

Solo sailor sails away

CERF ISLAND — At midnight last night and far out at sea solo sailor Anthony Steward waved goodbye and the merchant ship Sandra S gave three long blasts on her foghorn to bid the around-the-world sailor farewell.

For a few minutes the tiny NCS Challenger, lit by powerful spotlights, bobbed in powerful waves alongside the Sandra S before making its way through the inky darkness of the Indian Ocean.

Steward headed into a moderate north-easterly wind for Cerf Island where he was wrecked on July 17 this year during a five-day storm. At the time Steward was attempting to become the first solo sailor to circumnavigate the globe in an open boat.

Sandra S dropped Steward about 70km west of the island, some 4 300km from Cape Town — his final destination in the around-



ROA
ANTHONY STEWARD

the world trip.

Before his NCS Challenger was lowered by crane to the water, a tense Steward said he was extremely nervous of the area.

However, he was in high spirits as he sailed off for the French island off Mayotte. — Sapa

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