EYES ON THE OCEAN

Images from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

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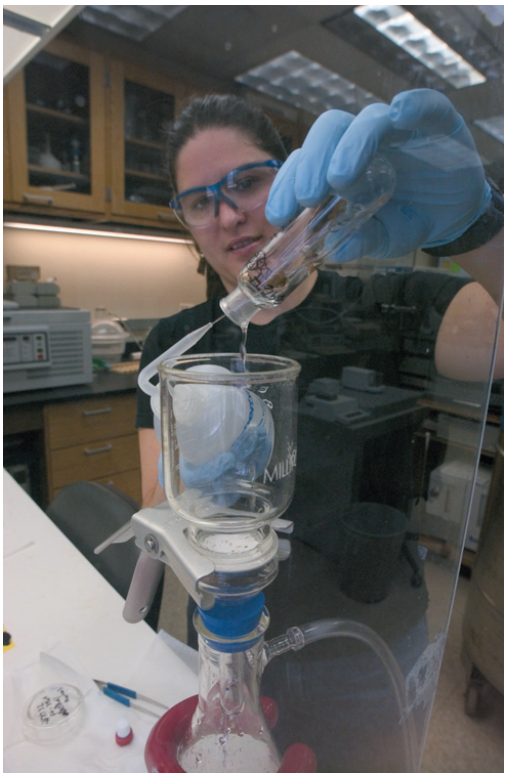

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Photo by Ivan Dominguez, University of La Laguna

ABOVE: Two Blainville's beaked whales swim near the coast of El Hierro in the Canary Islands. Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) researchers have developed a miniature computer, called the D-Tag, that records the sounds and movement of a whale while temporarily attached with suction cups. Seven Cuvier's beaked whales and three Blainville's beaked whales were tagged in 2003 and 2004, the first time either species had been successfully tagged. Beaked whale strandings have increased in recent years.

LEFT: Researcher Mary Lardie filters a sample in preparation for dating a wood sample from Blackbeard's pirate ship, *Queen Anne's Revenge*. The National Ocean Sciences Accelerator Mass Spectrometry Facility at WHOI is a high-precision carbon dating lab that has analyzed samples for researchers around the country.

C.A. Linder ©Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

ABOVE: A CTD (to measure conductivity/temperature and density of seawater) is deployed from Research Vessel *Oceanus* during a recent cruise off Cape Hatteras, where currents collide. The Gulf Stream separates from the continental slope to the deep ocean while southward flowing continental shelf water from the Middle Atlantic Bight converges with northward flowing continental shelf water from the South Atlantic Bight. During winter, a strong surface thermal front forms which may attract marine mammals like the bottle-nosed dolphin.

LEFT: A penguin protects an egg in Antarctica, where WHOI researchers are about to install the first cabled ocean observatory off the West Antarctic Peninsula. WHOI scientists are conducting a number of projects on and near the continent in all seasons.