

# FINDING TITANIC: THE SECRET MISSION

PROSPECTUS



**NAUTILUSLIVE.ORG**  
OCEAN EXPLORATION TRUST



**FLYING FISH**



An underwater scene showing a shipwreck, likely the Titanic, illuminated by a bright light source, possibly a diver's flashlight. The scene is dark, with the ship's hull and structural details visible in the blue-green water. A curved orange line, possibly a cable or part of a submersible, arcs across the lower right portion of the image.

# FINDING TITANIC

## THE SECRET MISSION

### THE BIG IDEA

The secret mission to document two Cold War submarines under the cover story of searching for the Titanic helped Ballard locate the Titanic and highlights the intersection of espionage, technology, and exploration.

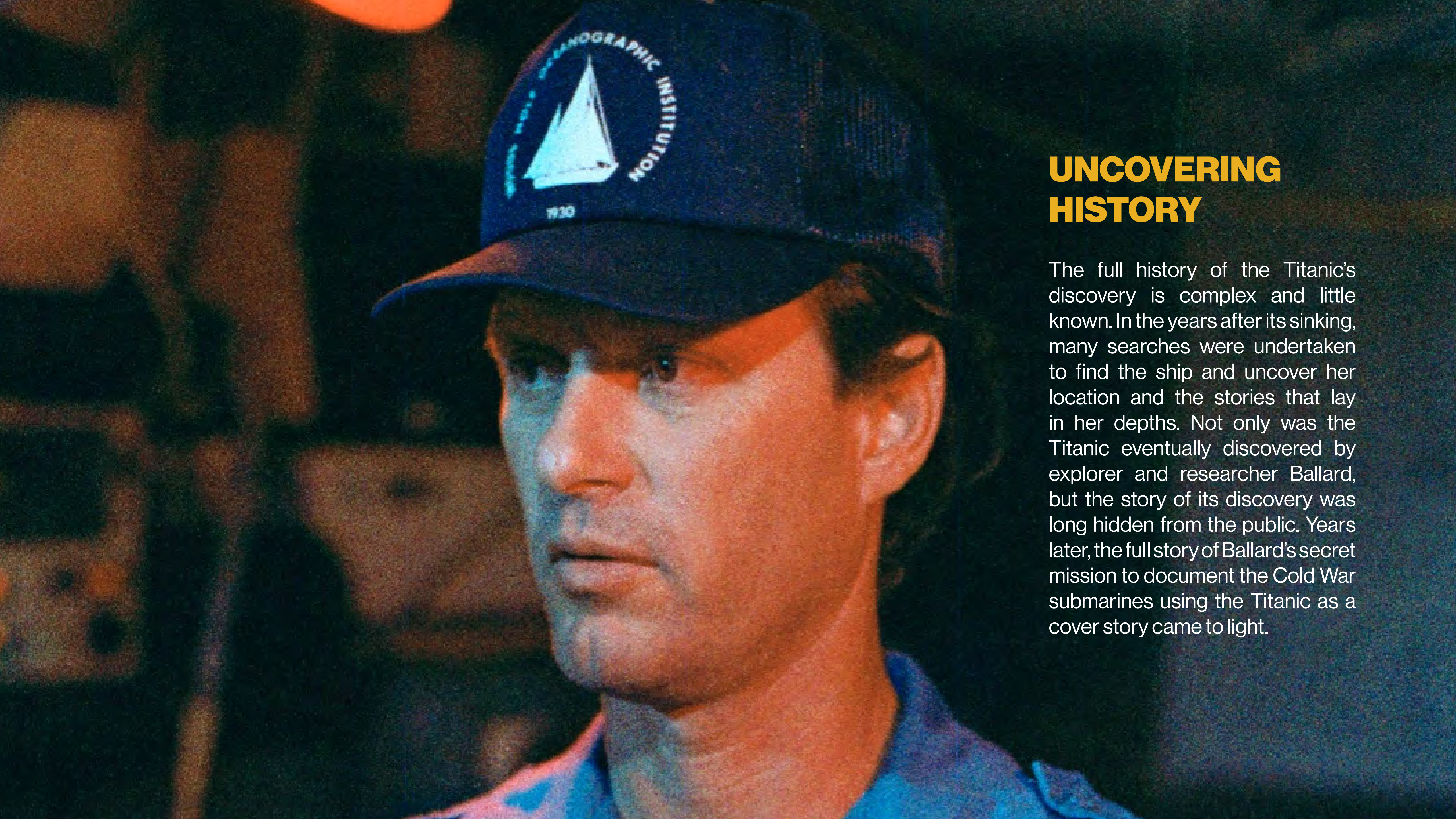
Through his development of cutting-edge technology, knowledge of the ocean, and unique way of thinking, Ballard solved mysteries of the deep and set a precedent for future discoveries.



