

hroughout history, man has undertaken long and unparalleled voyages on the high seas, crossing seas and oceans, initially in search of new territories and food, and later, managing the commercial maritime routes, as well as carrying out important scientific expeditions and recognized competitive regattas around the world.

The immensity and strength of the ocean, without any doubt, has led all these sailors to face a series of adversities, standing out among them, low temperatures and large storms, with winds that can reach up to 40 knots, giving the sea a wooded aspect, characterized by a remarkable increase in the height and length of the waves and their crests. Difficulties that they would not have been able to face without experience and, of course, with high design and technology vessels, together with the use of navigation instruments. Undoubtedly, key factors in the success of these voyage.

Many sailors will continue cross seas and oceans, in different boats and for different reasons, endowed with experience and the best technology, all having the opportunity to witness the marine wealth, which more than once has surrounded their boats. The scenic beauty and greatness of the algae and marine wildlife have surely amazed you, making it a great adventure to share on your return to port.

Daring navigators will continue to cross all seas and oceans and marvel as the greatness of the BLUE PLANET..

SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATIONS

Scientific explorers discovering wonderful Marine Wildlife in Seas and Oceans...

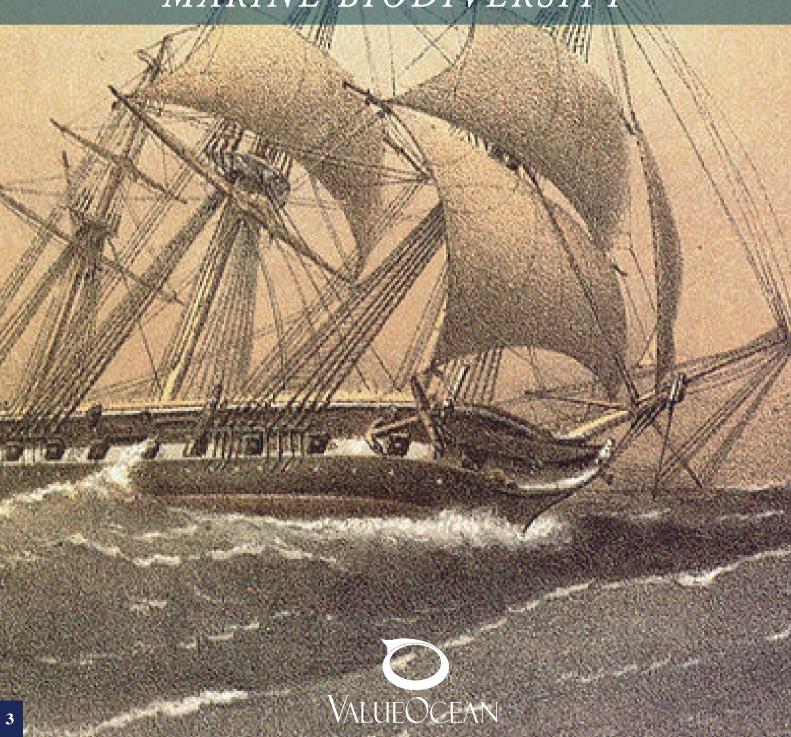
Some of the ocean voyages, distinguished by their valuable purpose of generating scientific knowledge, are the great exploration and research expeditions carried out by leading researchers and people who love knowledge, marine wildlife and navigation.

During the last centuries, countless scientific expeditions have been developed, among which two important British expeditions can be mentioned: The expedition called "Dolphin" led by Captain John Byron aboard the ship HMS DOLPHIN (1764-1766), circumnavigating twice the world for the first time. The second, called "Challenger", led by Captain George Naron aboard the corvette HMS.CHALLENGER (1872-1876), which went around the world traveling 69,000 nautical miles and described more than 4,700 new species for science. Both focused on exploring and studying marine fauna, oceanographic conditions and the geological composition of the ocean floor, among other investigations.

It is noteworthy that, at present, these scientific expeditions have continued to develop, distinguishing the high level of technology used in their modern vessels, which has allowed scientists to explore not only the surfaces, but also the abysmal and mysterious depths of the ocean, discovering a great biodiversity and an underwater world, unknown to society. According to an exploration study of marine biodiversity, financed by the BBVA Foundation, 1,635 new marine species are described every year.

SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATIONS

Scientific sailors, exploring and discover new MARINE BIODIVERSITY





They also explore the extremes of the blue planet...

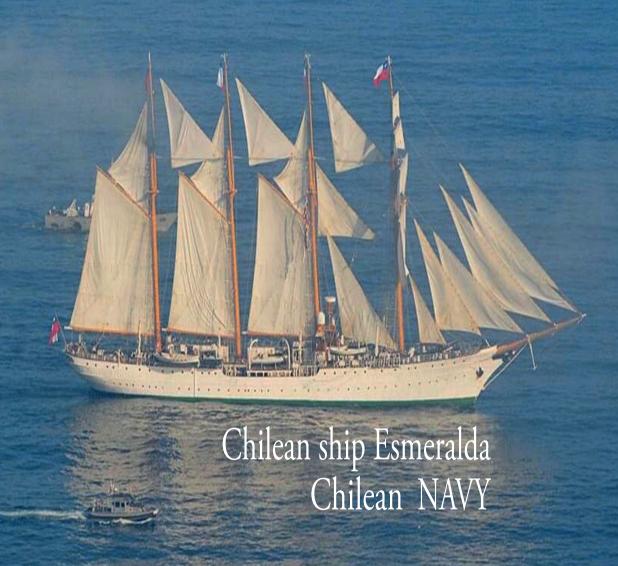
n addition to its military role, the Navy around the world is also involved in a wide range of scientific research and exploration. Its microbiologists and epidemiologists study infectious diseases, both for the benefit of naval personnel and to bring humanitarian aid to affected countries abroad. Navy chemists research sustainable energy from sources like the sun and the oceans, and the Navy meteorologists study ways to better forecast weather patterns and events. The Navy also has several ships and underwater vessels for exploration and research of the world's oceans. Navy oceanographers map large areas of the ocean floor and acoustic engineers study the transmission of sound underwater. Both efforts are vital to subsea operations.

Marine explorations are carried out from the surface to the great depths of the sea such as submarine trenches. They also explore the extremes of the planet in the Arctic and Antarctic Oceans.

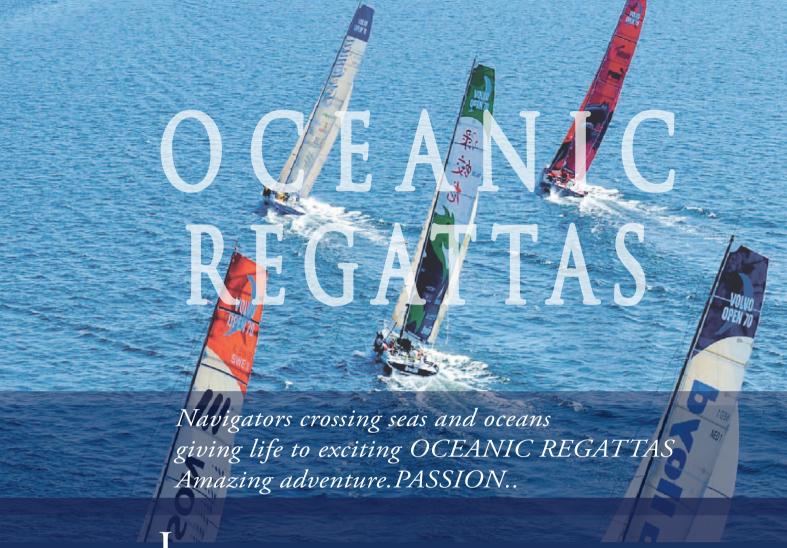
In Antarctica, the Navy maintains several stations throughout the year for meteorological research and other scientific studies. The Navy has also played a role in space exploration. The ships provide satellite and missile tracking facilities, and have recovered astronauts who landed at sea after orbital flights. As a curious fact, the first American astronaut, Alan B. Sheppard who flew into space in 1961, the first man to step on the Moon, Neil Armstrong in 1969 and the entire first crew of the first space laboratory in orbit, Skylab in 1973, they belonged to the US Navy.

