

Capt. Phil Renaud:

Captain Renaud's career in oceanography began at the Naval Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Oceanography in 1979. During his distinguished 25-year career in the Navy, he served as the oceanographer for an aircraft carrier (USS Theodore Roosevelt), was the lead oceanographer for the Commander, Second Fleet, and his naval career culminated as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Oceanographic Office. His naval career took him to all corners of the earth. His hobbies include being a PADI SCUBA Instructor, avid sailor, backpacker, and skier.

Phil has earned master's degrees in Oceanography, Meteorology, Strategic Studies, and Business Administration. He has been leading the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation for the past decade and has developed the Foundation into a world-class scientific organization dedicated to conservation of the marine environment, particularly coral reef ecosystems. Presently, Phil is concentrating on fulfilling Prince Khaled's vision of circumnavigating the globe to combat the rapid decline in coral reef health through the Foundation's ambitious Global Reef Expedition program. This fast-paced expedition is achieving the goals of mapping and surveying coral reefs around the world to rapidly close scientific knowledge gaps and to identify factors that either harm reefs or contribute to their resilience.

Dr. Andy Bruckner:

Andy's day to day responsibilities include all logistical aspects of the research trip, selecting locations, securing permits, identifying participants, identifying our graduate fellows; working with resource management agencies and NGOs in identifying the type of work and sites we study, and follow-up in taking the information and tools we develop and applying these to conservation and management; and deployment of sensors and scientific gear to collect various oceanographic parameters. In each country, the Foundation will conduct public meetings, briefings and other educational activities to educate local stakeholders on the importance of reefs and to raise awareness about the GRE and tangible benefits of this work.

Andy developed the basic protocol we will apply around the globe, in each sites we access, and work to incorporate the specific research projects under this umbrella. During the field components, Andy works with the officers and crew to arrange all of the day to day dive activities; brief the team and lead daily meetings; work underwater with the scientists, and conduct my underwater research, focusing on assessments of the composition, structure, and health of the corals.

Amy Heemsoth

Amy Heemsoth is the Director of Education for the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation. She develops and implements innovative education projects and programs for K-12 students, teachers, and non-formal educators. Additionally, she enhances the Foundation's community engagement through education and outreach.

Amy earned her Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology at Spring Hill College, a liberal arts school, in Mobile, Alabama. Later, she attended Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida obtaining a Master's degree in Marine Biology. She conducted her research thesis on the diet composition of swordfish in the Florida Straits.

Amy has over 10 years of teaching experience. She has worked in both non-formal education including instructor positions at MarineLab and Seacamp, and in formal education including positions as a high school math and science teacher and a community college adjunct professor. Most recently, she worked as a Florida Keys Education and Outreach Coordinator for Florida International University. Additionally, Amy has experience educating the general public while working on snorkel/dive vessels that toured the Great Barrier Reef, Australia.