



EXPEDITION PROFILE

February 25 – March 1, 2020

The International SeaKeepers Society joined Beneath the Waves to conduct shark research. This was a part of the ongoing Beneath The Waves shark sanctuary study which consists of tagging sharks and collecting as much data as possible to assess how shark populations are thriving in the protected Bahamian waters.

Dr. Austin Gallagher and his Beneath The Waves research team were joined by SeaKeepers' Program Director, Tony Gilbert, to conduct a series of shark tagging sessions in different sites throughout the Exumas. Other researchers and personnel included Brendan Shea, Léa Breistroff, and Cali Capela. Guests staying at the Grand Isle Resort joined the boat for a day of learning about shark research and conservation, while also getting a hands-on experience and participated in the actual process.

Research methods included tagging with a new subcutaneous identification tag, traditional spaghetti tags, acoustic tags, and a CATS tag which records POV footage as well as gyroscopic movement, and depth. Additionally, Baited remote underwater footage, or "BRUV's", were deployed throughout different sites just offshore of Great Exuma as well as a deep water hydrophone receiver which will monitor the movements of sharks already implanted with acoustic tags.

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. This data can potentially serve to implement similar protective policies in other areas and nations.

Thank you to Global Marine Travel for their help with getting us there and back.

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