

# *Sustainable Seas Expeditions in Your Classroom*



Humpback mother and calf

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**A**s an educator, you and your students are invited to join us—and perhaps even guide us—in our underwater missions. You can follow the *Sustainable Seas Expeditions* and mission logs on the Internet; discuss ocean science, policy, and management in your classroom; engage students in designing their own submersibles; or see the DeepWorker submersible up close at one of the open houses.

Your most important role, however, is to foster within students the questioning attitude that is at the heart of the explorer. A new generation of ocean citizens occupies our classrooms now. Among them are the technicians, scientists, civic leaders, and voters of tomorrow—those who inherit our oceans’ problems and will be challenged to find their solutions. Among them also are the next ocean explorers, those whose curiosity, personal motivation, and commitment will carry them beyond what we know now.

For your students, the *Sustainable Seas Expeditions* are an exciting application of science and geography in action. For teachers, the *Expeditions* provide a way of using the National Science Education Standards and the National Geography Standards to truly involve your students in their own learning. The teaching ideas suggested here, as well as in other *Expeditions*-related education materials developed by the National Science Teachers Association,

the National Geographic Society, and NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuaries, build on the content and methods of these two standards documents.

These *Expeditions* are an opportunity to engage students in the excitement of real-time exploration—the heart of the study of geography and science. These inquiry-based disciplines work together to increase our understanding of Earth and its systems. Integral to most activities are the geography standard skills—asking geographic questions; acquiring geographic information; then organizing, analyzing, and answering these geographic questions.

Integral also are the methods of inquiry teaching, of assessment, and of systems thinking that form the core of the science education standards. As students explore the oceans—sampling the diversity of life and undersea topography at each of our 13 marine sanctuaries—we hope that these methods allow them to link the world beneath the surface of the sea to their view of the blue planet.

Adapt the activities as necessary to best meet the needs of your students and the specific location in which you live. Some of the activities, such as conducting a vertical transect and studying features of a particular sanctuary, can be adapted to your area by replacing the data provided with that from your local sanctuary.