



Media only: Kelly Carnes (202) 633-2950
Brian Ireley (202) 633-2950

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Smithsonian Opens Temporary Exhibition “Deeper than Light” at Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History

Museum Hosts International Touring Exhibition about Deep Sea Creatures

WASHINGTON – Now through May 23 visitors to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History can experience, “Deeper than Light,” a new temporary exhibition highlighting impressions, images, and results based on the discoveries made during the MAR-ECO project.

The exhibition demonstrates the synergy effect that results from the meeting of scientists, technology and artists. “Deeper than Light” invites the visitors to experience the unknown world and discoveries from the deep sea by presenting rarely-seen deep sea animals, art, images, films, models, and interactive audiovisual software.

“We are thrilled to be bringing this international touring exhibition to the Smithsonian,” said Mike Vecchione, NOAA scientist and curator of the exhibition. “This exhibition will give visitors a chance to see specimens very recently discovered from an almost inaccessible frontier.”

Through specimens, photography, art, models, and multimedia, “Deeper than Light” documents the two-month expedition of the Norwegian research vessel *G.O. Sars* to explore the marine life of the northern Atlantic Ocean in 2004. Onboard, a team of international scientists, students, and artists document their amazing journey, observing a wide range of organisms and their habitats and assembling a vast dataset and collection of biological samples. Norwegian painter Ørnulf Opdahl, photographer David Shale, and artist Thorolf Rasmussen captured their impressions of the deep sea in the paintings, photographs, and drawings in “Deeper than Light.”

This international traveling exhibition has been produced by the Bergen Museum in Norway and the international research project MAR-ECO, part of the global initiative Census of Marine Life (CoML).

“‘Deeper than Light’ provides visitors with the unique opportunity to see how the collaboration of science, art and technology can allow us to see our world in a whole new way,” said Dr. Vecchione.”

The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, located at 10th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W. in Washington, D.C., welcomes more than 7 million visitors annually. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission is free. More information about the museum is available at www.mnh.si.edu or by calling (202) 633-1000, TTY (202) 357-1729.

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION MRC 135 PO Box 37012 Washington DC 20013-7012 Telephone 202.633.2950 Fax 202.786.2982