



# NEUSTON NET RESEARCH COLLECTIVE

A GLOBAL CITIZEN SCIENCE INITIATIVE TO CONDUCT PLANKTON SURVEY-STYLE TRANSECTS

**The Neuston Net Research Collective** unites the academic world and the international yachting community in an effort to conserve and understand our oceans through scientific research. This unique collective spans a wide range of research topics with one common theme: they all utilize Neuston Nets. Neuston Nets are fine mesh nets often towed behind boats to collect samples of neustonic organisms, algae, plastics, plankton, seawater, and more. Our unique utilization of these nets allows us to pair proposed or ongoing projects with vessels around the world to collect samples from a wide geographic range.

This citizen science movement engages the yachting community by providing comprehensive onboard kits which allow yacht crews and owners to conduct plankton survey-style transects related to one of our partnered research projects.

Find out if you can participate in our Neuston Net Research Collective by visiting [SEAKEEPERS.ORG](http://SEAKEEPERS.ORG) or contacting our team at [Programming@SeaKeepers.org](mailto:Programming@SeaKeepers.org)



## GET INVOLVED

Scan this QR Code to visit our website and learn more about the **Neuston Net Research Collective**.

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## MEET OUR RESEARCH COLLABORATORS

### DR. MIKE PARSONS

*Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University/ Director of FGCU's Vester Field Station*

From samples collected by SeaKeepers' DISCOVERY Fleet, Dr. Parsons and his team at the Vester Field Station will examine the role of floating Sargassum in distributing transporting *Gambierdiscus* dinoflagellates around the Greater Caribbean region. This is important to study because several *Gambierdiscus* species produce toxins (called ciguatoxins) that can move through a coral reef food web and toxify reef fish.



### DR. REBECCA HELM

*Assistant Professor at Georgetown University*

From photos of samples collected by SeaKeepers' DISCOVERY Yachts, Dr. Helm will determine the geographic range and presence of certain neustonic organisms, including the Blue Button Jellyfish (*Porpita porpita*) and By-the-Wind Sailors (*Velella velella*). The neustonic organisms of interest are found in the Great Pacific Garbage patch and other floating patches of garbage around the world.

### DR. STEVE MORTON

*Research Oceanographer at NOAA's Hollings Marine Laboratory*

Dr. Steve Morton leads the Phytoplankton Monitoring Network (PMN), aiming to raise interest in microscopic coastal organisms and collect distribution data. Understanding algae species in different regions helps track ocean water quality changes and predict harmful algal blooms. The PMN has nationwide participants, and SeaKeepers DISCOVERY Yachts can significantly contribute.



### NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHY CENTRE (NOC)

The National Oceanography Centre (NOC) leads the United Kingdom (UK) in ocean research, innovation, and education, committed to protecting our oceans and planet. NOC scientists study the ocean's links to climate change and biodiversity loss globally, aiming for a clean, safe, and sustainable ocean. NOC also represents UK ocean science to the United Nations (UN), governments, industry, and developing nations.