Squid, Route du Rhum 2026

Nantes, Friday 9 October 2026

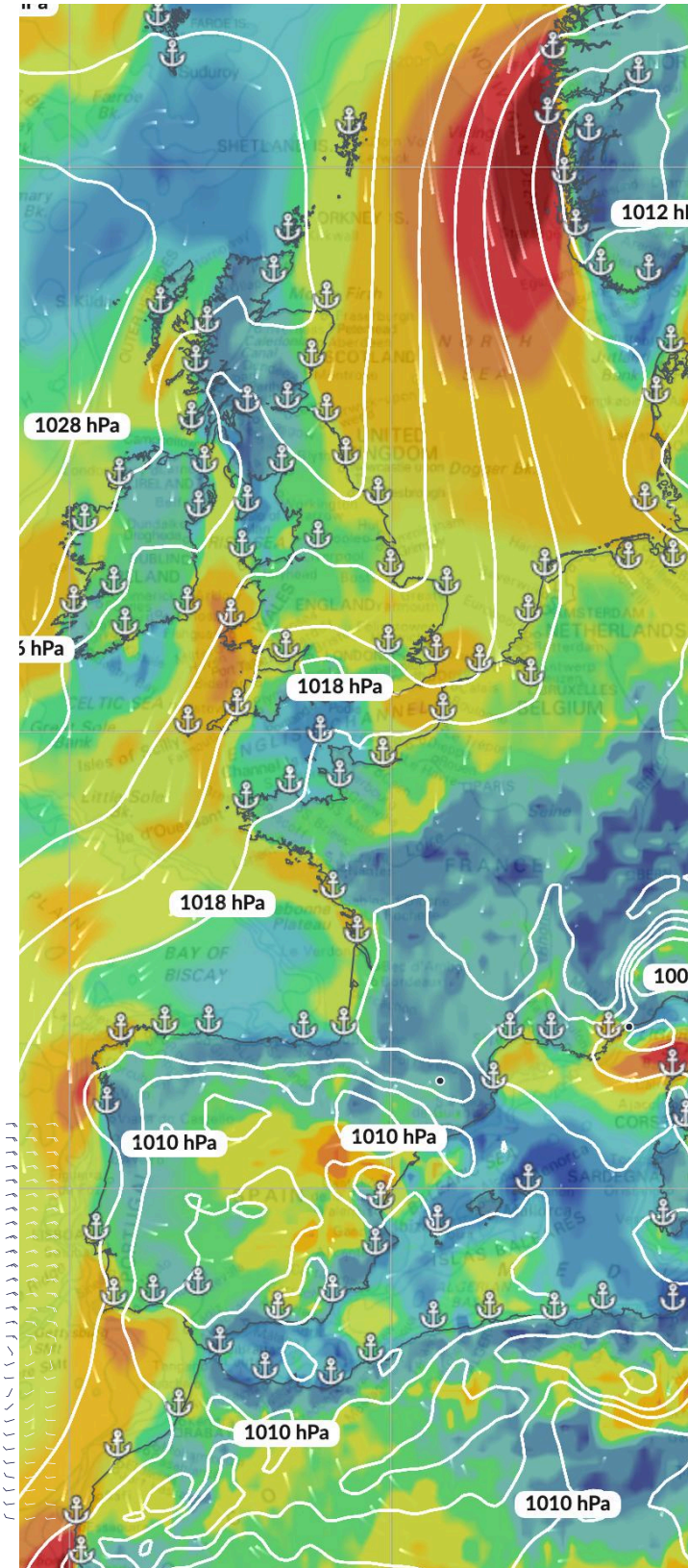
Route du Rhum 2026 : 80% of the fleet sets sail with Squid

On the eve of the start in Saint-Malo, D-ICE Engineering unveils the new version of Squid. Completely rewritten in 2026, the weather and routing app used by offshore racers is now a full navigation app.

Sunday 1 November, 13:02. 118 solo sailors leave Saint-Malo for Pointe-à-Pitre.

Across the six classes racing this year, **80% of the fleet is equipped with Squid** and trained to use it.