# KEY THEMES







## UNCOVERING HISTORY

The full history of the Titanic's discovery is complex and little known. In the years after its sinking, many searches were undertaken to find the ship and uncover her location and the stories that lay in her depths. Not only was the Titanic eventually discovered by explorer and researcher Ballard, but the story of its discovery was long hidden from the public. Years later, the full story of Ballard's secret mission to document the Cold War submarines using the Titanic as a cover story came to light.

A blue ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) with a long yellow cable, positioned next to a large, rectangular, metallic object on a dark, textured surface. The ROV has a white propeller and a camera lens. The metallic object appears to be a large, rectangular, metallic box or container, possibly a piece of equipment or a component of the ROV. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a floor.

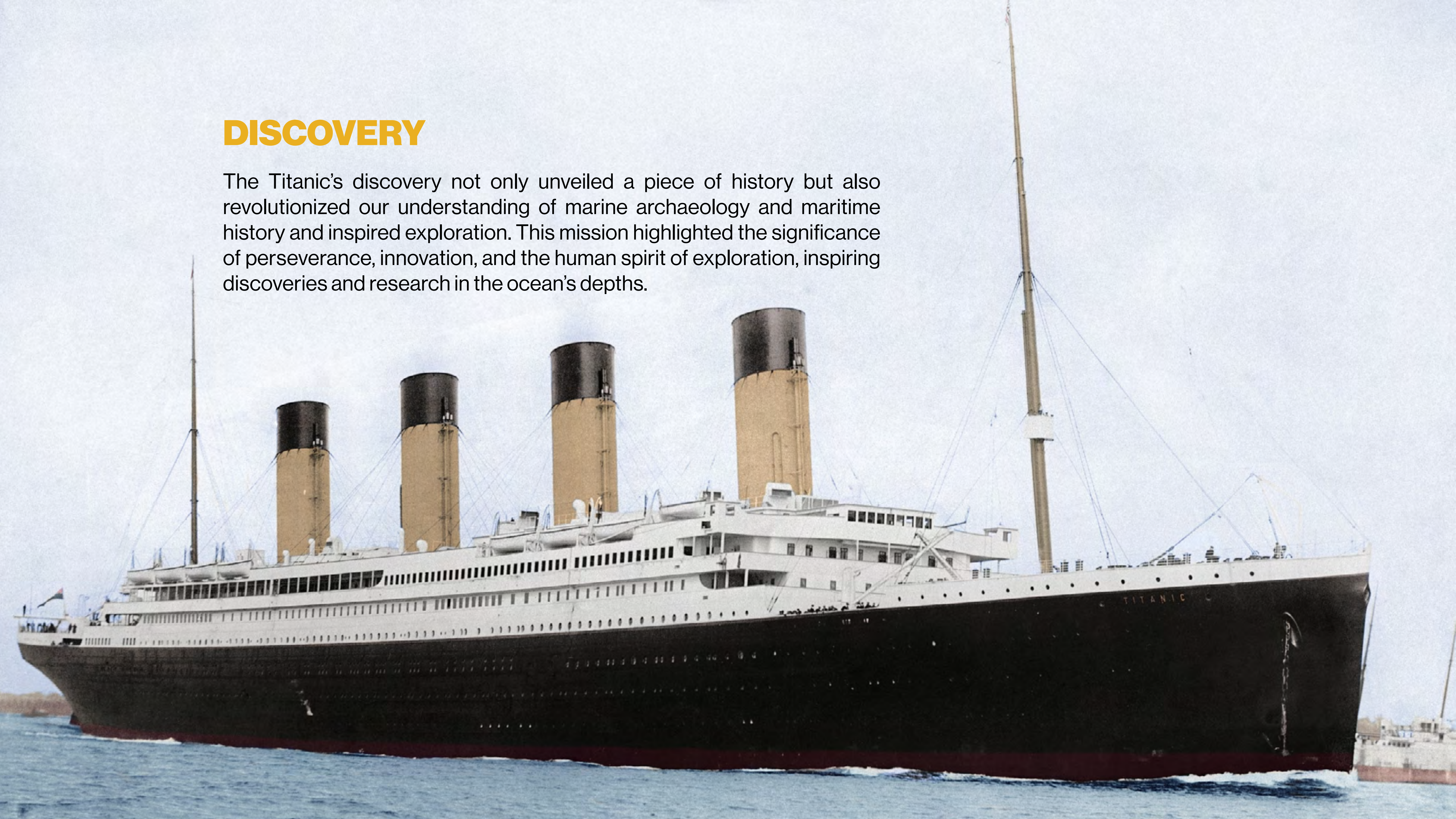
## OCEANOGRAPHY

The mission to document the USS Scorpion and USS Thresher, which led to the discovery of the Titanic, was achieved because of Bob Ballard's background in Oceanography. The exhibition showcases how Ballard's understanding of deep-sea environments and marine geology, acquired through decades of research, informed the strategic planning and execution of the mission.



## DISCOVERY

The Titanic's discovery not only unveiled a piece of history but also revolutionized our understanding of marine archaeology and maritime history and inspired exploration. This mission highlighted the significance of perseverance, innovation, and the human spirit of exploration, inspiring discoveries and research in the ocean's depths.





A portrait of James Cameron, smiling and looking slightly to the left. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a dark t-shirt. The background is a museum exhibit featuring a large banner that reads "TITANIC WAS BUILT". The exhibit is housed in a grand building with high ceilings and large windows.

## OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

The story of the secret mission highlights how Ballard and his team overcame numerous obstacles during their exploration, discovering the Titanic, which is an even more impressive achievement. These challenges ranged from extreme time constraints to ocean conditions and limited technology. Moreover, Ballard attributes his dyslexia, a previous challenge in his early education, to his unique ability to visualize information differently, which ultimately led to the mission's success.



## TECHNOLOGY

During the mission, many technological advancements that Ballard helped develop were used and proved invaluable in deep-sea exploration. Equipped with innovative tools like sonar mapping and remotely operated vehicles, Ballard utilized cutting-edge technology to navigate and catalog the ocean's depths. The discovery of Titanic's wreckage showcased the connection between technology and exploration.