THE NAVY EXPLORATIONS

Marine exploration are carried out from the surface to the great depths of the SEA..

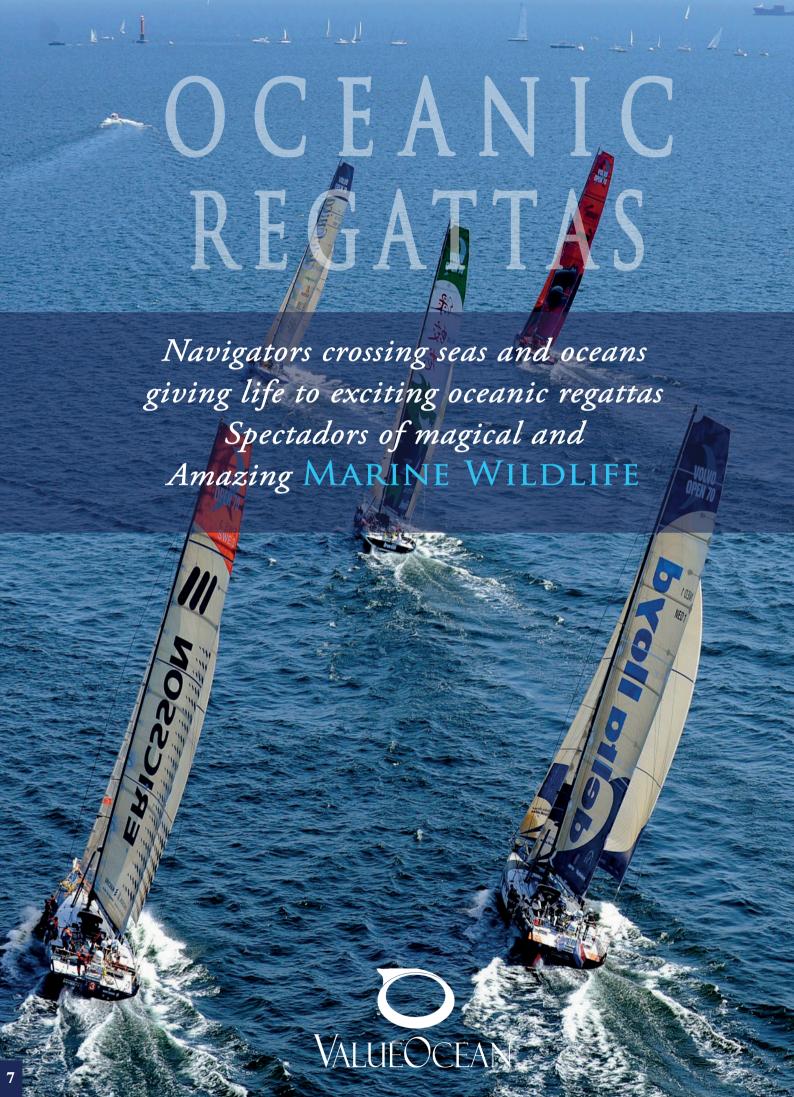






In addition to others categories of fleets and their respective sailors, there are also the daring and adventurous sports sailors, crossing seas and oceans, in large and small sports sailboats, giving life to exciting oceanic regattas, led by a team of crew members or by solo sailors equipped with resistant and modern boats with cutting-edge technology, with the best design in comfort and stability, adapted to face long oceanic regattas.

Remarkable among them: the BARCELONA WORLD RACE: regatta around the world that is characterized by the participation of boats (IMOCA type of 60 feet in length) that considers on board only two crew that sail around the world without port calls, with a length of three months, crossing the Mediterranean, North Atlantic, South and the South Pacific; the VOLVO OCEAN RACE: a round-the-world regatta on 66-foot sailboats, run by a crew of sailors who sail for months (around 9 months); considered the longest and most extreme, and finally, the VANDEE GLOBE: sailing regatta that goes around the world, in boats sailed by a solo sailor, who crosses seas and oceans, often in extreme conditions, for three months, without port calls or assistance.



