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Fact Sheet Ocean Today Kiosks

Ocean scientists are continually making new discoveries about the ocean. To keep up with this pace, there are some areas of the Smithsonian's new Sant Ocean Hall that will be updated as discoveries are made. None will be more frequently updated than the two Ocean Today Kiosks.

Each kiosk, both located just inside the hall's entrance from the rotunda, will have a 32-inch plasma touch-screen and a 42-inch monitor mounted above the kiosk that allows other visitors in the hall to see what is going on at the interactive monitor.

Visitors can use the touch screen monitors to learn about the latest ocean news highlighted by a variety of ocean imagery and video clips. The four main categories the kiosks will feature are:



- Ocean Science and Technology: video reports on current ocean-related events, such as weather patterns, conservation updates, and technological advances.
- Ocean News: computer-generated maps show current sea surface temperatures, wave heights, wind speed and direction, tide levels and chlorophyll concentrations.
- Recent Discoveries: in-depth multimedia stories, produced with high-definition video, covering topics from underwater volcanoes to Phoenix the whale's location.
- Ocean Life: spectacular imagery of life beneath the ocean's surface, such as a seals diving to depths never thought possible or hundreds of eels emerging from rock crevices to feed.

News reports will also continually scroll across the tops of the kiosks. All content for the kiosks will be gathered through a partnership between the Smithsonian and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Each evening, the kiosks will be automatically updated from NOAA.

Although the content is being developed for the Sant Ocean Hall, it will also be available on the hall's Web site and to other museums and aquariums across the country that would like to install a kiosk at their own site.

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