

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAST Academy Commences Historic Shark Research Project in Biscayne National Park

On Wednesday, November 30th, at 8:30 am, twenty-four **MAST Academy** students will board the Biscayne National Park boat *Boca Chita* to join **University of Miami (UM)** researchers in a day of shark tagging and research. The high school students will observe sharks in the field, collect environmental data, and help identify the sharks observed while UM students measure and tag the animals.

This is the first scheduled trip in a research project developed by Rosensteil School of Marine and Atmospheric Science graduate student **Neil Hammerschlag** and MAST Academy marine biology instructor **Mark Tohulka**. The research venture is expected to span several years and involve hundreds of students. **South Broward High School** students will join the project in December as part of a cooperative plan between the two marine magnet high schools.

There is space for two media representatives on the vessel. Arrangements, however, must be made in advance.

For information on the research trip and /or media arrangements, please contact Dr. Margaret Haun, Lead Teacher, MAST Academy, at 305-365-6278 or at margarethaun@dadeschools.net.

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