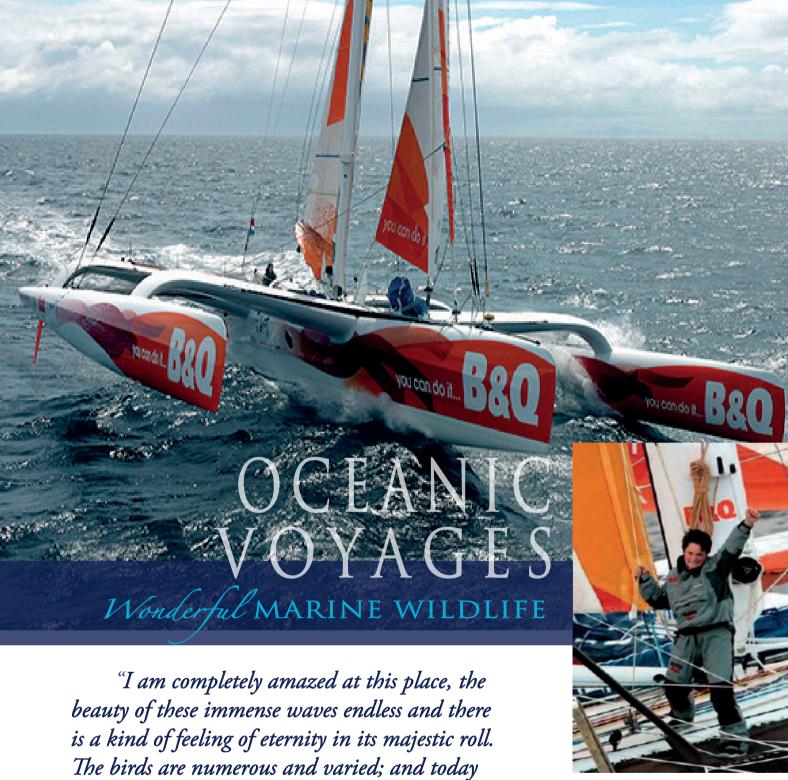
OCEANIC VOYAGES Wonderful MARINE WILDLIFE

ndoubtedly, these intrepid oceanic sailors will always be exposed to the adversities presented by seas and oceans of the world, but they will be also the closest to the marine beauty and wealth, sailing around agile fish species, majestic birds and colossal marine mammals, at which they have marveled, surprised and sometimes, also felt threatened by the surprise encounter with some great cetacean.

Many men and women sail under full sail, always seeking to achieve their goals, overcoming a variety of difficulties, along with the great opportunity to be lucky observers of the great marine fauna. Within this select group, the British sailor Ellen MacArthur stands out, who broke the world record in time, in the VANDEE GLOBE 2004 regatta. She went around the world alone and nonstop, in 71 days and 14 hours, aboard its TRIMARAN, braving stormy winds and seas for two months, with no other company than the sound of the sea, the squawking and overflight of large birds, as well as the jumping and thumping in the high seas, of large mammals and swift oceanic fish.

