



EXPEDITION PROFILE

June 3rd, 2019 aboard D/Y Shredder

On June 3rd, 2019, The International SeaKeepers Society assisted Greenpeace and Dr. Paul Arena of Nova Southeastern University aboard the DISCOVERY Yacht, Shredder, to gather footage of sargassum, wildlife, and plastics. Greenpeace are planning a pole to pole expedition as part of their 30X30 Ocean Protection proposal to the UN. They have already presented to the UN earlier this year and their efforts will culminate in April of 2020 when they push for 30 percent of the oceans to be protected by 2030. Part of the expedition will be to visit the Sargasso Sea in August. In preparation for that leg of the expedition, Greenpeace is trying to make some foundational visuals, with the immediate aim of creating explainer videos about the Sargasso Sea, sargassum itself, where it is located, and why it's so important.

The team, consisting of sargassum expert Dr. Paul Arena, Kristiane Cilen, Justin Grubb, and Pete Cross, were able to get just offshore of Miami Beach and into the Gulf Stream. There, they found some patches of Sargassum to explore and film. Additionally, they snorkeled with a small pod of Mahi Mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*), and spotted a juvenile sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*) utilizing this habitat. There were of course many other small fishes associated with the sargassum mats such as yellowtail snapper (*Ocyurus chrysurus*), Bermuda chubs (*Kyphosus sectatrix*), planehead filefish (*Stephanolepis hispidus*), scrawled filefishes (*Aluterus scriptus*), as well as driftfishes (*Nomeidae*). Overall, the crew was able to get some great shots, video clips, and onboard explanations of the types of Sargassum in the mats and the importance of this habitat to its inhabitants.

SeaKeepers and Fleet Miami were happy to be the platform (literally) for Greenpeace to shoot this footage, as it will serve to educate the public on problems that need immediate action, as well as helping push the 30x30 Ocean Protection proposal to the United Nations.

Program Director:

Tony Gilbert

Tony@seakeepers.org

255 Aragon Ave. Third Floor

Coral Gables, Florida

Tel: 305.448.7089

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jay Wade – *Chairman*

Glen Allen; Julian Chang; Mark Luther

Michael T. Moore – *Chairman Emeritus*

Richard Snow, *President & CEO*