

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Educational Shark Research Goes Virtual

Miami, FL – January 4, 2011 – Experiencing the excitement and challenges of shark research is now only a click away, thanks to the R.J. Dunlap Marine Conservation Program at the University of Miami (RJD). Interaction with the vibrant, multi-media interface provides students and marine enthusiasts with a hands-on shark conservation education from the comfort of their home or classroom.

Set atop a sea of turquoise waters and teeming tropical reefs,

five segments featuring video, photo, and text create a sequential workflow to learn and experience what goes into the scientific research to protect shark populations. Although much of the content is catered toward a high-school level and above, the interactivity with photo and video can reach children as young as elementary school.

Nearly six months in the making, the Virtual Expedition is the newest addition to an ever-expanding volume of resources in the online RJD “classroom.” Many schools around the country already piously follow the GoogleEarth tracks of RJD’s satellite tagged Bull, Tiger and Hammerhead sharks. An interdisciplinary high-school curriculum available for download also offers nearly an entire semester of Marine Conservation education. The RJD website is fast becoming the premiere hub for marine conservation education in the world.

To collect your boarding pass for this action-packed adventure, visit <http://rjd.miami.edu/learning-tools/virtual-expeditions/>.

The R.J. Dunlap Marine Conservation Program is a joint program of the Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science and the Leonard and Jayne Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy at the University of Miami. The Rosenstiel School offers one of the largest, most comprehensive marine and atmospheric programs in the nation. Robust academics and in-depth scientific investigation are hallmarks of the School’s programs. The Abess Center creates innovative interdisciplinary initiatives that bridge the gap between hard science and environmental policy.

