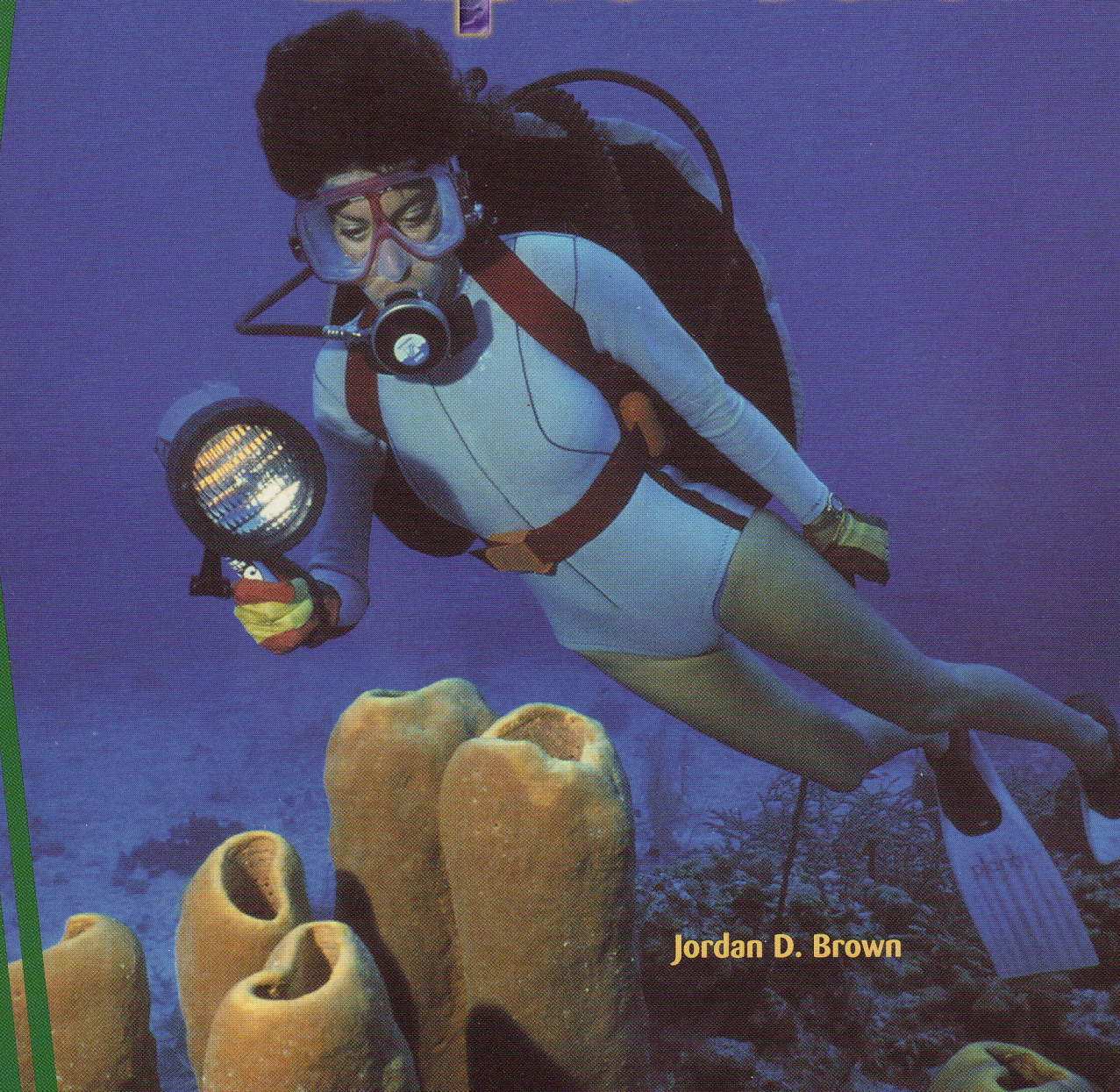


Ocean Exploration



Jordan D. Brown

Sylvia Earle's Passion for Diving

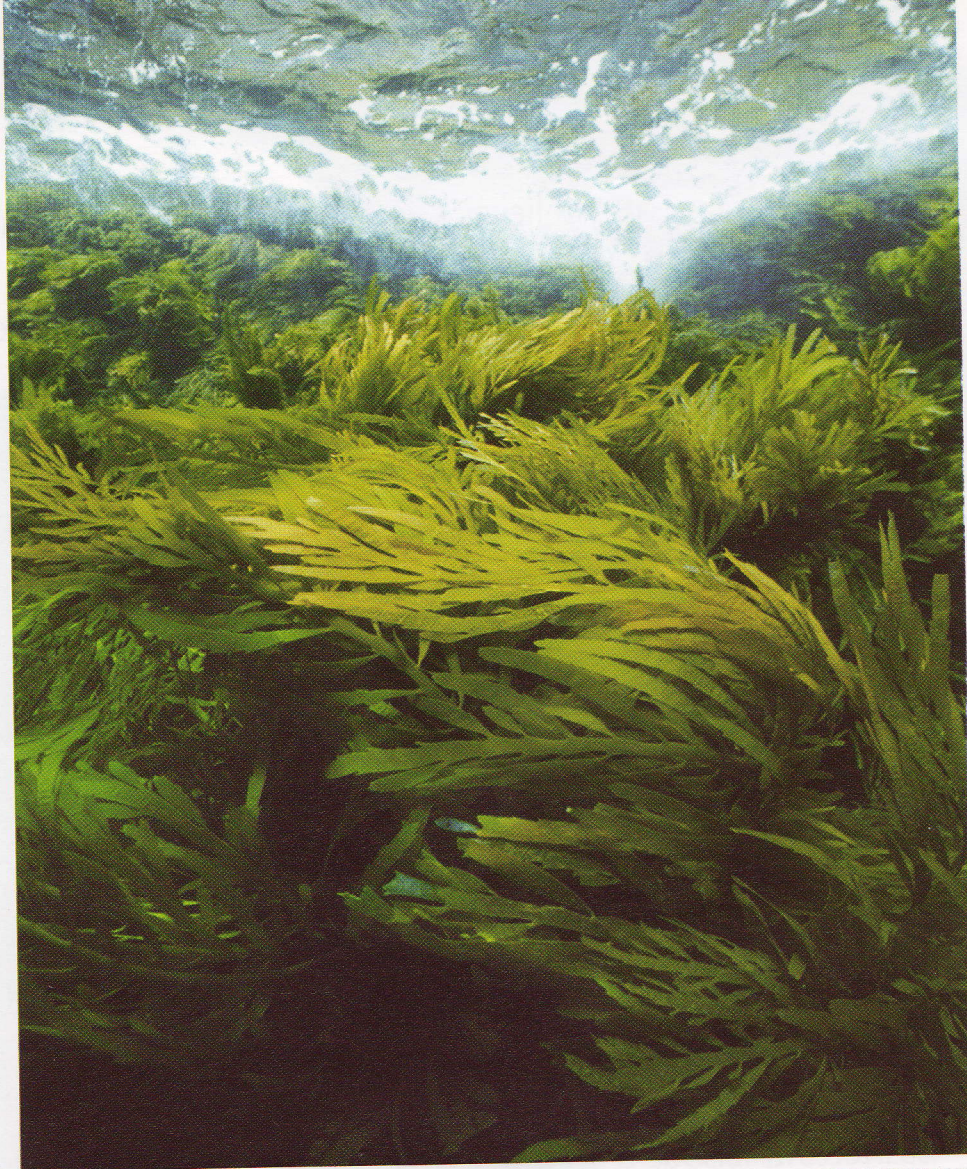
Like Jacques Cousteau and Robert Ballard, Sylvia Earle's fascination with the sea began when she was a child. While strolling the beaches in New Jersey, she loved watching horseshoe crabs and wondered how they moved along the sand.

When Earle was 13, her family moved to Florida, near the Gulf of Mexico. Living so close to the ocean sparked her interest in deep-

sea diving. Earle went scuba diving for the first time when she was 17 years old. She described the experience as "life-changing." Earle's love of diving and her desire to explore the underwater world took her to some amazing places.



Earle is one of the first scientists to use the *Deep Worker*, a one-person submersible that can travel 600 meters below the surface.



Marine plants are a source of food and shelter for ocean animals.

While in college, Earle developed a special interest in ocean plants. She began an in-depth study of every species of marine plant found in the Gulf of Mexico—more than 20,000 samples in all. Earle decided to focus on botany, because she believes that understanding the plant life is the key to understanding a habitat.