Hello Virtual Team Members!

Welcome to the *Journey into Midnight: Light and Life Below the Twilight Zone* research cruise.

Our mission for this expedition is to explore where there is no light. We're heading to explore the “midnight zone” in the Gulf of Mexico! Where is the midnight zone? It’s deep, deep, deep in the ocean.

The midnight zone is a nickname for the part of the ocean that is below 1,000 meters (3,280 feet).

The midnight zone is dark, dark, dark. Not even the smallest glimmer of sunlight can travel to this depth. It is darker than night on land.

If all goes well, we should be able to make one of the first detailed explorations of the animals in the midnight zone.

The only light in the midnight zone is made by animals that glow. We hope to see some of them while we explore.

I was wondering, *How far do you live from the Gulf of Mexico?* Find the Gulf of Mexico on a map, globe, or on-line to figure it out.

We look forward to sharing the discoveries with you.

*Sonke*

Dr. Sonke Johnsen  
Deep-Sea Explorer  
*Journey into Midnight*  
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