



COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 17th Sea Dragon arrives in St. Georges
24th Open day on board the Sea Dragon – No 5/6 Dock, Hamilton
10am – 4pm
26th Flotilla escort - Sea Dragon departs Hamilton at 10am for 3 day scientific voyage to the Sargasso Sea
31st World Oceans Day cocktail party at Bacardi 5:30pm – 7:30pm

JUNE

- 7th Public Summit at Bermuda College small lecture hall
9.30am – 12.30pm
5 Gyres cocktail meet and greet followed by a public lecture at BAMZ
7:00pm
8th Worlds Ocean Day
open day on board the *Sea Dragon*
10am – 4pm



On 26 May we want you to join the flotilla of boats escorting the “Sea Dragon” as she departs Bermuda for the first of two Sargasso Sea expeditions. Any size boat can participate. Be part of the fun to raise community awareness of the importance of being the only landmass in the Sargasso Sea...and why we should care.

“Sea Dragon” will make a 3-day and a 5-day exploration of the Sargasso Sea. The trips will be supported by two weeks of shore-based laboratory/public awareness/education activities, concluding with a one-day “summit” to chart the path toward a Sargasso Sea conservation strategy.

Focusing on the Sargassum community, plankton, mid-water fauna (fishes and squids) and seabirds, scientific teams of 12 (made up of Bermuda and visiting scientists, with the assistance of student interns, teachers, decision-makers, advocacy groups and film makers) will record, collect, photograph and preserve some of the most iconic Sargasso Sea biodiversity including their genomes.



BERMUDA ALLIANCE FOR SARGASSO SEA

Pangaea Exploration's Sargasso Sea Expedition

BASS will play a key role in helping Bermuda's Government and the Sargasso Sea Alliance establish a high seas Marine Protected Area. This action will put Bermuda at the centre of the scientific studies and educational outreach, and show the world how we can help protect and restore our oceans.

bass.mpa@gov.bm

Pangaea Exploration

Over the past two years the *Sea Dragon* has sailed a staggering 50,000 miles over the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans carrying out important research on the state of our shared marine environment.



The *Sea Dragon* is a 72ft (22m) steel hulled sailing vessel. The boat provides a superb platform of rugged capability, capacity and efficiency with a naturally low environmental footprint – perfect for the type of remote sailing expeditions she undertakes. The *Sea Dragon* sails all over the world's oceans from the Sargasso Sea expedition to look for marine plastics to a transit of the Southern Ocean. On her expeditions professional leaders work alongside visiting crew who are able to see first hand how the work is done, build skills and live a genuine adventure. Her trips include formal scientific and conservation expeditions as well as sailing voyages and



occasional private charters when not engaged in sailing voyages or expeditions. She specializes in remote, high seas, long distance marine work. Building a global mindset of marine conservation is far and away the greatest challenge and the *Sea Dragon* is working with various partners to collectively take action against these challenges. The **Bermuda Alliance for Sargasso Sea (BASS)** welcomes the *Sea Dragon* to Bermuda and looks forward to your participation in the many events planned to highlight the richness and importance of the Sargasso Sea.



Bermuda is well positioned for assuming stewardship of the Sargasso Sea. It is the frequent home of many of the Atlantic's most charismatic migratory creatures, such as humpback whales and Bluefin tuna, and the permanent home to thousands of unique invertebrates and fish, all interconnected in a dynamic web of life about which there's much still to learn.

Why We Should Care

- The Sargasso Sea is unique in its characteristics, biodiversity, and productivity. Its dimensions encompass the entire depth of the ocean, and its habitat diversity includes Bermuda's environments - the northernmost coral reefs and mangroves in the World;
- It is a spawning and feeding ground, and migration path of iconic ocean life. While it may not be apparent at first glance, the sargassum is home to an incredible diversity of life. These floating islands support a broad community and are vital to the survival of many threatened and endangered species;
- The health of Bermuda's fisheries and broader marine environment depend on the health of the Sargasso Sea and its strange mats of seaweed.
- The Sargasso Sea is the ultimate, remote collector, integrator and monitor of human input into land, atmosphere and ocean, and as such is the World environment's 'canary in the coalmine' regarding global change.