



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ALERT/ CALENDAR LISTING

***The International SeaKeepers Society hosts the 17th annual Founders honoring
DISCOVERY Yacht vessels on November 2nd in Fort Lauderdale.***

Miami, Florida - September 29th, 2017 - SeaKeepers hosts its annual Founders Event on Thursday, November 2nd to honor vessels that participated in 2016-2017 DISCOVERY Yacht Programming, including Scientist-Led Expeditions, Educational Outreach Programs, and Instrument Deployments.

Founders will be held at a private waterfront residence in Fort Lauderdale on the night of November 2nd during the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. SeaKeepers will honor 2016-2017 DISCOVERY Yachts *Advisors Alliance, Asean Lady, Exuma, Harle, Lady Olivia, LoJo, Luzerne, Paraffin, Sam, Shredder, The Admiral, Timely Sale, and World Odyssey* for their generous contribution to the DISCOVERY Yachts Program.

This past year, SeaKeepers has conducted 19 missions through the DISCOVERY Yachts Program that have included nine scientist-led expeditions, six educational outreach expeditions, and four instrument deployment expeditions. Additionally, participating vessels have deployed 103 oceanographic instruments thus far.

In April, two SeaKeepers vessels simultaneously supported scientists from the University of Florida's Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, conducting genome sequencing on marine plankton. One vessel, DISCOVERY Yacht *Sam*, traveled through the Pacific from La Paz, Mexico to Oahu, HI while D/Y *Harle* of Fleet Miami traversed the Atlantic from Ft. Lauderdale, FL to the Azores.

In July, SeaKeepers Asia conducted three "floating classroom" experiences aboard vessels in Singapore. Students learned about marine biodiversity and conservation efforts from scientists and participated in research activities including collecting samples, working with microscopes, and learning about scuba diving.

The DISCOVERY Yachts Program has also included eight citizen-science expeditions this year. These small-scale projects depend on local community members volunteering their time to support environmental initiatives.

Scientific expeditions conducted by SeaKeepers allow yacht owners, guests, and crew the opportunity to participate in ongoing research while engaging with influential, well-known marine scientists. Using member yachts, SeaKeepers promotes and facilitates ground-breaking research in the fields of marine science and oceanography.

Guests at Founders will enjoy a video highlighting the 2016-2017 DISCOVERY Yacht missions. A silent auction, featuring artistic creations from SeaKeepers 2017 Artist of the Year, Xavier Cortada, will take place during the event.

About The International SeaKeepers Society® The International SeaKeepers Society is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization focusing on the health of the world's oceans and climate. SeaKeepers works with the boating and yachting community to take advantage of their unique potential in order to further marine research and to raise awareness about the issues our oceans face. The International SeaKeepers Society acts as a global catalyst working with governments, scientists, industry, and other marine organizations to further its mission and to support sensible, achievable marine protection and restoration. For more information visit www.seakeepers.org

SeaKeepers Media Contact:

Molly Canfield
Molly@seakeepers.org
255 Aragon Avenue, Third Floor
Coral Gables, Florida
Tel: 305.448.7089

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