

## FIU@Home: Aquarius Virtual Field Trip

*Instructions: Use the FIU@Home: Aquarius Virtual Field trip to guide you through this activity sheet.*

### Your Mission

Aquarius is the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and gives scientists – and now you – the chance to study marine life while living underwater.

- [Aquarius – Coral Reef View](#)
- [Aquarius – Inside View](#)

First, we will explore the outside of Aquarius. In addition to the pictures you explored on the interactive map, take a look at the below two additional links. Look around, what do you see?

*Answer questions 1-2 on your datasheet.*

Next, make your way to the inside of the laboratory. Take your time and explore. It seems quite small, that's because it is about the size of a school bus! This laboratory can house up to 6 people ~~at a time~~ for extended periods of time. The longest mission at Aquarius was 31 days long! *What supplies do you think are necessary when living underwater? Toilet paper? Food? Water? Answer question 4 to find out!*

1. When swimming around Aquarius (virtually) you see a variety of wildlife that are common to Florida's reefs. Let's ID one of the fish found at Aquarius.



### Yellow Tail Snapper

Number of individuals of this species seen (circle one)

2-10

10-30

>50

*Fish Description*

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Need some help? Use our Fish ID guides to help you use the correct terms for different parts of the fish.

2. There are many different species of sponges that range in shape, size and color. Can you spot some growing on Aquarius?



## Sponges

How many different kinds of sponges can you see?

2-10

10-30

>50

Choose one sponge species that is growing near or on Aquarius. Do an internet search to research its common and scientific names, including the location of Aquarius (Florida Keys or Caribbean) should help you narrow it down.

Common Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Scientific Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Make sure to go all the way around Aquarius! There are so many corals and sponges growing around the laboratory. Coral reefs are a very important ecosystem that sustain 25% of all marine life. Unfortunately, they are under a lot of stress and face many threats. *Answer question 3 on your data sheet to learn about coral reef conservation at Aquarius.*

3. Coral reefs are facing many threats like ocean acidification and coral bleaching. Do some independent research on these topics. What is one thing you can do to protect coral reefs? Draw a picture or write it out on a separate sheet of paper.

4. Imagine you are living at Aquarius. From the list below, choose the number items you might need for survival in the case of an emergency from most important to least important. Number 1 should be the most important item and number 10 should be the least important item. Put the number next to the item.



Dive Watch



Water



Sodasorb  
(filters CO<sub>2</sub> from air)



Fire Extinguisher



First Aid Kit



Toilet Paper



Meals Ready to Eat (MREs)



Buoyancy Control Device (BCD), Snorkel,  
Mask, Fins and Air Tank



Sneakers



Map