

SeaStar Foundation, Inc.
(IRS approved 501(c)3 charitable organization)



OUR MISSION;

The *SeaStar Foundation* is dedicated to the understanding and the protecting of our marine environment. We are utilizing two approaches toward this monumental task. The first approach is by enlisting the enthusiasm of youth in programs, stimulating their curiosity to learn more about this fascinating world. The second part is to assist in field research addressing specific problems that are occurring in our reefs and oceans.

We provide program support, vessels, licensed captains, personnel, and logistical support for marine research and education. We also provide scholarships to select students who show exceptional talent in this field.

For a brief history of our activities please view our web site - (www.seastarfoundation.org)

The SeaStar Foundation is working with the *University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS)*, *The South Florida Student Shark Program (SFSSP)*, the *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)*, and the *Explorers Club*, in a study to determine the environmental impact on various marine habitats. The studies are taking place in several locations in Biscayne Bay and along the outer fringes of coral just outside Biscayne Bay, south of key Biscayne and Stiltsville. Future impact studies will include all of Florida's coastline and the Keys. We have also worked hand in hand with the *South Broward High School Marine Science Magnet Program* and with *Dade County schools* offering curriculums in the Marine Sciences, Astronomy / Navigation, and After School Programs. And we will be joining with other student programs and educators around the country and around the world, sharing research, information and findings.

The programs consist of excursions and direct hands on field research, observing the predation patterns of fish in sea grass and mangrove areas. They also include catching and tagging sharks (which includes DNA sampling, and mercury testing) then releasing the sharks in deeper channels within the bay, and along the outer reef line outside the bay.

Sharks and other predators are the shepherds of the seas, and the extreme reduction in their numbers is going to affect all the species in ways we cannot yet comprehend. The studies conducted right here in our home waters can provide data which will be useful throughout the marine world. The DNA sampling/ mercury testing will give us valuable insight in the field of medicine combating human diseases, as well as telling us the health of our oceans which produce 70% of our oxygen.

Our immediate concern is to strengthen our activities in our own back yard. Thinking globally is enhanced by acting locally. This justifies local efforts supporting world-uniting projects.

The South Florida environment is a diverse mixture of ecologies, comprised of transition zones ranging from alligator wallows in the everglades, through quiet estuaries to sheltered bays of sea grass, sand and mangroves, to fecund coral reefs opening to the flowing gulf stream joining the pelagic ocean world enfolding all the continents of our earth.

The SeaStar Foundation is also supporting efforts to establish a research and education center, "*The Biscayne Learning Center*" at Stiltsville, which stands right in the main channels of Biscayne Bay. The facilities would offer remarkable access to the habitat which could benefit research like no other location imaginable.

We need your support. Your donation will help fund these programs. A one-time gift or a monthly pledge, a vessel or other item of usefulness will be an appreciated contribution towards our goals.

Our government does encourage and allows you to choose a cause to support so you can put your tax dollars into a worthwhile program of your choice.

We are a fully approved IRS Non Profit 501(c)3 Organization, licensed in the State of Florida. Our Federal I.D. is #20-0421558. You will receive a Donor Tax Certificate to offset your personal or corporate income tax to the maximum amount allowed.

Kindly contact us for further information. We can provide you with references from many respected leaders in the research and educational field.

Thank you for your support and generosity, and most of all, thank you for your interest in preserving our environment.

Very Truly Yours,

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