes.

What is your favourite wingfoiling trick, and what are you working on?

My favourite trick has to be the front loop. The pull you get during the trick is such an intense, exciting feeling—it's hard to describe! Right now, I'm working on landing my first 1080, which has been a fun challenge. I'm also focused on improving my back mobs, another trick I enjoy.

What sets the Harlem Pace wing apart from other wings you've tried?

The Harlem Pace is by far the lightest wing I've ever held, which makes such a huge difference. The direct feel you get from the wing is amazing—it gives you instant feedback, so you can sense what you're doing right (or wrong) when attempting tricks or cruising. It's made my sessions a lot more intuitive and fun.

What is your go-to gear setup for freestyle or wave riding?

My go-to setup is pretty simple but effective. I use a 4m Harlem Pace wing, a 55L board, an 85cm mast,

" WINGFOILING IS STILL A YOUNG SPORT,
SO THERE'S A LOT OF ROOM FOR INNOVATION,
AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHERE IT GOES. "



and a 650cm² foil. That combination works perfectly for both freestyle and wave riding, giving me the control and agility I need.

Can you share a day in the life of Sil Romeijn?

Every day is different, but I'll give you a typical one! I usually start the day by walking my dog, which is a nice, quiet way to wake up. After that, I'll either load up my tools for a job as a freelance carpenter or, if the conditions are right, pack up my foil gear for a session at Wijk aan Zee. If I'm not working or riding, you'll find me working on my boat, trying to tackle the never-ending list of projects that come with living on board. When the weather's nice, I'll anchor the boat somewhere, wingfoil for a bit, and then get back to work. It's always a mix of things, but it keeps life interesting!

Tell us something most people don't know about you!

Something that surprises a lot of people is that I never actually planned to become a professional wingfoiler. That wasn't the goal. I just wanted to be on the water as much as possible, and everything else kind of fell into place from there.

Thanks, Sil. We're looking forward to seeing what the next chapter brings!



" THAT COMBINATION WORKS PERFECTLY FOR BOTH FREESTYLE AND WAVE RIDING, GIVING ME THE CONTROL AND AGILITY I NEED."



RIDER GREGORIO PUGLIESE
PHOTO LOUIS ARNAUD LAVASIER

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If you're craving a new challenge, tacking is the next logical step. Like a fine corkscrew, it's practical, stylish, and oh-so-satisfying. Carving through the wind and nailing your exit is the perfect way to change direction and makeup ground. Once mastered, the tack frees you from endless gybing and adds a delicious new skill to your repertoire.

This issue focuses on the toe-to-heel tack—starting toeside, exiting heelside, and keeping your feet planted. It's simpler to tackle first, as you'll end on a strong heelside. Solid toeside riding and gybing skills are your foundation here. Bonus points if you've nailed the woffing tack from issue 18—it'll help with wing control and transitions.

Remember, unlike the gybe, which carves downwind, the tack turns into the wind, keeping you from losing ground. Ready? Let's dive in!

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HOW TO WING FOIL #14 – THE TOE TO HEEL TACK

If you're ready to up your game and fancy a new wing foil challenge, tacking is the next logical step. Like a well-crafted corkscrew, the tack is practical and stylish, not to mention blissfully satisfying. Carving up through the wind and exiting on your new tack is the perfect way to change direction quickly and make up ground. Once nailed and firmly stuffed into your box of tricks, the tack will liberate you from only gybing and give you the pleasure of learning something delicious and new.

There are two fundamental tacks in winging. For this issue, we're focusing on the toe-to-heel, coming in toeside, and exiting heelside. There is no change of feet; they pretty much stay put! Attacking this one first's probably less complicated, as at least you'll come out of it onto a strong heelside. If you're keen on the other one, despair not; we'll cover the heel-to-toe variant in a later issue. Prerequisites for this tack are a solid, comfortable, balanced toeside. We'll also assume that you can already gybe, as you'll need that ankle flexing, knees driving carve position to turn the board up and through the wind. As a Brucey bonus, if you nailed the woffing tack back in issue 18, you'll already have a good command of the hand and wing movements.

And before we dive into the nitty gritty, we should ensure we're on the same page! The tack differs from the gybe in that you turn the board into the wind before changing your wing to the other side. At the same time, the gybe involves carving off downwind. Hence, the advantage of a tack is that you don't lose any ground downwind.

All good? Let's get involved...

IT'S ALL ON YOUR TOE SIDE

We won't go into the toeside technique, as we've covered this in great detail in a past issue. However, no matter how proficient your toeside is, you need it balanced. By balanced, we mean that you don't use the wing for support to hold you up and keep you stable and on the board. One of the crux parts of a tack is the transition from a driving forward toeside to carving up with little power and no support. Master this, and the process will seem considerably more manageable. As such, before attempting to tack, get practised in riding toeside with little power in the wing, with the wing high whilst concentrating on standing up on your feet. Foot position can make or break this. Once again, a dynamic offset stance can help. Sliding your rear foot further across the centreline will make your foil feel more stable and the eventual carve upwind more intuitive. With this in mind, let's look at the individual parts in chronological order.

APPROACH – MOMENTUM PIC A

During the tack, there is a large portion when you won't have any power in the wing. For this reason, you need momentum and glide to give you any chance of coming out still on the foil.



This doesn't mean that you need to upgrade your kit, but it does mean that you must have everything for your approach; technique is key. Your checklist should look something like this:

Direction of Travel. You should be winging upwind but not too close to the wind. This way, you can keep speed and build momentum. Keep the wing low and sheeted in for maximum drive while trying to support yourself on your legs.

2. Weight centred. Make sure you're standing equally on both feet so the foil is trimmed from nose to tail. This way, you can

keep your balance when you depower the wing and keep the foil trimmed as you carve.

