



EXPEDITION PROFILE

July 20th, 2018 aboard DISCOVERY Yacht Shredder

The International SeaKeepers Society partnered with Miami Waterkeeper aboard the DISCOVERY Yacht, Shredder to perform recon scuba dives. The goal of these dives was to find healthy ESA-listed coral colonies within 1000 meters of the Port Everglades channel. The coordinates of these colonies will in turn be used for their Bioblitz event in early September. Participating in these dives were Dana Tricarico, Justin Tuttle, and Kelly Cox. Some coordinates of potential sites were given ahead of time however, once out on the water, locations varied based on the navigational charts onboard Shredder which showed areas that might have high relief or reef ledges that were worth checking out. A safety sausage was used on all dives so that the vessel could track the divers on drift dives. An identification key was brought underwater in case there was any question about which species were ESA-listed. Underwater navigation using a compass was also utilized if an area did not seem like a suitable location.

The purpose of this was to obtain coordinate locations on both the North and South side of the Port Everglades channel before the Port Everglades dredging project begins. These coordinates will be used in the September 8th Bioblitz event, where citizen scientists will help Miami Waterkeeper collect data about these ESA-listed species that are close to the port. Mainly, these coordinates are needed to make sure that the September 8th event goes smoothly, with the best locations for the data they are looking for. The data collected on the Bioblitz event will help contribute to NEPA comments, and provide baseline data so that the dredging project can be altered accordingly and not harm these important coral species from sediment associated with the dredging.

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