



## DISCOVERY Yacht Dafne II participates in the UMT Ocean Monitoring Project

Congratulations to Discovery Yacht Dafne II and the Bennett family for participating in the UMT Ocean Monitoring Project. Setting off from Singapore on the 12th November 2019, this expedition successfully collected 12 water samples from the Straits of Malacca, ending in Langkawi, Malaysia.

The Bennett family are strong believers in the idea that travel is education and by immersing oneself in other cultures you become a true world citizen. Together with their 3 teenage daughters - Stella (17), Cleo (15) and Jade (12), Paul Bennett and Lani Bevacqua have sailed crossing the Pacific Ocean from the Caribbean to Australia then to Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia and onto Thailand.

As sailors living on board their sailing vessel Dafne II, the Bennett family understand first-hand the importance and impact of a healthy marine environment – from fish stocks that form a key part of their diet, to the water cycle and weather patterns that govern their daily experiences.

Following their conviction, the family are keen citizen scientists having participated in previous manta and shark data gathering with marine scientists and coral conservation projects in Indonesia. As shared by Paul, “We’ve been lucky to have several up-close encounters with marine life like manta rays, sharks, and whales. Those kinds of experiences really help to anchor your conviction that conserving and protecting our marine ecosystem is a moral imperative.

“We’ve seen lots of plastic on the windward faces of islands all over the world. But, to see so much floating through the water column everywhere from Raja Ampat to Penang was a big surprise. This UMT Ocean Monitoring project offers us the chance to learn a little about ocean water measuring methodology and to contribute, in a small way, to the growing understanding about one of our busiest waterways.”

The UMT Ocean Monitoring is a research and monitoring project that involves collecting data through water sampling in the waters of Peninsular Malaysia. Interested boaters and yacht owners act as citizen scientists, participate in water sampling, and collect data on marine debris or microplastics along their sailing route. Also, this project will explore the sustainability of marine resources which the coastal community’s livelihood depend on.

Initiated by the Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), this research and monitoring project is in collaboration with The International SeaKeepers Society, Asia and is estimated to run 2 years, ending in 2020. This project is the first one of its kind in our Region and focuses on the waters along the East and West Coasts of Peninsular Malaysia with a longer-term ambition to include other regions.

[Expedition Gallery](#)

[Partner Sites](#)

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

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