

# Creep into the DEEPEND

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SEAMAIL™

FROM: DEEPEND Science Team  
TO: DEEPEND Virtual Team Leaders  
SUBJECT: Hello Virtual Science Team Members!

First, let me welcome you to the DEEPEND Research Team! The rest of your DEEPEND Science Team currently includes 64 scientists, outreach specialists, college students, and dozens of other partners. I can speak for all of them when I thank you for joining us!

We're exploring the Gulf of Mexico. Our exploration will go far deeper than where scientists usually study. Much of our sampling takes place almost a mile down. That's deep when it comes to the ocean. There, we will find rare and exotic organisms, such as this fine-looking anglerfish (photo attached).

DEEPEND is a three-year project (2015-2017) with a mission to characterize the oceanic Gulf of Mexico in terms of the diversity, abundance, and distribution of its inhabitants.

Another goal of DEEPEND is to increase awareness of the deep sea, its inhabitants, and the potential threats to this amazing environment. Our primary focus is on fishes, shrimps, squids, and jellyfish. I've attached a couple photos of some amazing deep-sea animals. We will also look at microbes, ocean circulation, and possible contaminants (pollutants) left over from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. During the cruise, members of the DEEPEND Science Team will send you Seamail updates and photos sharing their research.

To learn more about our researchers, find cool photos, and videos check out [WhaleTimes](#) website or the [DEEPEND Consortium](#) webpage.

Once again, we are so excited to have you join us!

My best,

*Tracey*

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Creep into the DEEPEND Mission



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