3. Dynamic Offset Stance. The tack is a carving move, so you want your body and feet in carvy mode. Placing your back foot further across and pointing slightly forward will help you flex your ankles and knees and allow you to carve and drive the board up through the wind. As a bonus, it helps with your toeside by opening your shoulders, keeping weight on both feet and aiding in sheeting.

4. Hand position. This will vary from wing to wing and also depend on wind strength. As you need to take some speed, it'll be easier if your front hand isn't too far forward and your backhand is back enough to sheet in.

Looking at Karine, she's sheeted in, riding upwind, wing pointed forwards, balanced over the board, feet offset with shoulders open. Due to the offset stance, her board and foil are trimmed from nose to tail while banked gently from rail to rail. As long as the coast is clear, she's ready!

WING LIFT PIC B

To carve up and through the eye of the wind, you need to get your wing floating right above you. If you come from kiting, you'll understand the term Zenith. If this is gobbledegook and new to you, it's worth adding to your winging lexicon. In this position, your wing hangs in the air with no pull; it's neutral. You may recall in the non-foiling woffing tack how you lifted the wing.

Here, the movement has to be even more precise as with more wind present; if you do it incorrectly, your wing will do everything in its power to prevent you from tacking.

You aim to get the wing up to this Zenith point without it pulling you downwind. The best route for your wing is not the shortest. The plan is to gently sheet out and guide your wing slowly forward and up, around the edge of where it will fly (known as the window), rather than having it powered and pulling you from a downwind position. You want to keep just enough breeze in it to float, but you don't want any pull.

Have a look at Karine in Sequence Pic B. You can see the difference from left to right as she lifts her wing. It starts low and sheeted in; she then eases off the power, and the wing flies further forward to the edge of its window. Karine slowly guides it up with her front hand (as opposed to steering it up by pushing down on her backhand). The wing climbs at the edge until Karine has it directly above her, floating without pressure on the rear hand. The leading edge starts downwind of Karine because the wing is sheeted in and pulling. By sheeting out, it ends up upwind of her, and she can trace the window's edge. It's also worth noting that Karine can do this because she's not relying on the wing for support. As she sheets out and raises the wing, she remains balanced and in control.



RELEASE & CARVE PIC C

Once the wing is high and without pull, it's time to carve the board up. Before carving the board, you must release your rear hand and let go of the handle. This way, you can commit to your carve and be in a position for the forthcoming hand swap. The carving action is the same as if you were gybing from heel to toe; it's just that you'll be turning up into the wind! Turn your head to look upwind, drop your weight by flexing your knees and ankles, and shift your weight onto the balls of your feet. This will bank the board a touch more and initiate your carve. Looking at Karine,



her wing is at the Zenith; she's released her rear hand, turned her head to look more upwind and is flexing to drop her weight onto the balls of her feet. She remains upright and balanced.

WING PUSH PIC D

Now that you've got your carve on, it's time to make it count. The more you carve, the more you'll drive the board around and the more likely you will stay on the foil. You need to take the wing with you; you want to lead with the wing. If you look at Karine and compare it to the last image, she has pushed the wing into the wind by bringing her front hand forward and in front of her.

E



This way, Karine can push her knees and commit her hips more dynamically towards the centre of the carve whilst keeping her board and, ultimately, the foil trimmed from nose to tail. If you don't get the wing forward and it stays behind your head, it will pull your weight back and encourage the foil to breach.

HAND SWAP PIC E

It's a good time to say that there is no rush. As the board carves into the wind, keep the wing forward in front of you. You'll know

when you're approaching the head-to-wind zone as the wing will fly over you and the board, and it will feel lighter and more manoeuvrable. Wait for this moment, as you can then push the wing across in front of your face to the other side, which will be the new tack, with little effort. As you push it across, bring your free hand up and grab the handle before releasing your original front hand. This action should already be familiar:) As Karine's board turns into the wind, you can see that it is pointing in the same direction as the wing. Karine's still very much committed to her carving and concentrating on keeping the wing forward to keep the foil trimmed.

F



She feels the lightness as the wing and board line up and pushes the handle across to the other side before swapping hands. Once you release your original front hand, keep the wing forward.

REAR HANDLE GRAB PIC F

With your wing held forward and now on the new side, you can grab the rear handle. Don't turn your head back to look for it, as this will shift your weight onto your rear foot and stall your foil, which will now be on its last legs of lift. Keep looking forward and reach for the handle as you turn onto it. Karine is focused ahead, keeping her wing high and forward.



She reaches for the handle without looking back and concentrates on keeping the board and foil trimmed to nurse it around the final few degrees.

PATIENCE – KEEP CARVING PIC G

When your rear hand is on the handle, every cell in your body will scream for you to sheet in for power. Ignore the noise and continue your carve, keeping the wing away from you and forward. You need to turn and carve far enough until you're in a position to sheet in. If you go too early, you'll stall your



wing, stall your foil, and, at best, pivot around your mast and touch down. Here, Karine keeps everything high and forward whilst concentrating on trim. She'll now be moving slowly, and the slightest lift of her nose will kill everything.

POWER ON PIC H

You'll know when you've carved enough as the wing will come down into its normal riding position, pointing forward and ready to catch some wind. Once you feel it coming down, it's time to power up. Pulling your backhand in towards your shoulders whilst extending your front arm away and in the



direction you want to go. As the power comes on, drive through your front leg, flattening the board and breathing life into your foil. Karine sheets in, keeping the wing forward and away from her, driving through her front leg to level the board off and accelerate out of her tack.

CLAIM IT PIC I

If all goes well, you should aim to come out of your tack across the wind (once fully nailed, it can be more upwind). Get the board trimmed from nose to tail and rail to rail, as this will cheer up your foil and keep you flying. You can see that Karine is over the board,



powering it up and accelerating. Once you're happy everything is in order, you can shift your weight and feet for your next run...

