



EXPEDITION PROFILE

November 21, 2019 aboard DISCOVERY Yacht Shredder

The International SeaKeepers Society teamed up with FIU to collect plastic samples for their joint citizen science program, the S.A.R.A.H. Initiative, aboard Fleet Miami's D/Y Shredder. This outing was also filmed for news coverage about the program which will air on NBC 6.

On November 21st, 2019, FIU was joined by SeaKeeper's staff and Captain Mike Segeren aboard D/Y Shredder in Biscayne Bay. This is in furtherance of the S.A.R.A.H. Initiative: a citizen science initiative wherein captains and crew tow a net behind their vessel for 15 minutes, collecting anything that is just below the surface of the water. The purpose of these tows is to collect samples of plastic pollution from the water. These samples are then analyzed in a lab in order to assess their chemical composition. Each variety of plastic absorbs different types of chemicals and they have varying degradation rates in the marine environment. Identifying the composition and location of ocean plastics will help us predict their long-term effects and reveal their ultimate fates. Uncovering the prevalence and location of distinctive plastic types can help us pinpoint the major source.

The information from this study would be of interest to policymakers interested in cutting down on the most prevalent types of pollution that are ending up in the saltwater fish we eat.

A photojournalist from NBC6 was present to document the outing and conduct interviews with SeaKeepers Program Director, Tony Gilbert, and FIU scientist Mark Bond, who together, were the creators of the S.A.R.A.H. Initiative.

Thank you to Fleet Miami for once again providing the vessel which allowed this field work to be done.

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