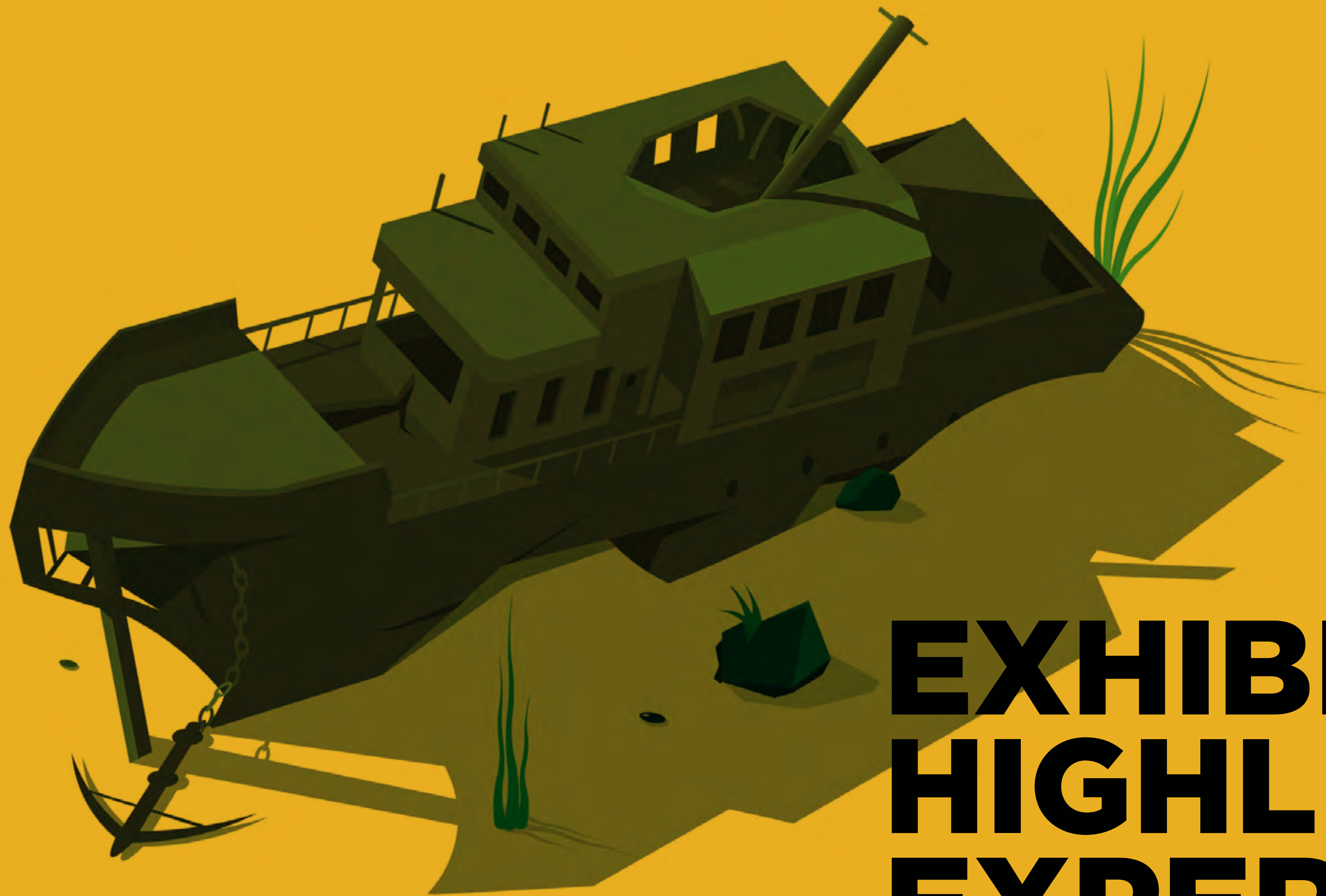




## INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Ballard's goal for the mission was not only about discovery but also about inspiring future generations. His continued dedication to sharing his discoveries through educational programs and documentaries aims to inspire the next generation of oceanographers and explorers, fostering a legacy that encourages learning and exploration.





# **EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS & EXPERIENCES**



## INTRODUCTION: MISSION BRIEFING

Visitors are briefed on the secret mission that Ballard embarked on to document two Cold War submarines they will follow throughout the exhibition. This section serves as an orientation to the historical background information that visitors will need to understand the events of the secret mission. They will first be introduced to a few critical moments of the Cold War history, focusing on Nuclear Submarines to provide context for the mission.

