

Densest Krill Population found with Pro 4 ROV



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- Ian Tomcho, expedition equipment specialist for Lindblad Expeditions

ABOUT THE CUSTOMER



Lindblad Expeditions is an expedition travel company that works in partnership with National Geographic on its ship-based voyages to inspire people to explore and care about the planet. The organizations work in tandem to produce innovative marine expedition programs and to promote conservation and sustainable tourism around the world. The partnership's educationally oriented voyages allow guests to interact with and learn from leading scientists, naturalists and researchers while discovering stunning natural environments, above and below the sea, through state-of-the-art exploration tools. As pioneers of global exploration, their collaboration in research, technology and conservation provides extraordinary travel experiences and disseminates geographic knowledge globally.

SUMMARY

With the help of their VideoRay Pro 4 IP65 ROV, Lindblad Expeditions found the densest population of krill they had ever witnessed at depth. This discovery will help the scientific community to better understand krill behavior and daily migrations. VideoRay is proud to have their ROVs included in Lindblad's roster of Tools for Exploration. We are looking forward to future expeditions and many more discoveries.

CHALLENGE

One of Lindblad's many unique experiences involve creative ways to bring their guests to nature or in this case nature to their guests. Their previous underwater ROV's were too large and heavy to deploy and therefore were never used. Lindblad needed a solution that would allow their Underwater Specialists the ability to easily deploy a vehicle that would bring the world below to their guests topside.

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SOLUTION

VideoRay suggested the use of a VideoRay Pro 4 IP65 BASE. The IP65 rating of the system allows for it to handle extreme weather and any water that might get on the topside control box. The total system weighs 38.5 kgs (85 lbs), making it easy to transport to the ship for expeditions. The submersible itself weighs only 6.1 kgs (13.5 lbs), making deployment efficient and smooth for the customer.

RESULTS

Onboard the *National Geographic Orion*, Paul North and Caitlyn Webster, both Undersea Specialists with Lindblad Expeditions and VideoRay Certified Operators, flew the ROV for three different dives during the expedition. On the Pro 4's second dive, to 540 feet, the group experienced a dense population of krill, the densest ever seen by these Undersea Specialists. Ian Tomcho, expedition equipment specialist for Lindblad Expeditions, commented "We could not see farther than 2 inches in front of the camera. We did not know how close we were to the ocean floor, even while hovering a few feet above it, because of all the krill." Every evening after a dive, Paul would discuss the footage captured with the guests on the expedition.

The crew used the new VideoRay Pro 4 IP-65 Base System. The control panel was engineered to IP-65 standards, perfect for Lindblad's extreme environment expeditions. Ian explained that Lindblad offers "up close and personal encounters with beauty, wildness and the seldom-seen."

