



Conservation in action of our maritime cultural and natural treasures

A L N I T A K

Welcome on board the Toftevaag



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Toftevaag was built on the island of Halsnøy in Norway in 1910 by Lars Olai Sjo.

She worked fishing for herring in the North Atlantic until WWII when she was used to carry pilots to an airfield around the North Cape.

After the war she worked as a trader carrying people and goods up and down the fjords.



Toftevaag, or “meeting place” in Viking, was built from Norwegian pine. Today, approximately 70% of her hull is still made of these old planks nailed together with wooden pins.



TOFTEVAAG, working under sail.

For 79 years Toftevaag proved to be an excellent working boat in one the beautiful but also most challenging environments on Earth, the Atlantic Ocean.

She worked under sail only until 1958, when she got her first engine installed, a 60 Hp Grenaa semi diesel.



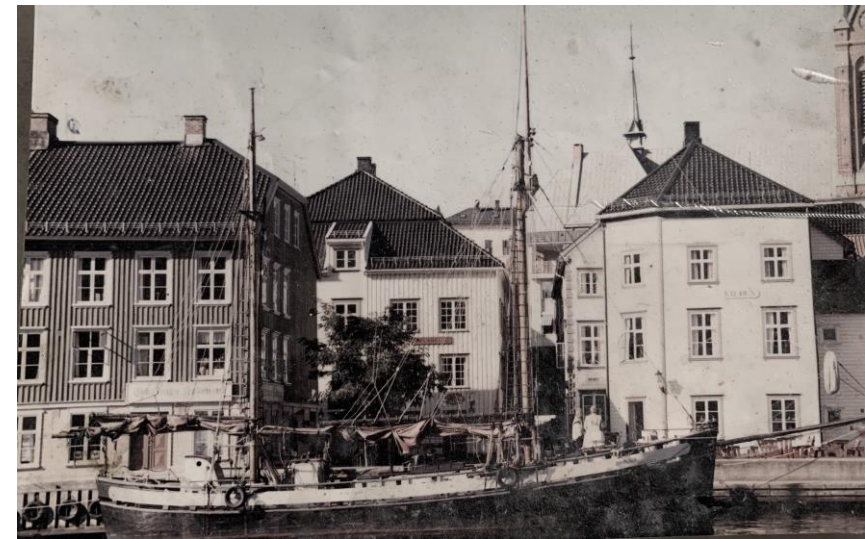




ALNITAK

In 1988, in the port of Mahon (Menorca), two Greenpeace activists were dreaming of restoring an old working boat and converting her for a new mission to develop research and education programs for the conservation of our maritime cultural and natural treasures.

They found Toftevaag on March of 1989 at the shipyard of Risør (Norway) and founded ALNITAK.





A flagship of
biodiversity
conservation in the
Mediterranean Sea
for over three
decades

Providing science for the development of 18 marine protected areas, changing the shipping lanes passing the Strait of Gibraltar, developing technological measures to mitigate the risks of bycatch, marine litter, noise pollution, producing documentaries as Blue Planet, Guardians of the Planet, running an internationally awarded citizen science program with over 3.800 volunteers from 98 countries.

Keeping Toftevaag working for over three decades, is a message to society of “another way of living” where we take care of things and refuse the culture of “one use and throw away”. But its also ALNITAK’s contribution to the conservation of our maritime heritage.



In 2022 ALNITAK is again focusing on our maritime treasures.

IN THE WAKE OF ANTS LEPSON

We are investigating the adventure of one of Toftevaag's skippers, Ants Lepson, who was 14 years old when his family sailed on a sistership of Toftevaag to flee from Stalin. It took these 69 Estonians 69 days to get to freedom in America. In the Bay of Biscay, they were sinking when a fishing boat of Marin (Galicia – Spain) rescued them.

We are embarking on an adventure to reconstruct this journey of maritime solidarity.





"M/K. BLIA" SYNKER I ØRKAN DEN 11. NOVEMBER 1941 MED 43 FLYKTNINGER.

LEPSON
1995.



Thanks