



## EXPEDITION PROFILE

**May 20<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 aboard M/Y Sharkwater**

Tony Gilbert, Program Director of The International SeaKeepers Society, joined *Beneath the Waves and Fins Attached* to conduct shark research aboard M/Y Sharkwater, while also filming a National Geographic documentary about sharks in the Bermuda Triangle. 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 doing in the protected Bahamian waters. A new facet of this research was the focus on mating behaviors among tiger sharks in the Bahamas.

Dr. Austin Gallagher and his *Beneath The Waves* research team conducted a series of shark tagging sessions in different sites around New Providence Island in the Bahamas. Guests staying aboard Sharkwater were able to join the daily outings to learn about shark research and conservation, while also getting a hands-on experience and participating in the actual process.

In addition to traditional “spaghetti” tags, taking morphological measurements, blood samples, and fin clippings, which help scientists better understand the behavior and health of sharks, researchers also deployed a series of pop-off tags that can record depth, temperature, and movement – these information will reveal if there are any biological hotspots in the area where tiger sharks may go for important periods of their lives.

Lastly, this expedition was also filmed for a documentary special that will air on National Geographic Wild in Summer 2020. This is especially exciting as it will serve to educate millions of viewers about sharks, their important ecological role, and why we need to protect them.

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