THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY

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Research. Educate. Protect and Restore.

ABOUT US

What do we do?

The International SeaKeepers Society promotes oceanographic research, conservation, and education through direct involvement with the yachting and boating community. SeaKeepers enables private and charter vessels to take full advantage of their unique potential to advance marine sciences and to raise awareness about global ocean issues. We work with research institutions, environmental organizations, universities, governmental organizations, and others to further marine research, education, and support conservation efforts.

History

The International SeaKeepers Society was founded in 1998 by a small group of yacht owners who were alarmed by the deterioration of our natural environment. The organization's initial focus was on the development and use of instrumentation on yachts to monitor marine conditions throughout the world's oceans. Today, our program has expanded to utilize yachts as platforms for marine research, education, and the deployment of oceanographic instruments.

PROGRAMMING

DISCOVERY Yachts

The SeaKeepers DISCOVERY Yachts Program is our foremost initiative in accomplishing our mission and goals. This program supports marine science and conservation by utilizing privately owned vessels as platforms for marine research, educational outreach, and to deploy oceanographic instruments. It eliminates vessel costs and permits scientists and other participants to allocate funds for additional project requirements maximizing the potential of the expedition.



DISCOVERY Yacht Mystique

The program is comprised of scientific expeditions, instrument deployments, and educational outreach events. SeaKeepers collaborates with numerous organizations, academic institutions, and government agencies in order to accomplish its DISCOVERY Yacht missions.

SeaKeepers staff works closely with yacht owners and crew to coordinate research and outreach activities that reflect the yacht owner's ocean-related interests. The degree of participation can vary including: an afternoon outreach trip with children; a ten-minute instrument deployment while en route to your next port: or week-long expeditions with a team of expert researchers. Each expedition offers a unique experience for participants and crew to learn more about the ocean.

Scientist-led Expeditions

Scientific expeditions provide vacht guests, and crew the owners. opportunity to participate in ongoing research while engaging with experts in the field of marine science. The largest expense, and often limiting factor, in ocean research is access to an research platform. Using at-sea member yachts, SeaKeepers works with experts in the marine science and oceanography fields to promote and facilitate groundbreaking research. Each scientific expedition is unique, and is organized with both the science and yacht in mind.



Shark research with Beneath the Waves aboard D/Y Marcato

PROGRAMMING

Citizen Science & The S.A.R.A.H. Inititative

SeaKeepers and other non-scientists participate in volunteer based projects such as water sampling, when utilizing their vessels. Data can be collected on a scheduled basis over a period of time, or for a specific project.

Most recently Seakeepers has partnered with Florida International University to launch the S.A.R.A.H. Initiative to address ocean plastics. S.A.R.A.H. represents: Sample; Aggregate; Research; Analyze; Help. SeaKeepers will engage with the yachting community to expand the global reach and capacity of The S.A.R.A.H. Initiative through data collection from our DISCOVERY Yachts fleet. Nets provided to participating vessels will collect ocean plastics for analysis.

Instrument Deployments

SeaKeepers works with a number of institutions, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and Spoondrift, to make ongoing oceanographic measurements. The collection of consistent and accurate data is extremely important for oil spill and marine debris accumulation analyses; weather and hurricane prediction models; quality control tests on satellites; and an overall better understanding of the marine environment. These instruments have been designed to be scientifically productive and efficient while minimally invasive to the environment.



Dr. Mark Bond and Tony Gilbert preparing to tow a water sampling net behind D/Y Shredder for the S.A.R.A.H. Initiative

Education & Outreach

SeaKeepers unites educators, scientists and students in a "floating classroom" experience aboard vessels or in classrooms for participants to observe relevant marine research and interact with scientists. Our outreach expeditions have focused around marine wildlife, drifter deployments, plastic pollution, sustainability practices, and more.



Water sampling field trip with Miami Seaquarium's Educational Homeschool program aboard D/Y Julia

SeaKeeprs E3 Cuba Experience: Ecology, Environment, & Education

SeaKeepers provides a vessel centric program that engages participants to learn more about conservation efforts and issues in Cuba while interacting with the Cuban people. We recognize the need to protect the Cuban marine and coastal ecosystem and to preserve Marine Protected Areas. Over 20% of Cuba is already protected, including a significant portion of its waters.



Coral reef in Punta Frances, Cuba

Cayo Campos, Cuba

Nursing shark found in Punta Frances, Cuba

PROGRAMMING

Chapters

SeaKeepers Asia based in Singapore was launched in April 2016 and covers the territories of Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Philippines, Brunei, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Thailand. An established presence in diverse locations allows the organization to more effectively share our mission and garner attention at a local level from prospective vessels worldwide. For more information about the Singapore chapter contact gail.tay@seakeepers.org.

DISCOVERY Art

DISCOVERY Art is the creative component of the DISCOVERY Yachts Program. The works created allow the public to personally experience and value the oceans, regardless of their proximity to the coast. SeaKeepers selects a Featured Artist of the Year whose work is influenced by marine life, science, or ocean conservation. They are responsible for creating the DISCOVERY Yacht awards presented to program participants at the annual Founders event, and the SeaKeepers of the Year Award.



DISCOVERY Art by Herman Moscoso

DISCOVERY Art by Courtney Mattison

Community Engagement

SeaKeepers shares its mission for ocean research and conservation throughout the year. The organization is actively involved with the local community and takes part in scientific seminars, educational events, beach cleanups, and yachting industry functions. We've participated in community outreach events supporting the Broward County Waterway Cleanup, Rock the Ocean, Triton Expo, and Museum Volunteers for the Environment (MUVE).



Volunteers at Broward Country Waterway Cleanup

SUPPORT

Events

SeaKeepers are invited and recognized at a variety of exclusive events hosted by the organization or by one of our many partners throughout the year, and in various locations around the world. Past event locales have included Barcelona, Cannes, California, Monaco, and Singapore. We network and socialize at the highest levels of international business, government, and science. Sponsoring a SeaKeepers event offers unique opportunities to cross market your brand and reach a highly desirable demographic.

Getting Involved

Become a SeaKeeper Member today! Our program offers many levels of varying types of support. Member support goes towards the heart of our mission, the DISCOVERY Yachts Program. Your participation can provide variety of experiences, from engaging in a DISCOVERY Yacht Expedition to attending VIP events held around the world. SeaKeepers also welcomes the interest of volunteers to assist in programming and events.

For volunteer opportunities and membership email info@seakeepers.org.



Michael Saylor (right) 2018 SeaKeeper of the Year, & Fabien Cousteau (left) at Founders' 2018 - 20th Anniversary