TOP TIPS

- Don't rush. While learning to tack, it's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that the sooner you get the power back on, the more likely you are to stay up on the foil. You should rather focus your efforts on keeping your foil happy. If you do this, you'll be afforded more time, so you won't need to rush.
- At first, you'll likely drop off the foil once you get the new rear hand back on the handle. The more proficient you get at keeping the wing forward and not reaching back, the more likely you are to stay up.
- You're likely to fall when learning anything new, so if you're riding a small board that you struggle to get back on, you'll lose motivation sooner than if you're riding something you can jump back onto in a jiffy.
- Finally, pick appropriate conditions if you can. If you're very powered, the wing will want to pull you back, so choose a day when you're in charge.

Now, have a look at the full sequence to get a step-by-step idea of what's going on, and keep an eye on the TONICMAG YouTube channel for the upcoming video.

Excellent, enjoy the challenge, and we'll see you next time.

C&K



A TOTALLY NEW MOBILE EXPERIENCE



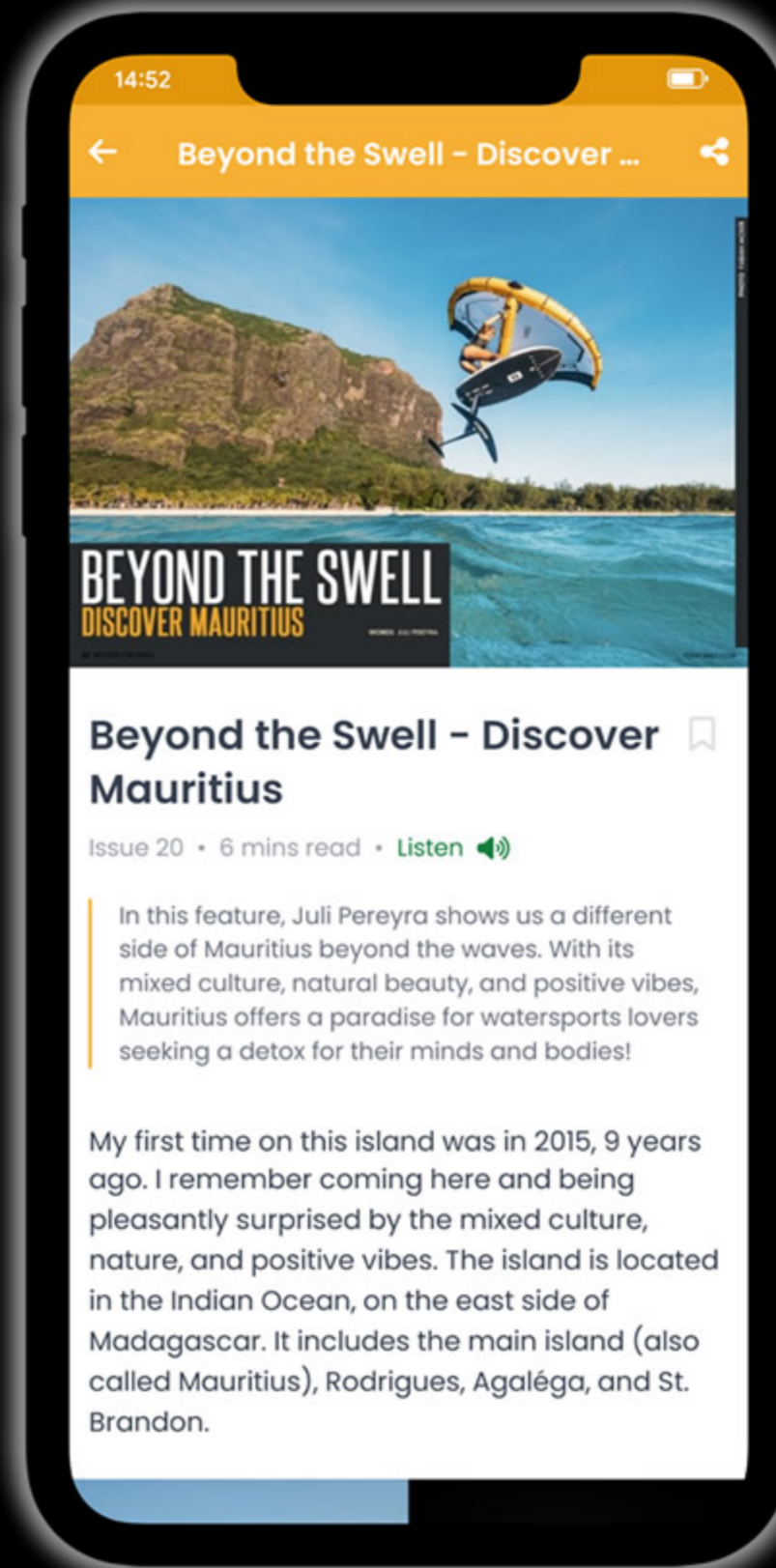
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QUESTIONS ROU CHATER WORDS PAUL WAKELIN
PHOTOS AFS FOILS

AFS FOILS ENDURO RANGE

Rou Chater chats with Paul Wakelin about the exciting new Enduro range from AFS Foils. They discuss everything from the design philosophy behind these innovative foils to what sets them apart in the market. If you want to level up your foiling game, you won't miss this!





“TUBERCLES HELP YOUR DYNAMIC RIDING AND ALLOW YOU TO PUSH HARD IN ALL CONDITIONS.”

Hi Paul, it's great to chat with you, and we're looking forward to hearing all about the Enduro range. AFS already has a pretty extensive range of foils, covering many different disciplines. What's the design remit of the Enduro, and why do you need it in the range?