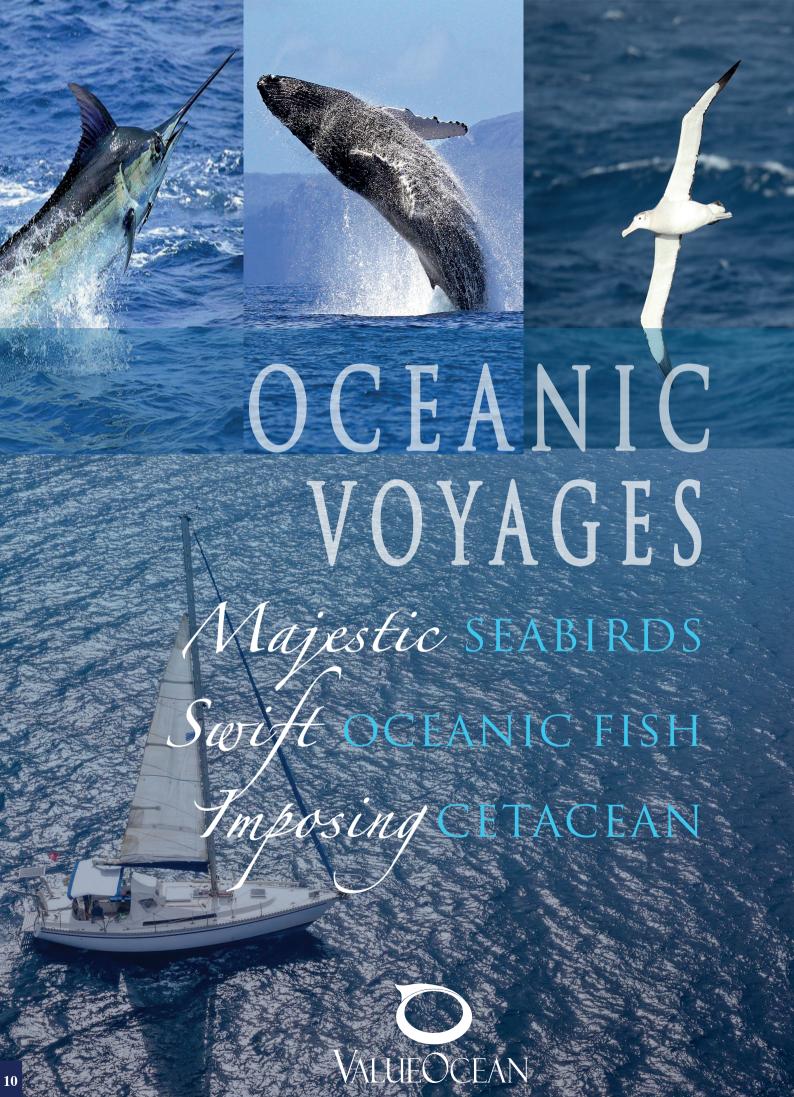
Long and incredible ocean voyages fill with adventures and amaze the lucky sailors who excitedly cross the seas and oceans of the world.

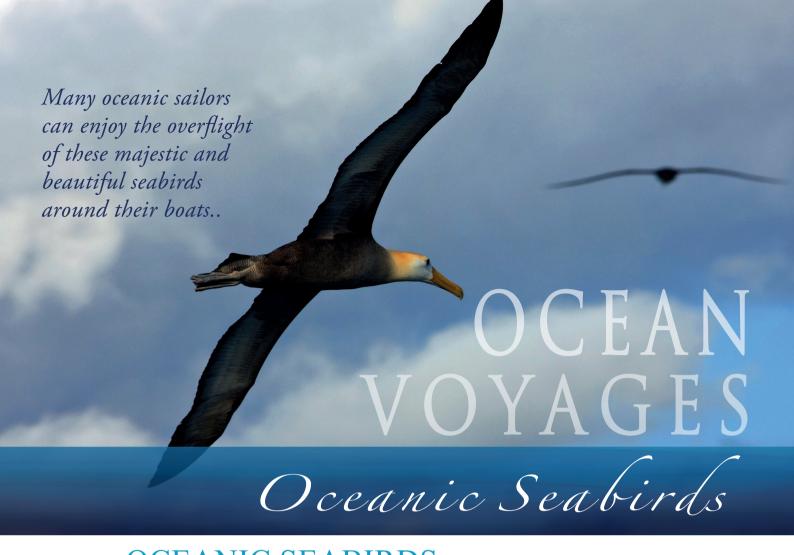




they appear more cheerful and friendly, getting closer and playing with the wind in the forestay" I feel alive!!

