

Sylvia Earle



Sylvia with the oldest bird in the world, Wisdom the albatross, who hatched in 1951 (Wisdom turned 70 in 2021!)

Image credit: Susan Middleton via Wikimedia

Sylvia Earle is a marine biologist, explorer and ocean conservationist.

She loves to explore the ocean and has led over 100 marine expeditions and logged over 6,500 hours underwater.

She broke lots of barriers for women in science and therefore achieved a lot of amazing firsts:

- She led the first all-female team of aquanauts as part of the Tektite missions. Spending 2 weeks living in an underwater laboratory, carrying out ecological surveys of coral reefs.
- She was the first person to walk untethered on the seafloor deeper than 1250ft – a record depth that still stands today!
- She was the first woman to become lead scientist of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- She was named Time magazine's first ever Hero for the Planet.



Sylvia shows samples to an aquanaut inside an underwater laboratory in 1970

She is a National Geographic explorer in residence, was a science consultant to protect wildlife after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, has written many books, appeared in countless documentaries and has spoken at the United Nations.

She holds many awards and also honorary doctorates from many universities including the University of Edinburgh.

She is a strong advocate for protecting the ocean and its wildlife and knows that in order to do this people need to be made aware of what is happening and care about what is happening. This drove her to create her own foundation, Mission Blue, which aims to “ignite public support for a global network of marine protected areas.” The foundation creates ‘Hope Spots’ which are areas that are in good shape but under threat. Action is then taken to protect them which leads to recovery and therefore also hope.



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SYLVIA EARLE ALLIANCE

Earle says, “Nothing else will matter if we fail to protect the ocean. Our fate and the ocean’s are one.”

To find out more about Sylvia Earle and her work you can watch a documentary about her [here](#)

You can find out more about her foundation, Mission Blue, [here](#)

