

De la Rosa covers 29 nm in his calmest stage and approaches Lancaster Sound

Passes the 111 nm accumulated mark and targets Sunday entry to the legendary threshold

Nunavut (Canada) · July 24, 2026

Spanish explorer Antonio de la Rosa completed on Thursday a stage of 29 nautical miles (approximately 53 kilometres) along Navy Board Inlet, in conditions described by the explorer himself as the best of the entire crossing so far. With this progression, De la Rosa passes the 111 nautical miles (205.5 km) accumulated mark since his departure from Pond Inlet on July 18, and targets reaching Lancaster Sound this Sunday, when a favourable weather window will coincide with his arrival at the oceanic threshold marking the official eastern entrance to the Northwest Passage proper.

The calmest stage to date

After several days of demanding conditions —with winds of up to 27 knots (50 km/h), complex swell and two falls into the water during the initial crossing—, Thursday's stage represented a strategic breather. The sea was completely calm during long stretches, and Antonio was able to maintain a sustained pace without significant wind opposition.

“Today has undoubtedly been the calmest day so far. Good conditions, hardly any wind. The sea was at times like a mirror. I was able to enjoy it and cover 53 km, adding to the more than 200 I already have.

The goal is to try to reach Lancaster Strait on Sunday, which is when I have favourable winds.”

Fran Costoya, the meteorology behind the expedition

Antonio de la Rosa navigates alone, but does not make his strategic decisions alone. Behind each stage of progress is a remote team supporting the explorer from land with critical information. One of its pillars is **Fran Costoya**, a close friend of the explorer and responsible for the expedition's meteorological support.

From Spain, Costoya monitors daily weather reports of the Canadian High Arctic and transmits to Antonio the information needed to make navigation decisions: favourable wind windows, expected direction changes, expected swell, tidal behaviour. On an expedition without direct logistical support in the field, remote meteorological information is as important as the physical equipment itself.

According to Costoya's latest report, approximately **43 nautical miles (80 km)** remain for Antonio to exit Navy Board Inlet. From the exit of the channel, he has ahead **around 270 nautical miles (500 km)** to the narrowing of Somerset Island. The good news: **from Sunday afternoon, sustained favourable winds enter for at least four days**, with the same heading Antonio will follow.

The plan toward Lancaster Sound

Lancaster Sound is the great oceanic threshold of the Northwest Passage. A maritime channel more than 173 nautical miles (320 km) long that separates Devon and Baffin Islands, marking the official eastern entrance to the Arctic corridor connecting the Atlantic and the Pacific. It is the same body of water navigated in 1819 by William Edward Parry, in 1845 by the ill-fated expedition of John Franklin, and finally crossed by Roald Amundsen between 1903 and 1906.

Reaching Lancaster Sound would mean for Antonio the end of the initial approach phase through Navy Board Inlet and the formal beginning of the oceanic crossing of the Northwest Passage proper. It is a strategic and symbolic milestone within the expedition.

The record so far

With Thursday's 29 nautical miles, Antonio has now accumulated more than 111 nautical miles (205 km) in 7 days of expedition. The daily breakdown provided by the explorer confirms the non-linear nature of an Arctic crossing: **Day 1** (July 18) 9 nm · **Day 2** (July 19) 2 nm · **Day 3** (July 20) stopped due to weather hold · **Day 4** (July 21) 22 nm · **Day 5** (July 22) 22 nm · **Day 6** (July 23) 28 nm · **Day 7** (July 24) 29 nm.

Total accumulated: 111 nautical miles (205.5 km) in 7 effective days of expedition.

Next steps

De la Rosa will continue advancing through Navy Board Inlet on Friday and Saturday, aiming to position himself for entry into Lancaster Sound on Sunday. The weather window of easterly winds announced by Fran Costoya would remain stable during the following four days, allowing the explorer to make the most of this key phase of the crossing.

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Date	July 24, 2026 · Day 7 of expedition
Distance covered	29 nm (~53 km) · accumulated 111 nm (~205.5 km)
Current position	73.496°N · 80.767°W
Geographical location	Navy Board Inlet · advancing northward
Conditions	Complete calm · sea like a mirror · no significant wind
Remaining in channel	~43 nm (~80 km) to exit Navy Board Inlet
Next milestone	Lancaster Sound · arrival expected on Sunday
Weather window	Favourable easterly winds from Sunday for 4 days
Distance post-channel	~270 nm (~500 km) to the narrowing of Somerset Island
Support team	Meteorology by Fran Costoya from Spain
Communication	Garmin inReach Mini · voice dispatches via satellite
Explorer's condition	■ Optimal · physical recovery · fluid communication

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