Ellen MacArthur Regatta Vandee Globe Yachting Word Magazine, 2005

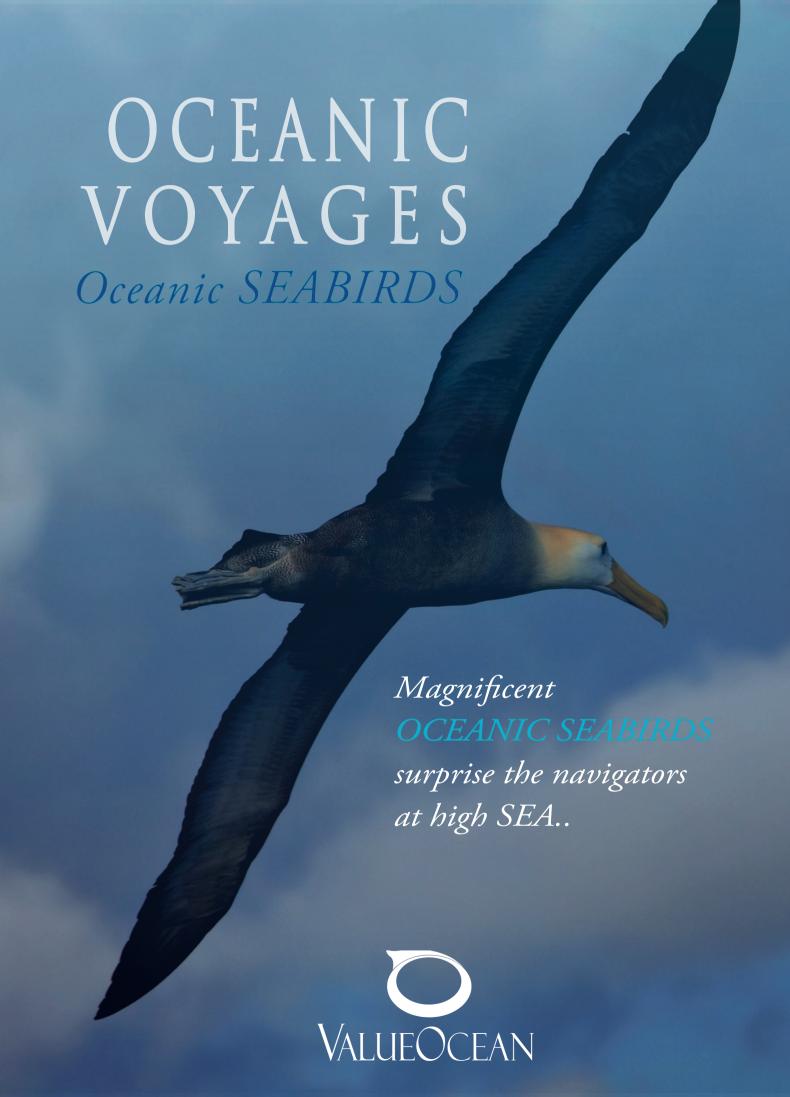




OCEANIC SEABIRDS are present in all the seas of the world, some of them fly all their life on the high seas and return to land only to nest. These species are classified as pelagic oceanic birds, because they find their food only in the water column, far from the coast. They make long trips to feed and usually do not return in the winter period. Most of them are large body size and wingspan and tend to be long lived. They have glands in the skin that allow them to keep their plumage waterproof. They are deep sea gliding birds that spend their lives embracing the wind and only stop to collect their food.

In addition, they have a high philopatry, that is to say, fidelity to the places where they were born and nested. All this makes them more vulnerable to the environmental deterioration that occurs in breeding sites, as well as in the feeding areas, where most of the fishing activities are carried out.

This is how many oceanic sailors can enjoy the overflight of these majestic and beautiful birds around their boats. Some species that will be able to be observed are: Wandering albatross, Magnificent frigate birds, Gray shearwater and the Silver petrel, among others.

