



AbyssBox, Life under pressure

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Keeping live animals from deep marine environments in captivity has long been an unexplored field of aquariology. Difficulties with capturing and transporting these animals, as well as the challenge of maintaining them in tanks that recreate the pressure of their original habitats, have been the most significant obstacles to maintaining and displaying these animals in public aquariums.

In 2008 Océanopolis initiated an exclusive partnership with IFREMER and the Pierre and Marie Curie University, aiming to display to the general public live animals collected on hydrothermal vents between 1 800 and 2 000 meters in depth. One of the most thrilling challenges was developing and operating 200 bar pressurised tanks to maintain these animals in the long term.

In April 2012 we opened a permanent exhibit at Océanopolis called 'Life under pressure'. The opening was the world premiere of the pressurized display tank we developed called the 'AbyssBox'. For the very first time, these two pressurized tanks have allowed us to display live animals from deep sea habitats at the pressures they experience in their natural habitats.