



EXPEDITION PROFILE

November 22, 2019 aboard DISCOVERY Yacht Shredder

The International SeaKeepers Society partnered with Nova South Eastern University's Professor Paul Arena, and researchers Sydney Panzarino, Michael McDonough, and Maribeth Broms to deploy a commercial grade mini ROV from the DISCOVERY Yacht Shredder. Their eventual aim is to provide information on the fish communities, which utilize a relatively unknown and unexplored deep water habitat. Due to its depth, SCUBA surveys are restricted, thus an ROV unit could be utilized to record video surveys of these areas. The goal is to compare fish assemblages associated with various benthic habitats in the mesophotic zone. Recent bathymetric mapping and submersible dives have discovered an area of deep reef covered by spoil produced by the dredging of Port Everglades Inlet. Areas to the North and South of this buried area remain unaffected and in a natural condition.

This was Professor Arena's second outing with SeaKeepers. A previous test with a different ROV unit showed the viability of this method, as well as things that could be improved, one of which was changing to a different and more robust unit. These surveys will continue on a monthly basis into the late summer. As the project continues, data collected will help to determine what affects this type of dredging and dumping has had on the habitats that these species call home. From there, policy may be changed to make sure these harmful practices are a thing of the past.

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