



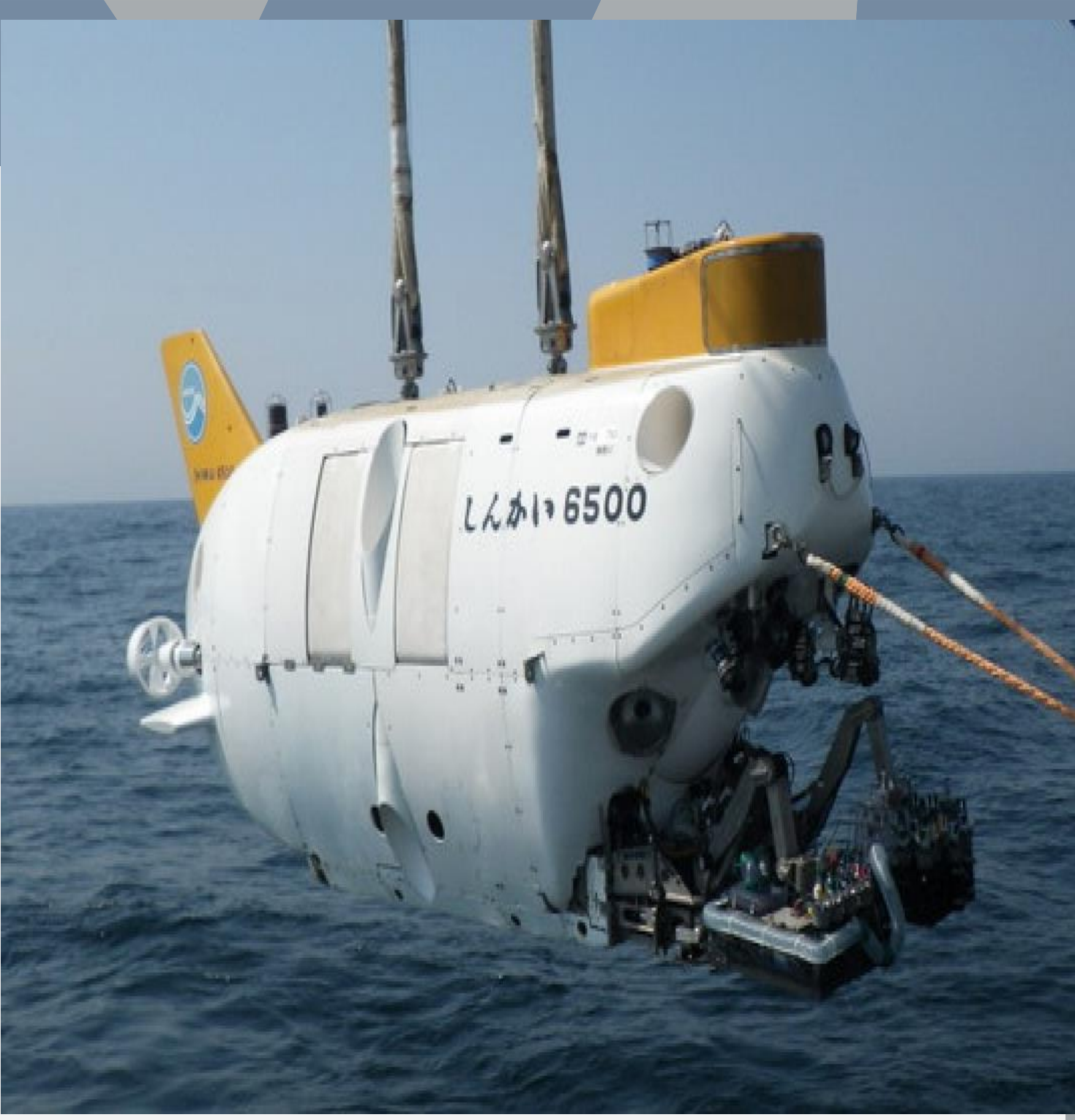
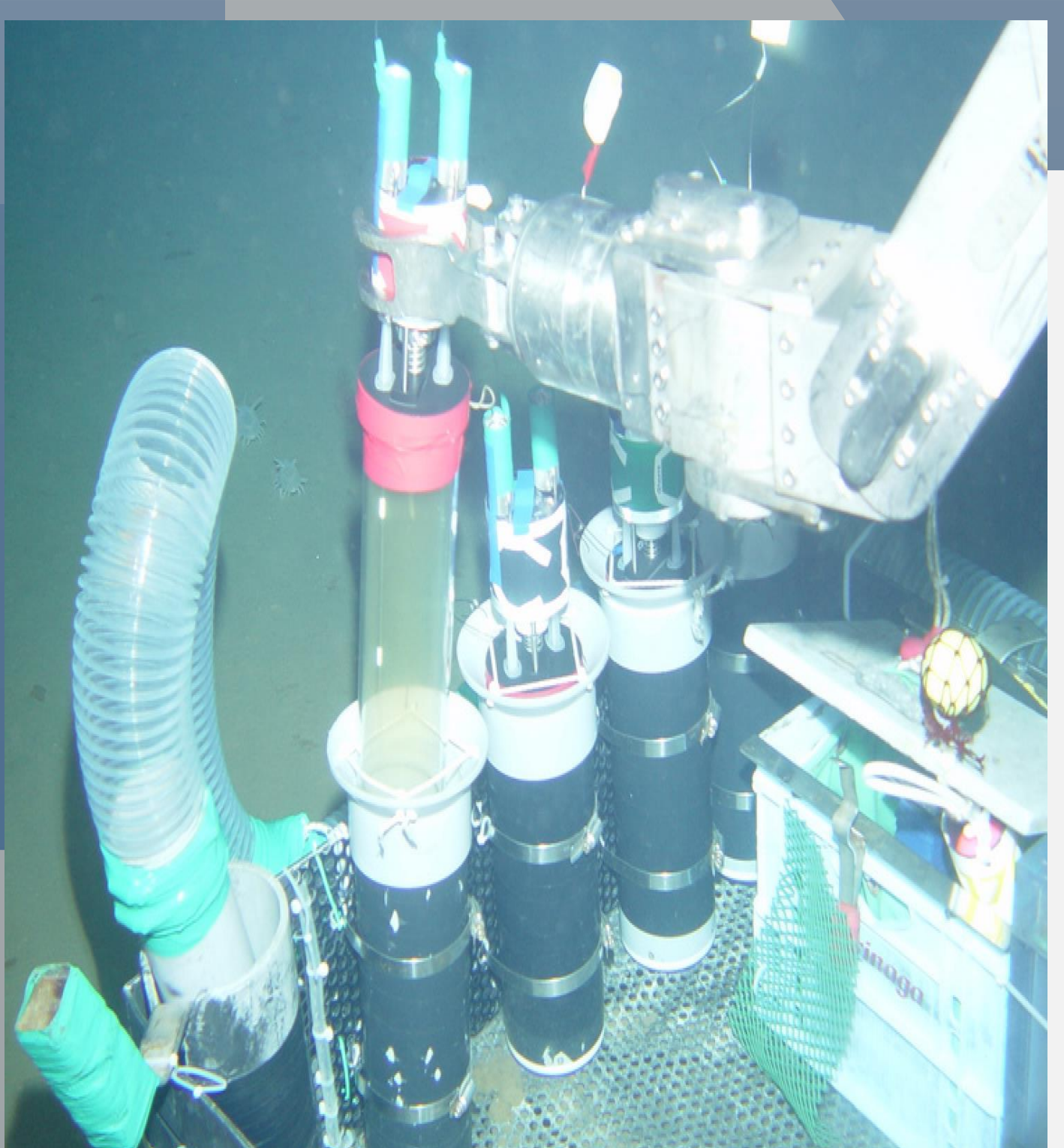
Seafloor ecology and biogeochemistry: patterns and processes from tropical coastlines to the deep ocean

Contacts: Andrew K. Sweetman (A.Sweetman@hw.ac.uk), Heidi L. Burdett, Kathy M. Dunlop, Thomas Wagner, Teresa F. Fernandes

Seafloor environments are vitally important to the health of the oceans:

- They transform and store carbon and nutrients from land and the ocean
- They are biodiversity hotspots
- They are under threat from a variety of anthropogenic stressors (e.g., mining, oil and gas activities and decommissioning, climate change)

Our work focuses on how these unique environments function and may be impacted by anthropogenic stressors.



We undertake experiments to assess seafloor processes and quantify how stress alters ecosystem states.

Our results provide a unique insight into seafloor processes facilitating appropriate management strategies to be devised to improve protection of marine seafloor environments around the world.

Our research requires sampling seafloor environments from shallow coastlines (e.g., seagrasses, mangroves, coral reefs) to the deepest ocean depths, such as hydrothermal vents and abyssal plains.