



DISCOVERY Yacht PARAFFIN participates in the UMT Ocean Monitoring Project

In the context of South East Asia, we have better data on socio economic trends than our earth systems trends. What requires more attention is the effects of the ocean acidification and degradation to marine life regionally.

Due to lack of baseline data in our region, the extent of the impact of these trends is difficult to predict. Citizen science projects such as the UMT Ocean Monitoring Project are an easy way to team up with scientists to contribute valuable data. The objective of this study is focused on marine debris and microplastics and the organisms found in the South China Sea and surrounding waters of Peninsular Malaysia.

The UMT Ocean Monitoring Project is a long-term research and monitoring study which involves water sampling and the collection of data over specific periods and different seasons. It was very timely when Captain Raul of the Discovery Yacht Paraffin offered to collect water samples enroute from Singapore to Redang Island located along the east coast of Malaysia. Due to the prevailing monsoon season, the best sailing season along the east coast of peninsular Malaysia and the ideal time to collect water samples is from May to October.

After collection, the water samples were sent back to the UMT laboratory for zooplankton and microplastic counting and identification of organisms that are present in the marine water. With these results, we can assess ocean productivity performance and plastic pollution levels in the Malaysian region.

Thanks to the Captain and crew for taking the time off their duties to be part of this project.

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Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT): <http://www.umt.edu.my>

For more information contact:

Gail Tay Director of Operations & Programmes
International SeaKeepers Society, Asia

Gail.tay@seakeepers.org