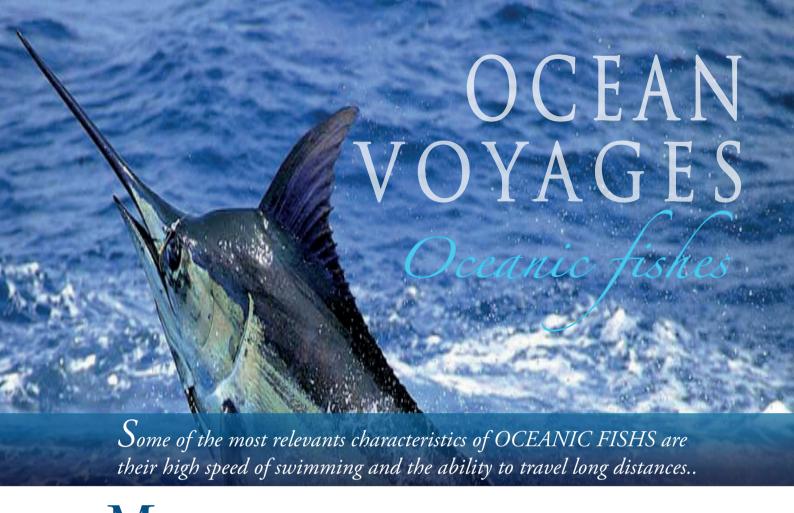




Oceanic SEABIRDS

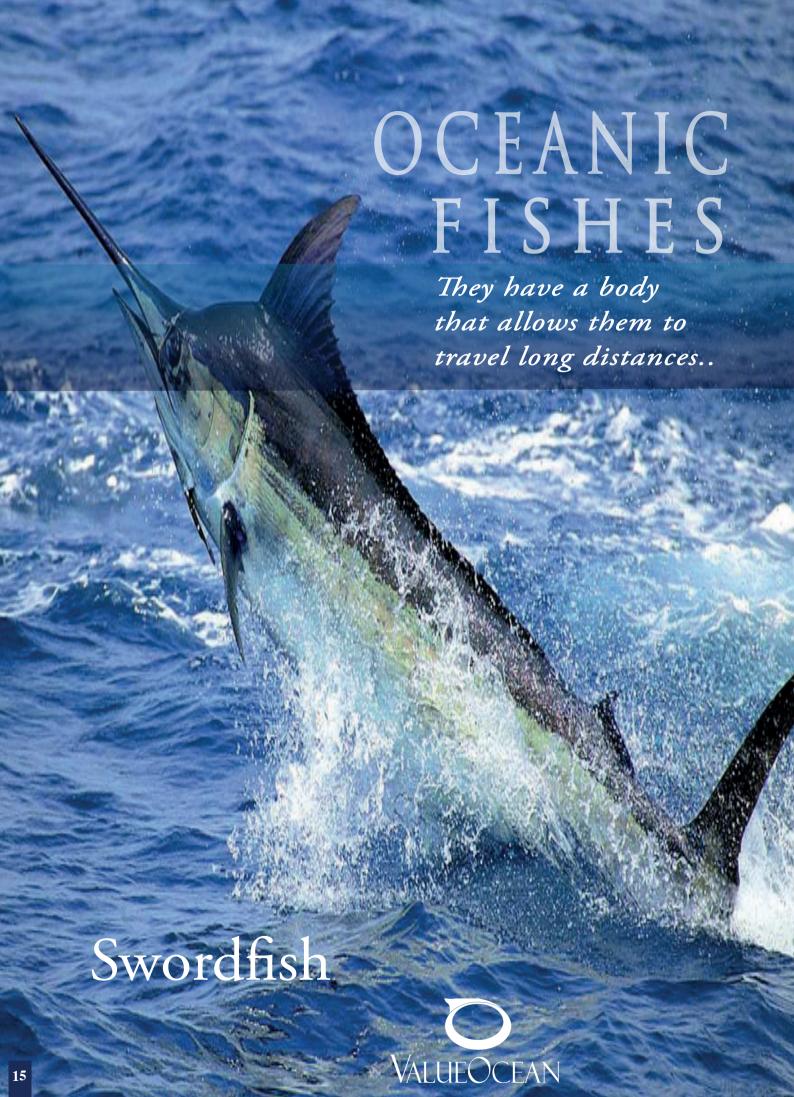
SEABIRDS never see the length and breadth of SEA when crossing continents..

