



EVERYWHERE

## Sarah Outen - Capsized at Sea

Sarah Outen is one of Britain's top young female adventurers. In May 2012, while attempting to become the first woman to row solo across the treacherous North Pacific Ocean she was hit by Tropical Storm Mawar - her Iridium satellite phone quickly became her lifeline.

### London2London: A human powered loop of the planet

In 2009 I got my first taste of what it was like to row an ocean when I rowed solo across the Indian Ocean from Australia to Mauritius. It was an incredible experience and it's safe to say, I was hooked - on adventure, on nature, on the ocean - and I needed more.

After much planning, I set out in 2011 on a new, more ambitious expedition - 'London2London: Via the World', where I would row, cycle and kayak a continuous loop of the planet.

To start the expedition, I kayaked from London to France, cycled over 11,000 miles through some of the most remote parts of Europe, Russia and China, and finished by kayaking from far Eastern Russia to Japan. Throughout the journey I used my Iridium satellite phone to blog, tweet and send phonecasts to those following my progress - my solo expedition quickly became a shared one. And one of my favorite parts was being able to call into schools around the world to tell them about my journey and to answer their questions.

### Surviving Tropical Storm Mawar

On 13<sup>th</sup> May 2012, following months of preparation in Japan, I set off in my rowing boat, Gulliver, on the next stage of the expedition: to row solo across the North Pacific Ocean from Japan to Canada. Everything was going to plan, but after just a few weeks on the ocean, news from my weatherman came that Tropical Storm Mawar was heading my way.

On 5<sup>th</sup> June Mawar hit with winds of 65 knots and more, and waves measuring 15 meters. I was strapped into my small back cabin with my emergency rations and equipment, which included my Iridium satellite phone.

The storm raged outside. I could hear parts of Gulliver being torn off by the force of the wind and the waves crashing over us. We capsized, again and again, and were upended many more. Water started to leak into the cabin through one of the hatches, damaging vital communications and water-making equipment but I was powerless to do anything about it. Using my satellite phone, I was able to update my team every hour via text message and my friends and family were able to send messages of support as well. My Iridium phone made a very frightening situation a little less lonely.



## The Rescue

By the early hours of 7<sup>th</sup> June, the boat was so damaged that I was left with no choice but to call for assistance and an emergency pickup. Speaking to my team in the U.K. and the Falmouth Coastguard, I set off my Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) to allow the Japan Coast Guard to locate my position.

As I was about 500 nautical miles off the coastline, the rescue boat would take over thirty hours to reach me. Thanks to my Iridium satellite phone I was able to stay in hourly contact with my team. These short but vital interactions became my lifeline until I was picked up. In those situations it is absolutely vital that you are connected and know what's going on, so you can prepare yourself for what lies ahead, and to know that you have not been forgotten. The power of connecting with all of those extra people, through the Iridium phone, was a huge source of strength.

I am now back in the UK and after a few months of recovery, I am determined to get back out there and take on the North Pacific Ocean again in 2013 to continue my London2London expedition. My Iridium satellite phone will be top of the kit list to share the good times and to help in the bad!

To read more about Sarah's lifesaving story and her adventures at sea, see <http://www.sarahouten.com/>.

### Only one communications company connects the entire globe

Iridium commands the world's furthest reaching network, making it the only truly global communications company with solutions that span from pole-to-pole. Iridium voice and data products provide superior communications solutions that allow global companies, government agencies and individuals to stay connected everywhere. With a unique, global ecosystem of partners, Iridium continues to create new, high-value capabilities that are leading the world into a new era of communication.

[www.iridium.com](http://www.iridium.com)

© Copyright 2011 Iridium Communications Inc. All rights reserved. Iridium and the logo are registered marks of Iridium Communications Inc. All other registered marks, trademarks, service marks and logos are the property of their respective holders. Information is subject to change without notice.

Capsized at Sea

2 of 2