The design goal of the Enduro is to marry exceptional glide with dynamic turning ability in a modular foil. We're enjoying

pushing the experience and massive efficiencies that HA and advanced foil shapes give us. The Enduro is the foil to complete our Trilogy of Laurent Borgna designed foils: the SILK, ULTRA, and now Enduro. This trio has very distinct purposeful characteristics: the SILK, the ultimate carve foil; the Ultra, with its aspect ratio of 14; the ultimate DW, glide foil.

Now, the Enduro firmly satisfying a demanding rider's all-round performance criteria.

It keeps the 'tubercles' of the Silk foils. What are these for, and how do they help your ride?

Tubercles are proven to reduce stall and to help keep flow attached. These benefits give you a tangible feeling of confidence. Tubercles help your dynamic riding and allow you to push hard in all conditions.

Why don't we see this design on more foils in the market?

Innovation, understanding, and technical ability. Laurent is the master of the tubercle design for foils. His career expertise and experience are groundbreaking. Coupled with AFS manufacturing capability, we are all now enjoying a perfect performance collaboration.

Nature knows tubercles are no gimmick. They stem from natural hydrodynamic evolution studied in the



“ AFS HAS INNOVATION IN ITS DNA, AND THERE NEEDS TO BE SOME COMFORT IN LEADING FROM THE FRONT. ”

majestic Humpback whale with their exceptional ability to twist, turn and carve tightly in aerated and turbulent water. The skill and dedication required to take this proven principle to foils is not to be underestimated. We can also see innovative examples across other fields, yacht rudders, turbine blades, and now Para kite wings... AFS has innovation in its DNA, and there needs to be some comfort in leading from the front. A cautious perception could hold some back, however, when it comes to tubercles, if you know, you know!

The aspect ratio of 11 is present across all the foils in the range. What are the advantages of going so high, and are there any drawbacks?

Efficiency is a key outcome of HA. Retaining the ability to turn with wider-spanned foils is the challenge. It's a tricky combo to get right, which the Enduro does so well. Much time and effort has gone into the detailed design of the foil tips. This allows us to maximise HA efficiencies whilst giving the Enduro beautiful turning, lift, and stall characteristics.

The lineup has four sizes: 1300, 1100, 900, and 700. The larger foil is billed as being good for light wind wing, dock start, and downwind foiling. However, the surface area of 1300cm² feels quite small still. What's in the design to help a rider over 85 kilos get going?

Enduro foil shapes give early lift way greater than perceived sizes; they certainly punch above their weight in getting riders of all sizes going...



“THE SILK REMAINS OUR CUTTING-EDGE CARVE FOIL; IT WAS ALREADY WAY AHEAD OF ITS TIME WHEN LAUNCHED.”

Our highly evolved foil shapes give foils of any given size great early lift and low stall speeds without the drag of comparatively large surface areas.

The smaller 900 and 700 look like great foils for manoeuvrability in the waves, something the Silk is famous for; why should a rider choose the Enduro over the Silk for winging in the waves?

The SILK remains our cutting-edge carve foil;

it was already way ahead of its time when launched. If you're looking for a modular foil that turns with glide as a key component, then the Enduro may be the one for you.

Our foil range has a great scope of use, and there are different models that dial into key foil characteristics, therefore supporting each other rather than replacing them.

You've opted to keep this as part of your modular range rather than the monoblock Silk and Pure range. What are the advantages and disadvantages of making it modular?

Travel, storage efficiency and interchangeability are high criteria for many.

The Enduro's Modular construction and price point make it a winner for some. We've worked hard on the Foil to Fuselage connection to ensure optimal performance.

It is easy enough to use alternative bags, such as bike bags, for international travel with our monobloc foil construction; however, modular foil is simply cheaper.

The starting price of the Enduro front wings is quite high compared to the Evo, Flyer, and Performer front wings. What is pushing that cost up?

AFS equipment is well known for being competitively priced for superior equipment. The complexity of the internal layup schedule, the finishing of the tubercle surface, and the high investment in R&D make up some of the costs of such progressive foils.

“ RIDER PERFORMANCE IS THEN FURTHER ENHANCED WITH THE THINNER CHORD SECTIONS OF OUR UHM MASTS ”

The incredibly good value Flyer is also priced rather than cost to help riders get started in the best way possible.

Do you recommend pairing them with the UHM mast in all sizes, or is the standard carbon mast OK for smaller sizes?

The choice of mast is twofold: stiffness and section size. All our masts in any given dimension are arguably market-leading in terms of stiffness and performance for comparative cost. Wider-span foils benefit from the stiffest masts simply due to their leverage. Rider performance is then further enhanced with the thinner chord sections of our UHM Masts, which give increased glide and manoeuvrability.

All our foils are 100% compatible with all our masts, giving the rider the maximum options to best suit their performance vs. cost considerations.

For someone thinking of changing brands, what does AFS bring to the table to entice them across?

With French manufacturing know-how, coupled with range compatibility, innovation, and supply readiness, AFS offers premium foiling products at a great price.

What sort of rider do you think the Enduro best suits?

The Enduro rider wants a progressive performance foil that glides exceptionally well, has great turning characteristics, and is really easy to use in a modular construction. Could it be the unicorn foil?!

Thanks for taking the time to chat to us!

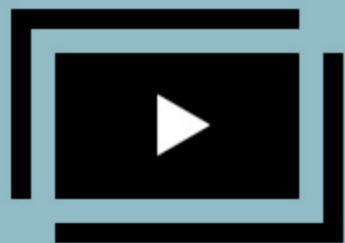
Thanks team!



QUESTIONS ROU CHATER
WORDS NOAH HOFFMAN

NAISH CHIMERA BOARD

Rou Chater catches up with Noah Hoffman to get the lowdown on Naish's latest release, the Chimera. Built as a true hybrid, the Chimera blends the best of prone wingfoiling and downwind surfing, giving riders a versatile, all-in-one board for any foiling adventure. Noah shares the story behind the design, some technical insights, and why he thinks mid-length boards like the Chimera are the next big thing in foiling. Tune in!





