



EXPEDITION PROFILE

May 1st-6th aboard DISCOVERY Yacht Marcato

The International SeaKeepers Society returns from a successful shark tagging expedition with Beneath the Waves and Dr. Brennan Phillips of the University of Rhode Island off Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas.

Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas- May 1st to May 6th - The International SeaKeepers Society returns from a successful shark tagging expedition with Beneath The Waves and Dr. Brennan Phillips of the University of Rhode Island. The shark tagging took place off the north coast of New Providence, Bahamas onboard the DISCOVERY Yacht Marcato. Marcato is a 140-foot Hike Metal Works Motor Yacht, offering the capabilities of an expedition vessel, along with all the amenities and comforts of a luxury super yacht.

Dr. Austin Gallagher and his Beneath The Waves research team were joined by experts from various related fields, SeaKeepers staff, and the crew of the Marcato. A record 30 sharks, including eleven tiger sharks, most of which were over eight feet long, were tagged. In addition to traditional “spaghetti” tags, researchers also implanted several acoustic tags, recorded morphological measurements, and took blood samples and fin clippings from the sharks, which will help scientists better understand the behavior and health of sharks in The Bahamas. The team also installed an array of underwater acoustic receivers around New Providence Island to monitor our tagged sharks over the course of the next several years.

This is part of a greater initiative to prove that shark sanctuaries like the Bahamas are truly saving the several shark species that inhabit the area from endangerment and perhaps even extinction. The sheer amount of sharks tagged in a five-day period already shows the shark population is thriving. This data can potentially serve to implement similar protective policies in other areas and nations.

Part of the expedition was also devoted to the deployment of baited underwater cameras to depths up to 1,000 meters, which have revealed exciting new discoveries into the secret lives of deep water sharks.

The International SeaKeepers Society and Beneath the Waves expect to return to the Bahamas in a few months’ time, as well as continuing an ongoing relationship in years to come. By obtaining data regularly, researchers will continue to increase our knowledge about these important apex predators.

SeaKeepers’ DISCOVERY Yachts Program joins world-renowned scientists with world-class yacht owners to further scientific research. Yacht owners dedicate their yacht and its abilities to a scientist-led research expedition, in which owners and crew often participate.

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.***

About Beneath The Waves

*Beneath the Waves is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is working to conserve, protect, and restore the health of our oceans through research and education. Founded in 2009, they conduct cutting-edge scientific research on threatened marine species that has already resulted in real-world conservation victories. In addition, they produce immersive and engaging media pieces that connect the public to the ocean. **For more information visit www.beneaththewaves.org.***

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