



EXPEDITION PROFILE

September 18, 2016 Citizen Science Expedition on DISCOVERY Yacht Final Final

The International SeaKeepers Society volunteered to collect water samples for the Adventurers and Scientists for Conservation (ASC) Global Microplastics Project. SeaKeepers spent the day aboard the DISCOVERY Yacht Final Final to collect their samples.

ASC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Bozeman, MT that utilizes volunteers to collect data which is used to address an environmental challenge in which access to data is a limiting factor. One of their current projects is the Global Microplastics Initiative which aims to compile a comprehensive microplastics dataset. Water samples were collected from two locations in the Intracoastal waterway near Delray Beach, FL. Information that was collected included: location, depth of sample, sample platform, site info, and water temperature. SeaKeepers has shipped these samples to a laboratory in Maine where they will be filtered and examined to determine the number of microplastics per liter.

Microplastics—or plastic particles smaller than five millimeters in size—likely pose a massive environmental and human health risk when they enter our waterways. Toxins including DDT and BPA adhere to the particles, and then enter the food chain when ingested by aquatic life, accumulating in birds, fish, marine mammals and potentially humans. These samples will be part of a comprehensive microplastics dataset that will be used to influence change, turning off the inputs of microplastics pollution at their source.

This is the first expedition for D/Y Final Final and SeaKeepers first sample collection for ASC.

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