



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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Press Room: [www.ansp.org/press](http://www.ansp.org/press)

### MEDIA ADVISORY/PHOTO OP

#### Press preview of *Creatures of the Abyss* exhibit, June 2

**WHAT:** The press is invited to preview the exhibit *Creatures of the Abyss* before it opens to the public. This is the U.S. debut (originated in Canada) for this highly interactive exhibit which explores the most inaccessible ecosystem on Earth—the deep ocean. This exhibit is particularly timely in light of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

The preview is informal, and researchers with ocean expertise will be on hand to answer questions. They include Dr. John Lundberg, the Academy's curator of ichthyology (fish), Dr. Rick McCourt, Academy biologist, and Dr. Katrina Ilves, who studies coral reef fish. Also on hand will be Dr. Erik Cordes, Temple University researcher who set up a system in the Gulf of Mexico last year that may be able to record the recent oil spill's effect on the deep sea.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, June 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**WHERE:** The Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia. Please enter at the members' entrance on 19th Street.

**BACKGROUND:** An exciting new exhibit making its U.S. debut at the Academy of Natural Sciences this summer explores the most inaccessible ecosystem on Earth—the deep ocean, where extraordinary creatures thrive under immense pressure and in total darkness. *Creatures of the Abyss*, on view June 5 through Sept. 6, takes visitors on an amazing journey through different underwater landscapes, down to the deepest parts of the ocean where thousands of mysterious and strange life forms thrive. Through educational interactive components, life-sized models of exotic creatures, real preserved specimens, videos and more, the exhibit provides both adults and children an immersive glimpse into another world.

**MORE INFORMATION AND VIDEO:** <http://www.ansp.org/abyss/index.php>

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*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; from May 28–Sept. 6 military and up to 5 family members are free; free for members and children under 3. \$2 fee for Butterflies!*

*Founded in 1812, the Academy of Natural Sciences 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.*