



## EXPEDITION PROFILE

### August 14 & 15, 2016 on DISCOVERY Yacht Valkyrie

The International SeaKeepers Society partnered with University of California Los Angeles researchers from the Barber Lab to study environmental DNA (eDNA) in the marine environment. Scientists spent two days aboard DISCOVERY Yacht *Valkyrie* completing multiple dives off of the Channel Islands in southern California.

Water samples were collected in marine protected areas and fishing zones along the coasts of Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands. Samples were filtered onboard the vessel and then taken back to the lab for DNA analyses. The water samples contain identifiable DNA from marine organisms that have been in the vicinity of collection. By identifying species through eDNA sampling, rather than through visual surveys, scientists are able to save time and have an accurate idea of the abundance and biodiversity of species around the islands.

This is the first time that SeaKeepers has partnered with UCLA researchers. The research was supported in part by a grant from the National Geographic Society Committee for Research and Exploration. *D/Y Valkyrie* has previously been involved with SeaKeepers having released a drifter in the Channel Islands in December 2013.

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