



EXPEDITION PROFILE

June 2019, aboard D/Y Seawolf

This past June, The International SeaKeepers Society partnered with SoFar, a company which produces ocean sensors and drones, to facilitate the deployment of an ocean sensor known as the “Spotter” in the Pacific Ocean. The deployment was done by the crew of the DISCOVERY Yacht, Seawolf, which departed from Kobe, Japan and headed across the Pacific Ocean to Seattle, Washington. During their crossing, the crew was able to deploy nine Spotters.

The Spotter is a device that can be deployed to float freely or to be moored in a specific location. As they drift, they can be tracked which provides important data about ocean currents. They also measure wind speed, wind direction, wave height, mean and peak wave period, and mean and peak wave direction. Because this device is solar powered, it has a much longer useful life than similar instruments. Through the Spotter Dashboard, users can access data from anywhere, change settings on the device, set alerts and notifications, and share data with others through the mobile app.

SeaKeepers intends to continue an ongoing initiative to deploy more Spotters in the future so as to increase the network of data points, which will in turn improve our understanding of how our oceans are behaving. Ocean behavior can be useful for short term and immediate purposes, but can also be an indicator of changing climate conditions over a long-term period.

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