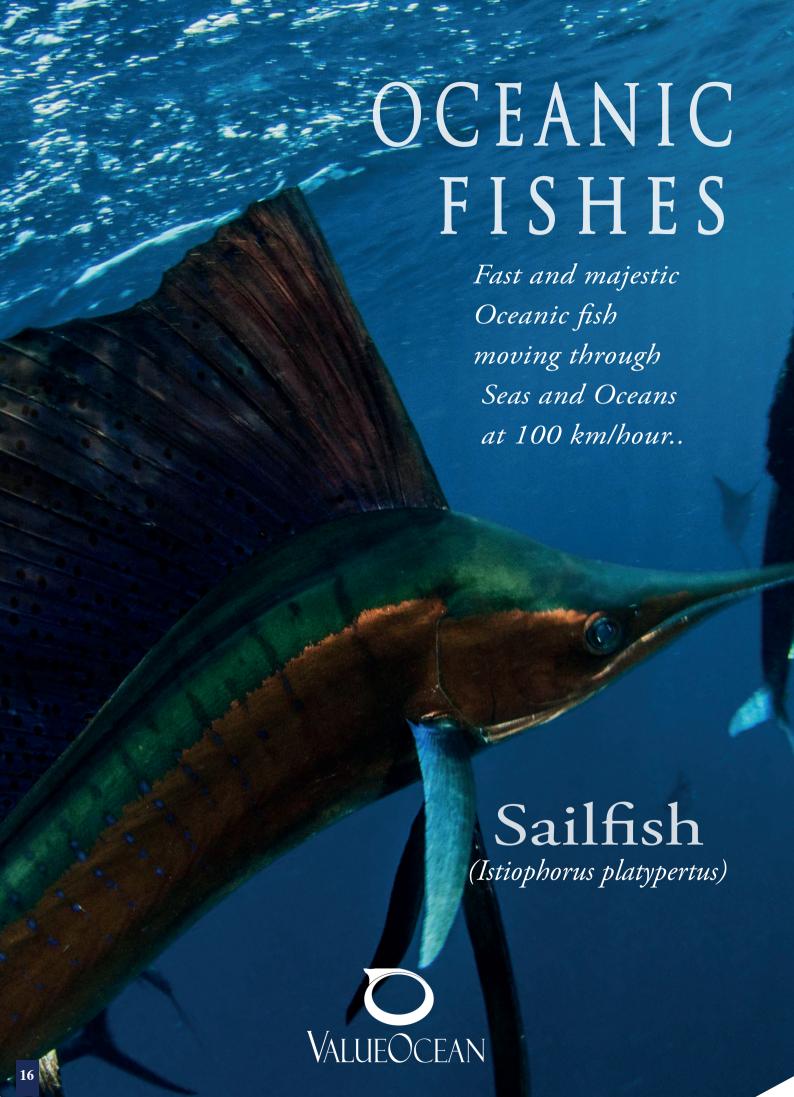




any of the ocean sailors have been spectators of large pelagic fish, some of which are of high commercial value, such as the long-finned tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), whose value reaches US \$ 13,400 per ton and the yellow fin tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) whose value reaches US \$ 4,900 per ton. The presence in the high seas of the SWORDFISH (*Xiphias gladius*) with an export value of US \$ 7,900 per ton is also a great attraction, as well as the SAILFISH or MARLIN (*Istiophorus* sp.) coveted by sport fishing and commercial. Along with them, the graceful FLYING FISHES also amaze the navigator with their graceful flights along the sea.

Some relevant characteristics of oceanic fish are their high swimming speed and the ability to travel long distances in search of their habitat and food, under more appropriate oceanographic conditions (temperature and salinity). Also, their beautiful iridescent colors and their large bodies call the attention of sailors that make their fishing extremely difficult and challenging.







f the majestic oceanic birds and large pelagic fish dazzle sailors on the high seas, the large MARINE MAMMALS also capture their attention, which from time to time are seen when they come to the surface to breathe for a few minutes, providing them with a spectacular scene around their boats. From a sailboat, it is impressive to see the profile of a whale or killer whale, silhouetted against the horizon in all its majesty. Sometimes it is impressive to see the jump of a whale and its subsequent hit in the water when it sinks, causing large splashes and foam on the surface of the sea. On the other hand, from a large boat, such as a cruise ship, its navigators can observe a complete specimen and even a pods of cetaceans. Many of these species are seen jumping into the high seas, a behavior that according to ethologists would be due to: 1) signaling the position of the food 2) removing barnacles (itch) and other parasites that stick to their skin and 3) indicate to the females the presence of a strong and reproductive male.

The main oceanic mammals belong to the Infraorder Cetacea. The largest are found in oceanic pelagic environments, where sailors can observe species of baleen cetaceans (Mysticeti: whales), such as: Blue whale, Fin whale, Southern right whale and Humpback whale, among others. Also present are the large toothed cetaceans (Odontoceti) such as: Sperm whales, Orcas and Dolphins.