“THE CHIMERA WAS ALWAYS TO BE A PRONE WING FOIL HYBRID, TAKING THE BEST ELEMENTS OF BOTH AND PUTTING THEM INTO ONE BOARD.”

Hi! It's great to have you here, and we can't wait to hear all about Naish's latest release, the Chimera. Looking at the dimensions, the new Chimera boards seem to be right on the money for riders looking for a prone board. Was that always the design goal?

Thanks for reaching out. I'm super stoked to share! The Chimera was always to be a prone wing foil hybrid, taking the best elements of both and putting them into one board. The goal of these boards was to allow for a single board to be used for all the foil sports. Here in Maui, most of our team does a bit of everything, such as winging, prone foiling, and tow foiling. Riding one board consistently helped us up our foiling game tremendously. When we designed these, we took elements of our prone board with the wider nose and narrower tail and incorporated elements from our downwind range to help the boards get up easily for winging even with the low volume. Overall, the design of the Chimera Range was for waves regardless of which avenue you took to get onto them.

The three smaller boards are quite similar in shape, while the 5'8" takes on more of a mid-length feel. What was the reasoning behind this?

The 5'8" was something that started out as a proof of concept. I had seen some videos of people prone foiling on a mid-5-foot board and absolutely ripping!

“WE FELT THAT THIS BOARD WAS THE BEST REPRESENTATION OF THE CHIMERA TARGET AND THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO KEEP IT IN.”

I previously had always been a 4'6 ~ 30L rider for everything, but when we got the first sample of the 5'8, I fell in love with the feeling and knew that this had to be in the range. The longer board just made everything easier; the feeling of turns was smoother and more controllable; getting up on the foil in marginal winds was not an issue anymore; everything seemed to work. The idea behind the dimensions of the 5'8 being still lower volume and narrow was to allow more people to have that perfect cross-overboard. Even though the dimensions were different than the rest of the range, we felt that this board was the best representation of the Chimera Target and that it was necessary to keep it in.

The boards' volumes are quite low, which is great for prone riding but not so good for winging. How did you make the shape more user-friendly to negate the lower volume needed for prone riding vs. winging?

The lower volume was necessary to keep it more oriented for the prone range as the Chimeras were replaced, and we didn't want to overlap with our standard Hover Ascend boards. To keep the boards wingable, we did two main things to the shape to accomplish this. The first was to keep the volume distribution just forward of centre so that the board floated very flat underwater. Making it easy to control when sink starting. The second was to maximise the water line with the bevel going from the nose to the tail of the board.





“HAVING A BOARD THAT YOU COULD DO WING FREESTYLE AND TOW SURF ON WAS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT TO US.”

Keeping the bevel the entire length and ending it with a sharp release helps the on-the-water acceleration; this shortens the time to engage your foil, which helps when the gust to get you going is short. Although they are lower volume than are standard range, I tell people to drop 10L from their usual boards because of how much easier they are to get you up.

Foot strap inserts come as standard; what are the advantages and disadvantages of adding these?

For us, the advantages outweigh the downsides of the additional weight. We wanted to make these boards universal and to do that, foot strap inserts were necessary. The only downside is that we couldn't get the weights to the point of the custom-prone foil boards. But having a board that you could do wing freestyle and tow surf on was much more important to us. We tried a bunch of different configurations for the

inserts, and in order to minimise the weight gain, we went with a Y configuration with 2 inserts in the centre.

Are you seeing many riders use straps for prone foiling, or is this mainly for the wingers?

Most of our team riders also use straps for prone because they are doing rotations and flips, but most prone foilers won't. When we designed the chimeras, we also made low-profile straps to be used for wave riding and prone foiling, which have less padding but lay flat and are much more comfortable to lay or stand on. If I ride straps prone foiling, I only use the front because it helps get extra momentum pumping out, helps me turn a bit harder and try to land baby airs!

“WE DID A FULL BIAX CARBON DECK AND A COMBINATION OF 3K AND BIAX GLASS ON THE BOTTOM OF THE BOARD.”

What size mast tracks are on the boards, and can any foils work with them?

The Mast tracks are standard length. We positioned them so that most brands' foils fit in the centre of the box, and most Naish foils sit forward in the centre. We opted not to go for the longer boxes as they require a lot more reinforcements on boards that are going to be jumped. Most brands' foils all fit in a fairly close range, so we prioritised keeping the weight down for these boards.

You've gone for a carbon construction; what benefits does this bring to the Chimera?

For the Chimera, we did a full biax carbon deck and a combination of 3K and Biax glass on the bottom of the board. We did this to keep the stiffness on the deck of the boards and over the foil boxes, giving a straightforward connection to your foil. We also added a "pass-through" window on the Chimeras so the carbon doesn't interrupt the connection on the newer foil drives. This also helps keep the weight down as you don't have to pack lots of layers of glass to obtain the same stiffness.

Mid-length is a hot topic right now in the wing world and in prone. Will more sizes be coming in the future?

There will definitely be more from Naish moving forward. The mid-length style allows people to ride a smaller-feeling board without the struggle that stepping down in volume adds. It is now all I ride these days: light wind, Strong wind,

“IT’S THE FUTURE BOARD FOR MOST WINGERS, AND WE ALREADY HAVE SOME STUFF IN THE WORKS TO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR!”

Waves, and Prone, a true one-board quiver. To me, it’s the future board for most wingers, and we already have some stuff in the works to keep an eye out for!

The Naish board range has grown a lot recently; where does the Chimera fit in, and who should be looking to buy one?

The Chimeras are for people who do multiple disciplines and are looking for a single board to put in their car. They are a lower-volume option for intermediate to advanced riders, lighter ones, or people with windy conditions. If the Chimera Range is too low-volume, you can step up to the Hover DW Crossover range, a hybrid Wing/Downwind Board starting at 85 L.

