

Yachts for Science

Do send a yacht submission form even if you don't see a possible research project match. There will be plenty more science projects selected in the future.

Selected Science Projects:

1. Using echosounder data collected from equipment on contributing vessels, data on deep scattering layers will be added to the growing global database to refine global biogeography of the mesopelagic environment. The database so far has data from research vessels and fishing vessels around the world but lacks data from the Mediterranean and Caribbean.

Dates:

Data collected at any time of year is valuable for this project

Locations:

Mediterranean, Caribbean

Berths required:

2,1 or 0 (once installed, echosounder logging software can be left running)

2. SCUBA divers will collect black coral samples to assess the diversity, abundance and size frequencies for black corals and gather baseline data on abundance and diversity of microbenthic fauna associated with black corals, to determine the role of black corals as ecosystem engineers on mesophotic and shallow reefs in Indonesia.

Dates:

14-27th October 2019

Location/s:

South Sulawesi Indonesia

Berths required:

5 Team members

3. Using SCUBA video data will be collected to test the implication of foundation species loss on the short- and long term-biodiversity of coral reefs by studying early coral reef species succession in the British Virgin Islands after devastation from two back-to-back hurricanes. This baseline data will be compared with that collected before the hurricanes.

Dates:

Very flexible but ideally not UK academic term time.

Location/s:

British Virgin Islands - Great Thatch Island proposed Protected area and Guana Island

Berths Required:

Min 4 (ideally 6)

Selected Science Projects Continued...

4. Breaking internal tides over seamounts that stir deep, nutrient-rich water up into the photic zone, supporting both pelagic and endemic benthic communities. An autonomous ocean glider will be used to measure linked components of this system, from internal tides to phytoplankton, in order to determine the spatio-temporal variability of both the driving physical processes and biogeochemical responses.

Dates:

Experiment could take place between September 2019 and Summer 2020

Location/s:

Mediterranean Sea not appropriate. However, seamounts near the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands- region would be an ideal experiment location.

Berths Required:

Two

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5. Explore the remote areas of the vast Maldives archipelago to discover and document new sub-populations of manta rays using SCUBA/free-diving surveys, tissue samples, satellite tags and photo identification techniques. Accurate estimates of their population size, structure, habitat use and connectivity is essential to ensure effective protection of these vulnerable species.

Dates:

First quarter of 2019/20 for oceanic manta rays, year-round for reef manta rays

Location/s:

Southern Maldives (Huvadhu, Fuvahmulah and Addu Atolls) for oceanic and reef manta rays. Northern Maldives (Ihavandhippolhu, Thiladhunmathi, Makunudhu, Kalhifushi and Raa Atolls) for reef mantas only.

Berths Required:

Two-Four

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6. Survey black coral populations, using SCUBA to conduct video transects, to understand their current status, population trajectories including potential recovery and their role on supporting associated reef biodiversity in the Mexican Caribbean.

Dates:

Survey requires 2 weeks on board, flexible but ideal dates Sep - Nov 2019 or April - June 2020

Locations:

Mexican Caribbean

Berths required:

2,1 or 0 (once installed, echosounder logging software can be left running)