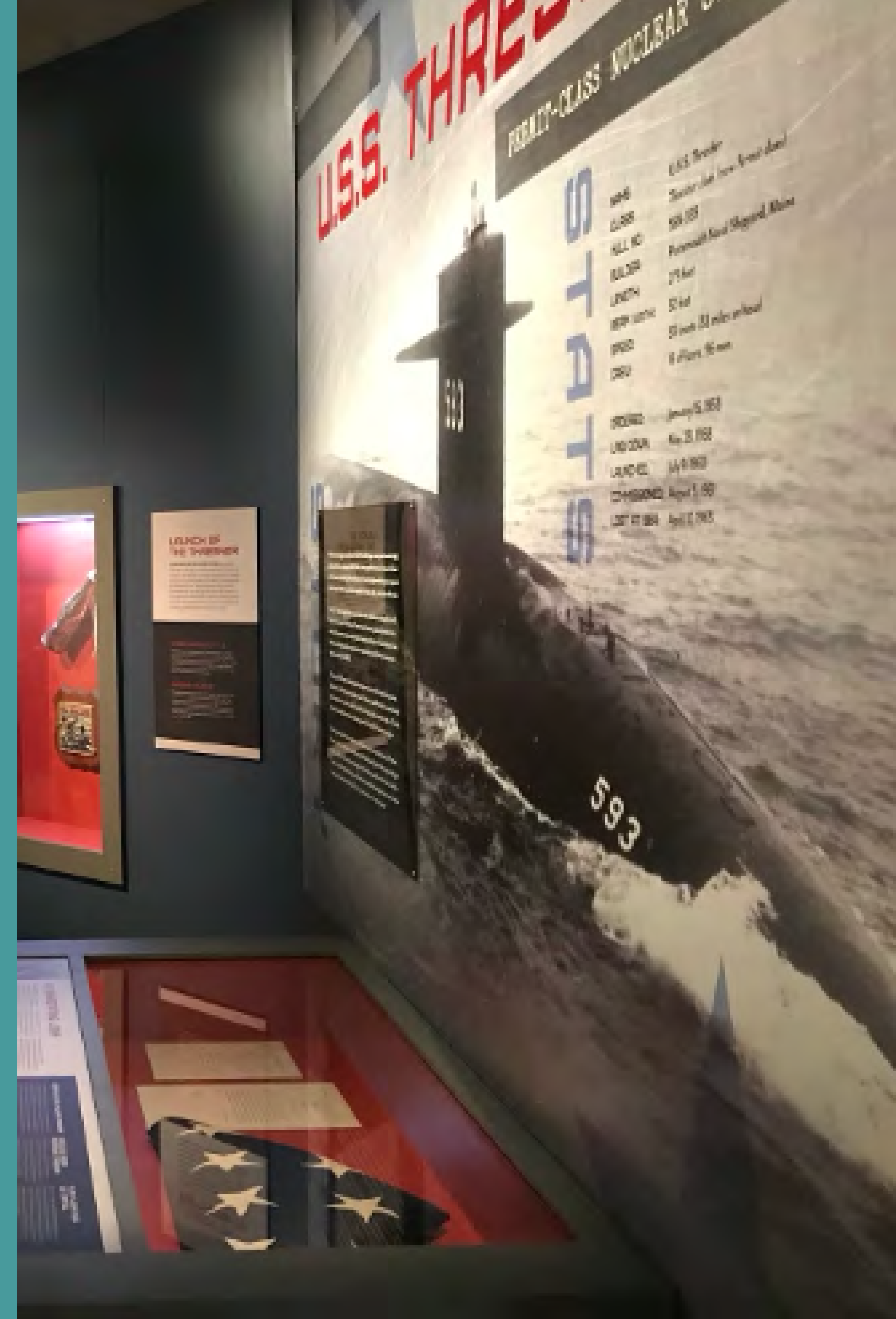
Visitors will be introduced to Dr. Ballard as the mission leader and learn about his background to understand why he was involved in the mission. Next, they will also learn about the cover story of searching for the Titanic wreckage used to cover Ballard's tracks. At the same time, he traveled the Atlantic Ocean and documented the submarine wreck sites. From its construction and ill-fated maiden voyage, a basic history of the Titanic will help visitors understand what we know about the missing ship.





## DOCUMENTING THE SUBMARINES

Next, visitors will experience the tension Ballard faced to quickly and covertly document the USS Scorpion and USS Thresher submarines. Ballard faced a short time to complete the document while a separate French team searched for the Titanic. Ballard's methods and technologies used to conduct the documentation and their relevance to the Titanic search will also be explored. Now, declassified information on the submarine documentation will give visitors a unique look into Ballard's work.