What does your ultimate board quiver look like?

My ultimate board quiver right now consists of a 5’8 Chimera for Prone and Wing, a 110L DW NVision for paddle runs, a 9’4 longboard, and a 5’8 short board for surfing. With this setup, I never miss a single day in the water!

Thanks for taking the time to chat to us!

Thanks for reaching out! I’m looking forward to chatting about more new gear in the future!



TRIED & TESTED



Our Tonic Mag UK-based test team has been braving the autumn chill to put the latest gear on the market through its paces - determined to bring you first-hand reviews, ensuring you stay on the game with the best gear available. This issue we've got:

- Prolimit Poncho OFSA Xtreme Long Arms
- Core Halo Pro
- Armstrong APF 1350
- Sabfoil 1360 Leviathan Pro

RIDER: GWEN LE TUTOUR
PHOTO: WING FOIL PRO CENTER

WORDS AND PHOTOS: THE TONIC MAG TEST TEAM -
JACK GALLOWAY, LIAM PROCTOR & ROU CHATER

BRAND PROLIMIT

MODEL PONCHO OFSA XTREME LONG ARMS

YEAR 2024

"THE WATER-REPELLENT LAYER KEPT ME DRY, SO I DIDN'T HAVE TO RUSH THROUGH MY WETSUIT CHANGE LIKE USUAL."

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



AT A GLANCE

With winter around the corner, I couldn't wait to test out Prolimit's Water Repellent Poncho Frontzip Extreme, and from the second I unpacked it, I knew this poncho was built for the elements. The material felt durable yet lightweight, and the water-repellent coating on the outside was immediately noticeable. I've tested other ponchos that were so bulky that they needed a separate bag to put them in, but this poncho packs down way smaller. When I tried it on, I was surprised by how easy it was to put on and off, thanks to the size of the front zipper. The poncho fits comfortably, with enough room to move around, making changing into my wetsuit effortless. If you're anything like me and live on a cooler coast, you'll love the soft terry cloth lining inside, which gives you immediate warmth—a big plus when you're stripping down in cold, windy conditions.

I grabbed the poncho out on a particularly windy and rainy day, and it performed exactly as advertised. The water-repellent layer kept me dry, so I didn't have to rush through my wetsuit change like usual.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND CORE

MODEL HALO PRO

SIZE 4M

YEAR 2024

"THE CORE HALO PRO IS A HIGH-PERFORMANCE WING THAT IS SURE TO DELIGHT ANYONE WHO TAKES IT FOR A SPIN."



The Core Halo is a high-performance wing for riders looking for the ultimate in performance. It's packed with technology, with an Aluula leading edge and strut giving it unrivalled stiffness. This is coupled with a lightweight carbon boom, reducing weight and adding stiffness and performance to your ride.

The canopy is made of Core's proprietary CoreTex2 fabric, which minimises stretch and elongation while delivering lots of power. The fairly flat profile gives a hint of sporty characteristics, and three carbon battens help maintain the profile even at high speeds.

The overall quality and feel of the wing are everything you would expect from Core; the Halo Pro is finished to an incredibly high standard. Aimed at the rider looking to do it all, the wing is aimed at wave riders, freestylers and big air junkies alike, but it is sure to satisfy just about everyone in between too.

SIZES

3, 4, 5, 6m

ON THE WATER

The first thing you notice when you hold the Halo Pro is just how light it is.

