

U.S. SECRETARY OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES MAJOR UNDERWATER EXPLORATION PROGRAM USING CANADIAN SUBMERSIBLES

April 22, 1999 - Earth Day, San Francisco

William M. Daley, U.S. Secretary of Commerce announced the launch of a four year program to explore the ocean and how best to protect it. A joint effort of National Geographic Society, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. National Marine Sanctuary Agency, the project is called the "Sustainable Seas Expeditions" and it is thought that it may serve as a template for similar marine environment awareness programs, worldwide.

Daley spoke from a grandstand set up on Pier 32 in San Francisco harbor, with the Golden Gate Bridge as a back drop and a brass band in the foreground. Secretary Daley said "Marine Sanctuaries are global treasures - each is a proud reflection of our commitment to the economic and environmental health of our planet, and an indispensable legacy for future generations."

Famous oceanographer, Doctor Sylvia Earle said "Today we combine the ideals of exploration and conservation for a voyage into the ocean - America's last frontier."

The Sustainable Seas Expeditions are built around a pair of miniature submarines - micro-submersibles - called "DeepWorkers" that were developed by the B.C. firm of Nuytco Research Ltd.

Dr. Earle introduced Dr. Phil Nuytten, President of Nuytco and applauded the Canadian submersible technology that made the Sustainable Seas Expeditions possible.

Behind the speaker, the NOAA research vessel "McArthur" sat dockside with one DeepWorker on deck. The second Canadian submersible was positioned next to the podium area with one of its manipulators raised to greet the crowd.