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**Joining an Urgent Mission to Save the Oceans
*DYT Yacht Transport Partners with OCEARCH***

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA (December 11, 2014) – Lots of interesting vessels have been floated on and off [DYT Yacht Transport](#)'s semi-submersible ships, but none have been so intriguing as the 126-foot research vessel M/V *OCEARCH*, which is currently making its way from Port Everglades, Florida to Brisbane, Australia onboard DYT's 686' flagship *Yacht Express*. The research vessel is the namesake of the non-profit organization [OCEARCH](#), which is globally recognized for its work in the field of ocean sustainability. DYT has partnered with the organization to support its study of sharks and other large predators that are essential to the future of the marine ecosystem. This marks the second time *Yacht Express* has called on Brisbane and Auckland since its launch in 2007.



DYT Yacht Transport's 686' flagship *Yacht Express* is shown here in Port Everglades, Fla., before heading Down Under with its cargo of precious yachts, including the 126-foot research vessel M/V *OCEARCH* (blue hull). (photo credit Tom Serio Photography). **Available to download in high resolution by clicking the photo above**

The M/V *OCEARCH*, powered by two Cat engines and three Cat generators, features an at-sea laboratory and custom-built 75,000 pound capacity research platform that can lift a 5,000 pound shark along with a team of scientists and crew – with one degree of list, conditions permitting.

“By moving *OCEARCH* around the world, DYT is helping the ocean recover faster, and that is critical if we want to successfully accomplish our mission,” said Chris Fischer (Park City), founder and expedition leader of *OCEARCH*. “If we were to drive the vessel to Australia ourselves, it would take us 60 days and our people and equipment would be totally taxed. The gift that DYT is giving to Australia by delivering *OCEARCH* there is one that affects every person who loves the ocean and uses the beaches. We hope this marks the first voyage of many with them.”

DYT’s PR/Marketing Officer Catalina Bujor added, “DYT Yacht Transport recognizes the importance of the research done by *OCEARCH* and is proud to be able to support the organization in conducting its work.”

OCEARCH’s upcoming trip to Australia will mark its 21st expedition. “They have a public safety issue there as well as a conservation challenge, so our goal is to capture and tag as many tiger sharks as possible,” said Fischer. “That way we can find out where and when they are moving, and where and when they are breeding and giving birth.”



DYT has partnered with *OCEARCH* to support its study of sharks and other large predators that are essential to the future of the marine ecosystem. (photo credit *OCEARCH/R. Snow*) **Available to download in high resolution by clicking the photo above**

Fischer founded *OCEARCH* in 2008, after eight years and 180 TV episodes of ESPN’s *Offshore Adventures*. “We were one of the most watched outdoor TV shows at the time, but I began to see that there was a huge disconnect between the knowledge of professional mariners and world-class scientists,” said Fischer. Because of this, we simply didn’t have the fundamental data we needed on sharks, marlin, tuna and various other species to understand how to manage them sustainably and make sure that there were fish for future generations from now.”

Wanting to make a global impact on the future of the ocean, Fischer began coordinating *OCEARCH* expeditions that, for the first time in history, brought together fishermen and scientists to tag great whites, tiger sharks and various other species so they could be tracked and their migration patterns

studied. Once a shark is tagged, anyone anywhere in the world can follow it in near real-time using OCEARCH's [Global Shark Tracker](#).

"Sharks are the lions of the ocean; they are the balance keepers, and if we lose them there won't be any fish," Fischer added. "Over 200,000 sharks will be killed today, mostly for a bowl of shark fin soup in China. While groups like WildAid drive down demand in countries like this, we are pioneering on-the-water research to create never-captured-before data so we know how to affect policy to help populations recover. DYT is allowing us to be a lot more mobile and enable more scientists to work with more sharks in a shorter period of time."

The OCEARCH team will begin its research Down Under in early 2015.



Chris Fischer has led 20 global expeditions aboard his research vessel *OCEARCH* to advance science and education while unlocking the many mysteries surrounding the life history of white sharks and other giants of the ocean. (photo credit OCEARCH/R. Snow)

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The Process

On December 10, 2014, M/V *OCEARCH* floated onto *Yacht Express*, taking her place among other large yachts along the starboard side of the ship's huge dock bay, for her ride to Australia. To secure M/V *OCEARCH*, keel blocks were laid out on *Yacht Express*'s dry deck first, with stanchions and sea stands moved into place alongside. *Yacht Express* then was "ballasted," submerging the dock bay so it could flood with sea water, and M/V *OCEARCH* motored into her pre-determined location and tied off, per the instructions of the DYT Loading Master. Deballasting began when all yachts were onboard, essentially lifting the dock bay of *Yacht Express* while divers ensured M/V *OCEARCH* and the other yacht cargo were positioned accurately. When the operation was completed, the deck was dry, the sea stanchions were secured, and M/V *OCEARCH* was ready for its oceanic voyage.



DYT Yacht Transport's *Yacht Express* submerges in Port Everglades, Fla. to allow its cargo of yachts, including the 126-foot research vessel M/V *OCEARCH* (blue hull), to float on. *OCEARCH* is on its way to Brisbane, Australia. (photo credit Tom Serio Photography). **Available to download in high resolution by clicking the photo above**

For more information on DYT Yacht Transport and its *OCEARCH* partnership, visit <http://www.yacht-transport.com> or contact Catalina Bujor, DYT, +1 954-525-8707, pr@yacht-transport.com.

In combination with its sister company [Sevenstar Yacht Transport](#), which offers lift-on/lift-off services, DYT Yacht Transport advises on the best options for yacht transport by a fleet of over 120 ships wholly owned and operated by parent company [Spliethoff Group](#), one of the largest ship owners in The Netherlands.

More about DYT Yacht Transport

[DYT Yacht Transport](#) (DYT), headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida (US), specializes in the maritime transport of private luxury yachts. DYT yacht carriers utilize semi-submersible dock bays that allow yachts of any size to be safely and easily floated on and off as cargo, making it a leading provider of yacht transportation on a regular liner service. Since its maiden voyage in 1987, the company has transported over 13,000 motor and sailing yachts to various destinations around the globe, offering owners and charterers safe and easy access to many of the world's premier cruising grounds. Along with area representatives around the globe, DYT has additional operating offices in Italy, Monaco, Martinique and Newport (R.I.).

More about OCEARCH

[OCEARCH](#) is a non-profit organization with a unique model enabling unprecedented research on great white sharks and other large apex predators in an effort to accelerate global fisheries recovery while inspiring a new generation of environmental stewards through the Global Shark Tracker and a new STEM Education Curriculum.

OCEARCH expeditions are sponsored in large part by [Caterpillar Inc.](#) as part of a socially innovative multi-year partnership to facilitate data that is in turn shared on the Global Shark Tracker with the world for free – enabling students and the public to learn alongside PhDs. The Global Shark Tracker is a web-

based near-real-time satellite-tracking tool for sharks that will eventually be expanded to other species. Additional partnership support is provided by Costa Sunglasses, Contender, Yamaha, SAFE Boats, MUSTAD and Landry's Inc.

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