



EXPEDITION PROFILE

December 7th, 2018 aboard DISCOVERY Yacht Julia

On December 7th, 2018, SeaKeepers and the Miami Seaquarium partnered up to take a group of homeschoolers on a field trip aboard D/Y Julia. SeaKeepers took water samples from Biscayne Bay as part of the Biscayne Bay Water Watch program (BBWW). The BBWW is a citizen-science based volunteer water quality monitoring program developed and managed by the UF/IFAS (University of Florida | Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences) Sea Grant Extension Program in Miami-Dade County. Participants provide data concerning water temperature, pH, salinity, and dissolved oxygen while further analyses document levels of total nitrogen, total phosphorus, ammonia, silica, and chlorophyll a. The monthly data collection helps to track harmful algal blooms, changes in water quality, and provides a metric for assessing the health of Biscayne Bay.

Local volunteers collect water samples at one or more assigned locations in Biscayne Bay on a monthly schedule using personal vessels. Participants are trained one-on-one by the local Water Resources Regional Specialized Agent to collect and analyze the samples using a standardized protocol and equipment provided through the initiative. SeaKeepers has continually supported this initiative with a number of local vessels donating time aboard to collect the water samples in Biscayne Bay.

What made this last outing of the year especially impactful was the inclusion of the homeschool children, ranging in age from 10 to 17. They were able to learn all about the different factors and metrics that help us in analyzing and determining the quality of the water in our backyard of Biscayne Bay. The children were fully engaged and really took an interest in the work as they were allowed to participate in gathering and recording data. It was a total success and hopefully the first of many educational collaborations with the Miami Seaquarium.

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