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MEDIA ADVISORY/PHOTO OP

CREATURES OF THE ABYSS OPENING WEEKEND **Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6**

U.S. debut for this exhibit on deep ocean and timely because of Gulf of Mexico oil spill

WHAT: *Creatures of the Abyss*, a highly interactive exhibit about the deep ocean and the amazing creatures that live there, opens for the first time in the U.S. Besides seeing the exhibit, the public will be able to closely watch squid dissections, see unusual catfish specimens from the Academy's world-renowned collection, enjoy live animal presentations, and create a creature craft to take home. The exhibit is suitable for adults and children. It is timely considering the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

WHEN: Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6
Museum hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Special activities between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

WHERE: The Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia

BACKGROUND: The deep ocean is the most inaccessible ecosystem on Earth. *Creatures of the Abyss* gives the public the opportunity to explore the deep sea's mysteries and the fascinating creatures that inhabit this largely unknown environment. Here fish swallow prey larger than themselves and thrive despite living among scalding and toxic hydrothermal vents. A bioluminescence theater shows how creatures put on mesmerizing shows of light. Despite the abyss' extreme water pressure, complete darkness and freezing temperature, the deep sea is host to the greatest diversity of life on the planet. More information and video: <http://www.ansp.org/abyss/index.php>

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 is located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends until 5 p.m. Admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for children ages 3-12, seniors, college students and military personnel, from May 28–Sept. 6 military and up to 5 family members are free; and free for Members and children under 3. There is a \$2 fee for "Butterflies!"