

De la Rosa advances along Navy Board Inlet, the official entrance to the Northwest Passage

52.5 km in 12 hours through the legendary threshold of the Canadian Arctic

Nunavut (Canada) · July 23, 2026

Spanish explorer Antonio de la Rosa completed on Wednesday, July 23, a stage of 52.5 kilometres in nearly twelve hours of navigation along Navy Board Inlet, a 113-kilometre channel that separates Bylot Island from Baffin Island and is officially recognised as the entrance to the Northwest Passage. His progression consolidates his northward advance toward Lancaster Sound, the oceanic arm marking the eastern entrance to the Northwest Passage proper.

The historic corridor of the great explorers

Navy Board Inlet is no ordinary channel. It is part of the **historic corridor** navigated since the early 19th century by the great European Arctic expeditions. Through these very waters passed **William Edward Parry** in 1819, seeking the maritime route between the Atlantic and the Pacific. Here also passed in 1845 the ill-fated expedition of **John Franklin**, with two ships and one hundred and twenty-nine men — none returned alive. And through here passed finally **Roald Amundsen**, who between 1903 and 1906 became the first explorer to cross the entire Northwest Passage by sea.

Two hundred years later, a fifty-seven-year-old Spaniard advances along the same threshold. Alone. On a paddleboard reinforced for Arctic conditions.

A demanding stage against the wind

The first thirty kilometres of the stage passed under favourable conditions. However, the last **twenty kilometres** were covered against **strong headwinds** that forced the explorer into a sustained effort over several hours. Satellite communication with Antonio has remained fluid throughout the day, and his voice dispatch at the close reflects the balance between physical fatigue and steady spirits:

“Happy. I feel good. I feel very strong. I’ve finished tired, of course, but with great spirits. What worries me is the stretch coming up now — I don’t know if I’ll have to wait.”

An exceptional natural sanctuary

The region in which De la Rosa is advancing is also one of the **richest marine ecosystems of the Canadian High Arctic**. The waters of Navy Board Inlet are part of the **Tallurutiup Imanga** National Marine Conservation Area, home to narwhals, belugas, bowhead whales, ringed seals, harp seals, walruses and polar bears. The coast of Bylot Island also hosts one of the largest breeding colonies of snow geese in the world, with over fifty thousand pairs nesting each summer.

Next steps

De la Rosa anticipates a **possible pause** waiting for better weather conditions before continuing his advance northward. The explorer remains in fluid satellite communication and his coordination team trusts that the next weather window will allow him to continue the planned progress of the crossing.

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Date	July 23, 2026 · Day 6 of expedition
Distance covered	52.5 km in ~12 h · 132.5 km accumulated
Current position	73.079°N · 80.526°W
Geographical location	Navy Board Inlet · western coast of Bylot Island
Historical context	Route of Parry (1819), Franklin (1845) and Amundsen (1903-1906)
Wildlife of the area	Narwhals, belugas, seals, bowhead whales, polar bears, snow geese
Conditions	Strong headwinds during the last 20 km
Communication	Garmin inReach Mini · voice dispatches via satellite
Explorer's condition	■ Well · fluid communication · expected fatigue
Next stretch	Possible pause waiting for better weather conditions
Heading	North, toward Lancaster Sound