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



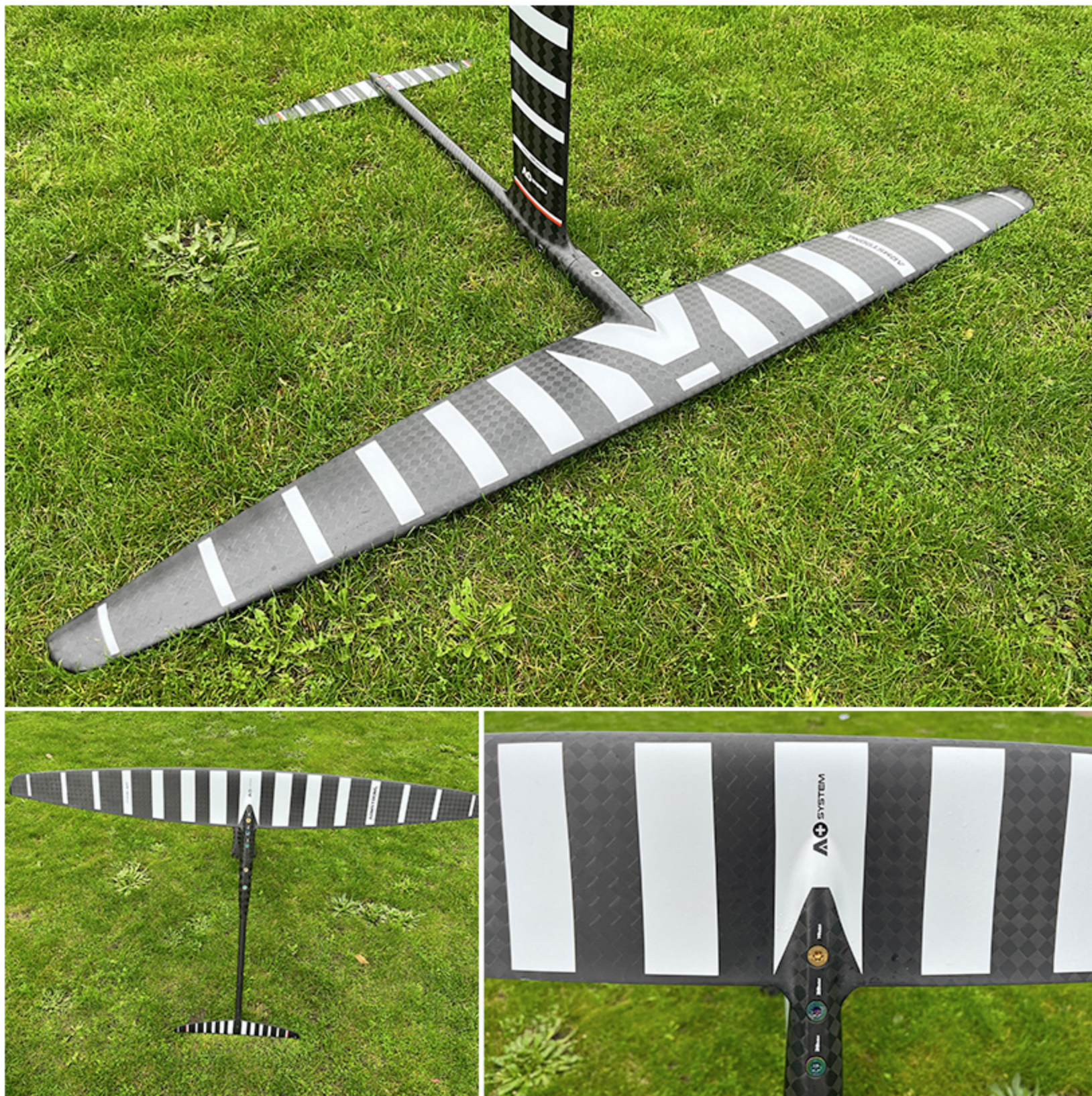
BRAND ARMSTRONG

MODEL APF1350

YEAR 2024

" A GREAT CHOICE FOR ANYONE LOOKING TO MAXIMISE THEIR TIME ON THE WATER. "

TO VISIT THEIR WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



AT A GLANCE

I'd already had the APF1880 for a while when the 1350 arrived on test. While the 1880 was exceptional for pumping efficiency (I got my PB of 11 minutes flat water pumping on the 1880), it lacked glide speed and turning ability. So, I was super excited to try a foil that made some compromises to this!

According to Armstrong, the 1350 has been designed for riders from beginner to expert. With a carefully sculpted outline, straight leading edge, and high camber foil section, the APF produces extremely low stall speeds and responsive acceleration.

The APF 1350 has a 1350 cm² area, a 1202 mm span, and an aspect ratio of 10.7. True now to many of Armstrong's foils, it has been designed in collaboration with Chris Porter, an esteemed aerospace engineer known for the Crisp 333 and 381 stabilisers. Having experienced several of Chris's designs now, I couldn't wait to get it on the water.

ON THE WATER

I've had a bit of a journey of discovery with the 1350; it started as a foil that I believed I would only use periodically and turned into one of my most used foils!

[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

BRAND SABFOIL

MODEL 1360 LEVIATHAN PRO

YEAR 2024

" DW SUP FOILING
IN SUPER LIGHT
CONDITIONS AND
SURFING SMALL
WAVES. "



AT A GLANCE

Like many pump foilers, the iconic Sabfoil 1350 Leviathan has played a massive role in my pump foil journey.

From dockstarts to beach starts, Sabfoil's 1350 Leviathan has helped me push boundaries I didn't even know were possible. It's also completely changed my perspective on light wind winging and the rideable conditions. I still recommend the 1350 Leviathan to beginner pump foilers and anyone looking for the ultimate light wind foil. But with the design now a few years old, there was definitely room for some updates. So, I was thrilled when Sabfoil reached out, inviting me to test the new 1360 Leviathan Pro! I was down at the beach the same day I received it, jumped on with a beach start, and pumped away. The first thing that hit me was the speed and glide—this front wing felt smooth and intuitive. The 1360 Leviathan Pro really drives forward with each pump. During the beach start, I felt a strong lift that made take-offs easier and more forgiving; you just know it won't stall, even if your pitch is slightly off at lower speeds.

TO VISIT THEIR
WEBSITE, CLICK HERE



[CLICK OR TAP TO READ MORE](#)

WORDS ALINA KORNELLI PHOTOS ANNE COMBAZ

When Alina Kornelli said she wanted to share her story about foiling in cashmere, Jen Tyler got excited, thinking she meant an adventure in Kashmir! Turns out, she wasn't talking about the region—she meant the fabric! Dive into Alina's unexpected collaboration with a high-end fashion brand.

THE DRY ZONE





“ SHE OPTED FOR WINGFOILING, ALLOWING FOR A SIMPLER LOOK WITH A SMALL WAIST LEASH HIDDEN UNDER HER OUTFIT. ”

Alina, born and raised in Munich, always feels deeply connected to her Bavarian roots, even though her adventures now take her all over the world in search of the perfect wind and waves for wingfoiling and kitesurfing.

Despite her busy travel schedule, Munich remains her home base, where she regroups before her next trip.

It was here that she received a rather outlandish request from a high-end fashion brand that specialises in cashmere and wants to associate itself with the watersports world. It's a bit of a challenge, considering that wool is the most impractical fabric to wear in the water. There is a reason our wetsuits are made out of neoprene, after all.

Initially, Alina considered using kite foiling for the shoot but realised that the bulky harness wouldn't look great for the shoot. Instead, she opted for wingfoiling, allowing for a simpler look with a small waist leash hidden under her outfit.

Wool, particularly the lightweight, high-grade cashmere the brand asked her to wear, absorbs water quickly and can double in weight, rendering it impractical for any wet or wild activity. This introduces a high-stakes element to the shoot: each trick Alina attempts must be flawless, and she can't fall in.



There is no room for error, second chances, or opportunity to “wipe out” without ruining the shot and forcing an outfit change.

The location? The breathtaking coastline near Marseille, France, specifically “Les Calanques,” a stunning natural park with rugged cliffs and hidden bays. It’s also where renowned fashion photographer Anne Combaz is based. Usually known for shooting top brands like Chanel, Anne was excited to take on this new challenge of shooting action sports from a moving boat rather than models in a photography studio.

