



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT

The International SeaKeepers Society returns from its DISCOVERY Yachts outreach program educating the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County about pollution and sustainability offshore Newport, Rhode Island.

Miami, Florida- August 14th, 2014- The International SeaKeepers Society returns from their outreach program aboard DISCOVERY Yacht *Defiance* educating a group of 13 children from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County at Newport Shipyard in Newport, Rhode Island.

The group of children and three camp counselors from Camp Grosvenor, where the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport spend their summer, participated in a two hour educational lesson on plastics in the ocean and ways to be more environmentally friendly.

Lauren Day, the camp director, described the success of the program and its complement to their current summer camp, “It brought the big picture to Camp Grosvenor,” said Day, “everyone was super engaged, even the counselors.”

The program began at the Newport Shipyard with a presentation by Clean Ocean Access about ways the children can become involved in local efforts to keep the ocean and beaches clean and accessible to all. The children then decorated the sails of a coastal drifter constructed and provided by Jim Manning and his student-built drifter program. The drifter will be launched off the coast of New England later this month, and used to study local surface currents and supply data to NOAA’s Integrated Ocean Observing System.

The program continued onboard *Defiance* as the scientists, children, and camp counselors traveled through Newport Harbor for a lesson on plastic pollution. The scientists explained the hazards of plastic pollution in the form of plastic microbeads, which are found in many face washes and toothpastes. The children examined plastic microbeads and plastic pollution in water samples collected from the ocean and New England harbors.

This is the second DISCOVERY Yachts outreach program onboard *Defiance*. In January *Defiance* traveled to Bimini, Bahamas to conduct an outreach program and drifter release with a group of local school children. *Defiance* plans to participate in more outreach programs in the near future.

The Newport outreach program included six educators dedicated to ocean conservation efforts including, SeaKeepers Director of Programs and Policies, Angela Rosenberg; DISCOVERY Yachts member and Co-Owner and Founder of Global Oceans, Claudia Potamkin; Co-Owner and Founder of Global Oceans, Captain Sandra Yawn; Founder of Ports of Cause, Joyce Clear; Professor of Earth Science at Massasoit Community College, Melany McFadden; and Dave McLaughlin, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Clean Ocean Access.

About The International SeaKeepers Society® The International SeaKeepers Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization focusing on the health of the world’s oceans and climate. SeaKeepers works with the boating and yachting community to take advantage of their unique potential in order to further marine research and to raise awareness about the issues our oceans face. The International SeaKeepers Society acts as a global catalyst working with governments, scientists, industry, and other marine organizations to further its mission and to support sensible, achievable marine protection and restoration. **For more information visit www.seakeepers.org**

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