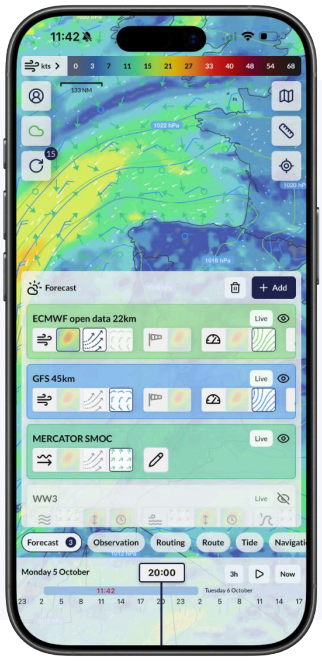
Sailors have long known Squid for its GRIB files and weather analysis. The D-ICE Engineering team wanted to go further: the app now supports sailors from route planning all the way to the helm. Live weather, onboard instruments, charts, model analysis, navigation replay: it all fits in one app.



What the new version changes

Here are a few of the new features to give you an idea. The best way is still to try it.

Reading the weather



With Live Mode, models stream straight from D-ICE's servers. Offshore, with no network, you download them before leaving. GFS, ECMWF, ARPEGE, AROME: all on the same map, as heatmap, wind barbs, streamlines or isolines.

Which leaves the real question: how far can you trust the forecast? That's the job of Aremor, the latest tool added to SquidX, the desktop version. Combine your models and the app highlights on a heatmap the areas where they disagree: on direction, on strength, or both. It all runs locally, with nothing to re-download, and every setting is manual.

Models agree? You plan.
They diverge? You plan an escape route.



Navigating

The new version brings every navigation display on board. Instruments and AIS connect over Wi-Fi: wind, heading, speed and traffic show up on the weather map. Bathymetry, contours, tides: the charting has kept pace.

And the waypoints written down in a notebook? Take a photo. Squid reads the coordinates and plots the route.

No more typing 47°30 as 74°30 at 2 a.m.

Route, then replay

Routing now runs offline, in the middle of the Atlantic or at anchor.

New charts compare routes side by side: you can see why one goes north and the other south. Back ashore, the Navigation Reviewer plays your passage back like a replay, so you can challenge yourself on what worked and what didn't.

Also on board: Iridium GO! compatibility to get weather offshore over low bandwidth, a library of racing and cruising polars, a home-screen widget for your phone and an interface in 11 languages.



Francis Joyon self-routes with Squid

He'll be on the start line on Sunday. Francis Joyon, one of the great names of offshore racing, has been preparing his Rhum with SquidX for six months.

"I've been using SquidX every day for six months. I use it to run my routings, in training as well as between Saint-Malo and Pointe-à-Pitre, preparing for the Route du Rhum aboard Oceans, my ORMA trimaran. The idea is to route myself in this race. I already did it for the first solo round-the-world record in a multihull. It's so satisfying to chart your own course, independently, across the oceans."

Francis Joyon, skipper of Oceans

"Chart your own course, independently." We couldn't have put it better: that's what we build Squid for.

From Saint-Malo to your pontoon

What the Rhum skippers see, any recreational sailor can carry in their pocket, on iPhone, iPad, Android or computer. The free version gives you weather and basic routing. Subscriptions unlock high resolution, advanced routing and racing tools.

The app won't win the Rhum. The skippers will take care of that. It helps them see more clearly.

On the pontoons until the start

The D-ICE team will be in Saint-Malo in the days before the start, available to the teams. A question about the app, help with a setup, or just a coffee before the big start.

If you'd like to follow it up close, you're welcome. Just let us know.

About Squid and D-ICE Engineering

Squid is the marine weather, navigation and routing app developed by D-ICE Engineering, a Nantes-based engineering firm founded in 2015. Used by offshore racing skippers and recreational sailors alike, it was completely rewritten in 2026 and runs on iPhone, iPad, Android and computer. It is rated 4.5/5 on the App Store (698 reviews as of 9 October 2026). Next step: a community feature where data shared by connected boats benefits everyone.

Instagram : @squidnavigation
Site : squid-sailing.com

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