“A STUNNING
NATURAL PARK
WITH RUGGED
CLIFFS AND
HIDDEN BAYS.”



 **SABFOIL**.UK
Ease distribution



“ THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT SHOWING WHAT I CAN DO ON THE WATER; IT'S ABOUT CAPTURING A UNIQUE MOMENT OF CONTROL AND BEAUTY IN ONE SHOT ”

Alina's challenge is not just to execute her tricks with style but to do so without getting wet. Cashmere's natural absorbency and fine texture mean that even a minor slip or splash would wreck the shot.

A JUXTAPOSITION OF STYLE AND SPORT

The collaboration highlights the fascinating tension between brands aligning themselves with the allure of extreme sports while working with products that are, in a practical sense, far removed from the demands of that lifestyle. Cashmere is undeniably luxurious, wrapping wearers in softness and warmth, yet its suitability for wingfoiling—a high-energy, water-bound sport—is tenuous at best, realistically it's totally out of place. Therefore, this shoot becomes a statement piece, showcasing the brand's willingness to experiment, go beyond its typical image, and push the boundaries of where luxury can fit into the world of action sports.

For Alina, this shoot goes beyond athleticism; it demands precision, skill, and calculated risk. “This isn't just about showing what I can do on the water; it's about capturing a unique moment of control and beauty in one shot,” she says. “It's really pushing me to see if I can control every element around me, including the water itself, which is something we normally don't have to think about as much in wingfoiling, as it doesn't matter if we get wet.”



“ CELEBRATING AN UNLIKELY PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TWO WORLDS—LUXURY AND ADRENALINE ”

CASHMERE MEETS CONTROL

In many ways, the collaboration reflects a broader trend of fashion brands seeking association with extreme sports, where raw human achievement and adventure create an aspirational pull. Yet, Allude's collaboration with Alina reminds us that these partnerships, however eye-catching,

sometimes tread the fine line between practicality and sheer spectacle. While cashmere and wingfoiling may seem like odd partners, this tension gives the shoot its drama, demanding a level of technical precision from Alina and sparking curiosity from audiences worldwide.

Ultimately, this shoot is less about proving that cashmere can conquer the sea and more about celebrating an unlikely partnership between two worlds—luxury and adrenaline—that don't ordinarily meet.

Outside brands coming out of the sport can be a good thing. They can create awareness amongst audiences we can't typically reach, and they can also bring some funding to what is an incredible niche sport and its riders.

Ultimately, we're not to decide what's right and what's wrong, we are here to enjoy the imagery in its purest form, even if most of you won't be rushing out to wear a Christmas jumper for your next shoot...

Put the popcorn on; it's Movie Night!

The Tonic Mag website is packed with the latest news and videos from the wingfoiling, foiling, SUPing and surfing world, and these are the four most popular videos that have been viewed on the site as voted for by you with your thumbs-up likes over the last two months!

Like what you see? Give it a thumbs up; it could be the next hot pick!

MOVIE NIGHT

#1

TESTING THE NEW BALZ 707/808

Landing at #1, Viola Lippitsch takes us through an action-packed weekend putting Sabfoil's new Balz 707/808 to the test. With insane pop and incredible agility, these front wings are a true game-changer for freestyle.

243 votes

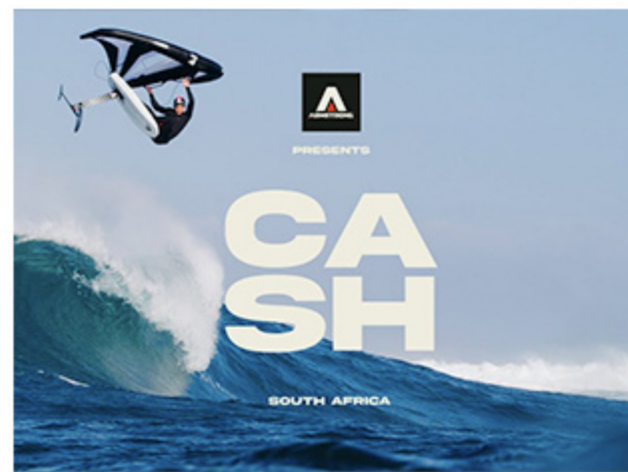

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#2

CASH SOUTH AFRICA I CASH BERZOLLA FREERIDES SOUTH AFRICA

Cash Berzolla takes on South Africa! After much anticipation, this strike mission captures epic swells, mile-long point breaks, and endless stoke. Was it worth it? Absolutely. Dive into the adventure right here!

196 votes


[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#3

WINGING WITH MONA & FUMI - ONE SHOT

Claiming #3 on our Movie Night list this issue - Join Mona and Fumi as they carve through Maui's stunning waters, capturing pure winging flow and style in a single take!

140 votes


[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

#4

FOILSURFING THE CLIFFS OF ULUWATU, BALI BEFORE IT'S GONE

One of Kai Lenny's all-time favourite spots, Uluwatu is facing changes as construction alters the limestone cliffs. Kai reflects on the balance between preserving the Temple and protecting this iconic surfing landscape.

107 votes


[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

READERS GALLERY

Here's your chance to be featured in Tonic Mag, have the right to brag about being famous, and win a Tonic Mag T-shirt!

Congratulations to Alexander Reese for securing our Readers Gallery spot in this issue!

On the River Elbe, just outside the bustling port of Hamburg, massive container ships glide down to unload their cargo at the city's expansive harbour. For 17-year-old Alexander Reese, these towering vessels create a one-of-a-kind backdrop for wingfoiling on the river!

CLICK HERE FOR A CHANCE TO WIN NEXT ISSUE!



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RIDER AUSTIN KALAMA
PHOTO FRANCK BERTHUOT



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