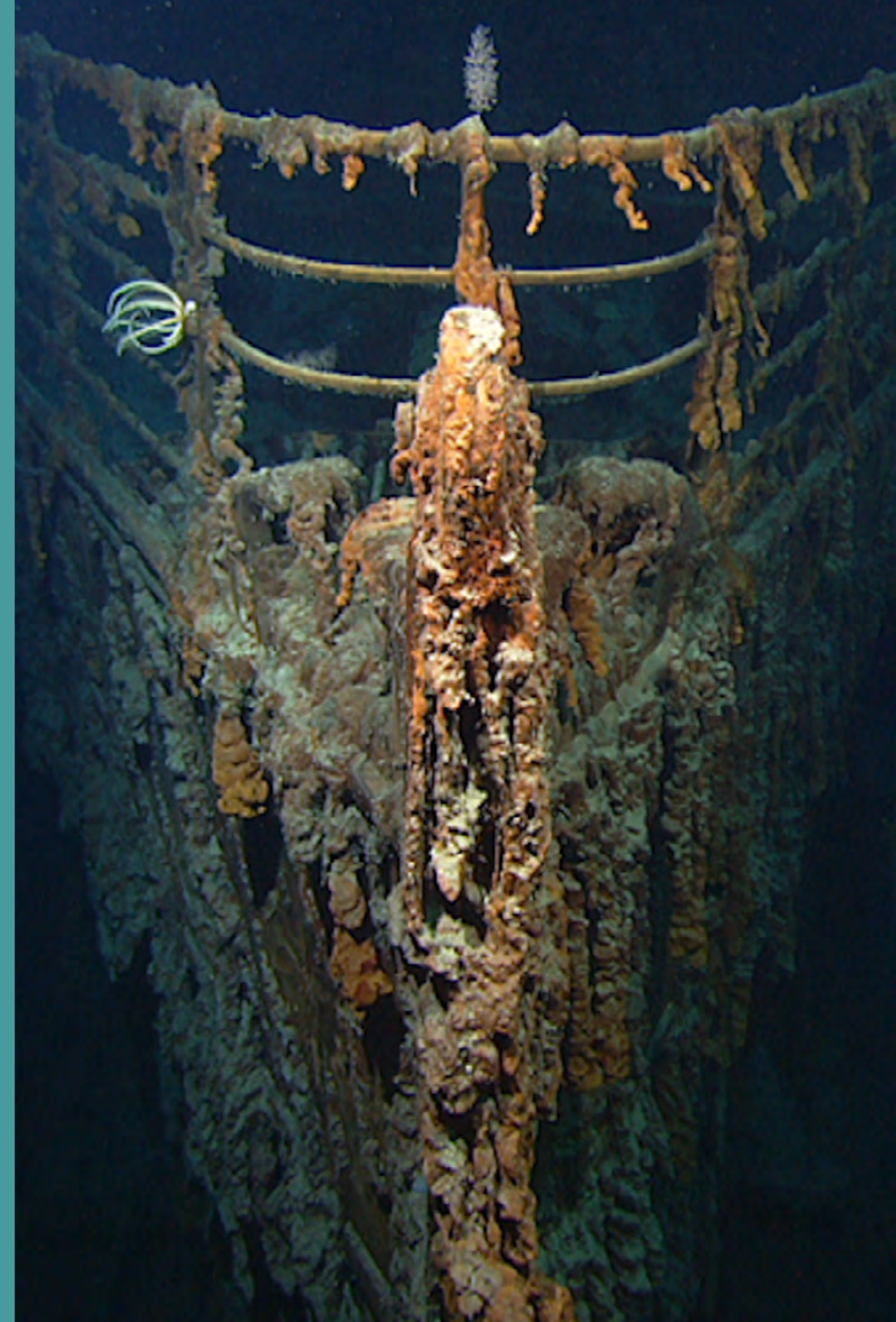




## FINDING *TITANIC*

The mission continues, with the final few days allotted for locating the Titanic ticking by. Visitors will see how Ballard used his understanding of the ocean and lessons learned from the USS Scorpion documentation to search for the Titanic's debris field. The exciting moment of discovery and Ballard's personal experience will help visitors understand the historic moment.

Wrapping up the mission, visitors will learn how the secret events were covered through Ballard's press tour. In the highlight of the exhibition, visitors will be immersed in footage from Ballard's return expedition to the Titanic, where he explored the wreckage from the manned submersible Alvin and the ship's interior with JJ.





## CONCLUSION: THE FUTURE OF EXPLORATION

Following the Secret Mission and Titanic's discovery, Ballard continued his passion for discovering other lost wreck sites worldwide. Visitors will learn about other expeditions of the Ocean Exploration Trust and E/V Nautilus and Ballard's hope for inspiring the next generation of explorers.







## ABOUT FLYING FISH

At Flying Fish, we believe exhibitions can do more. For over a decade, we've partnered with top museums and science centers to create extraordinary experiences that showcase science, history, culture, and more. We make exceptional, authentic content accessible to communities everywhere while generating sustainable revenue for our clients. By empowering institutions to share their stories globally, we amplify their missions and expand their influence.

For Museums. By Museums.

## ABOUT NAUTILUS LIVE

Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) and the Nautilus Exploration Program aim to explore the ocean, seeking out new discoveries in the fields of geology, biology, maritime history, archaeology, and chemistry while pushing the boundaries of education, outreach, and technological innovation. Our expeditions center on scientific exploration of the seafloor, collaborating with the broader research community to identify priority regions and phenomena, and sharing our expeditions with explorers around the world via live telepresence. .



## SPECS

### SPACE REQUIRED:

5,000 sq. ft. scalable +/- 1500 sq. ft

### PRODUCTION TIME:

Seven (7) working days for installation;  
ten (10) for deinstallation

### TARGET AUDIENCE:

Individual adults or couples who usually have higher education and above-average household income

### FREIGHT:

Three (3) 53 ft. trailers +  
one (1) climate-controlled trailer  
(estimated)

### TOUR AVAILABILITY:

Fall 2025

### LANGUAGES:

American English & Latin American  
Spanish

## CONTACT

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