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DESCEND TO THE DEEPEST PARTS OF THE OCEAN IN ACADEMY'S NEW EXHIBIT

Creatures of the Abyss makes its U.S. debut June 5, 2010

PHILADELPHIA—Plunge to the deepest depths of the ocean and discover the extraordinary, mysterious, and downright strange creatures that live there in *Creatures of the Abyss*, a new exhibit making its U.S. debut at the Academy of Natural Sciences starting June 5, 2010.

Creatures of the Abyss reveals the wonders of the most inaccessible and unexplored ecosystem on Earth. The ocean contains more than 99 percent of the living space on the planet, yet only 3 percent of it has been explored. The latest update of a 10-year census of marine life, released in November 2009, reported 17,650 known species living below 656 feet, the point where sunlight ceases. At the most extreme ocean depths, deeper than 3,280 feet, scientists say they have found 5,722 species living in the persistently cold, pitch-black environment, under immense pressure from the water above.

Creatures of the Abyss sheds light on this undersea world through full-scale models of exotic deep-sea creatures, preserved specimens, hands-on activities, and videos for both adults and children. Visitors can:

- Entangle themselves in the tentacles of a life-sized model of a colossal squid; at 26 feet, it is the largest (by weight) known species of squid.
- Step inside the Bioluminescence Theatre and see colored light shows produced by creatures to communicate in complete darkness.
- Hitch a virtual ride on *Alvin*, the world's first deep-ocean submersible vehicle.

Creatures of the Abyss is free with museum admission and will be on view through September 6, 2010. *Creatures of the Abyss* is a production of Science North, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada, and is supported and funded in part by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.

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The Academy of Natural Sciences, founded in 1812, is the oldest natural science research institution and museum in the Americas and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.

HOURS: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday–Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **ADMISSION:** \$12 adults; \$10 children 3-12, seniors, college students, military personnel; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies!