

PORTAL USE EXAMPLE: EXPLORING HUDSON CANYON IN THE CLASSROOM

Project Details

The Wildlife Conservation Society's Professional Development Unit offers a wide range of courses for K-12 teachers at the New York Aquarium. In the spring of 2017, the organization hosted a six-day course titled "Exploring Local Waters: Hudson Canyon," which examined the highly biodiverse habitat located 100 miles southeast of New York City.

The Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal served as a centerpiece for lessons about the canyon's critical importance as a natural and economic resource. Using the data layers in the Portal, the created maps depicting marine life, fishing, industrial activities and natural features around what is one of the largest submarine canyons in the world.

Participants used the Portal's Groups function to share bookmarked maps and drawings with one another. The end goal was to promote conservation stewardship and have the course participants become aware of the varying perspectives of real-life stakeholders that use the canyon region. While the course was primarily intended for high school science and social studies teachers, many elementary school teachers participated as well.

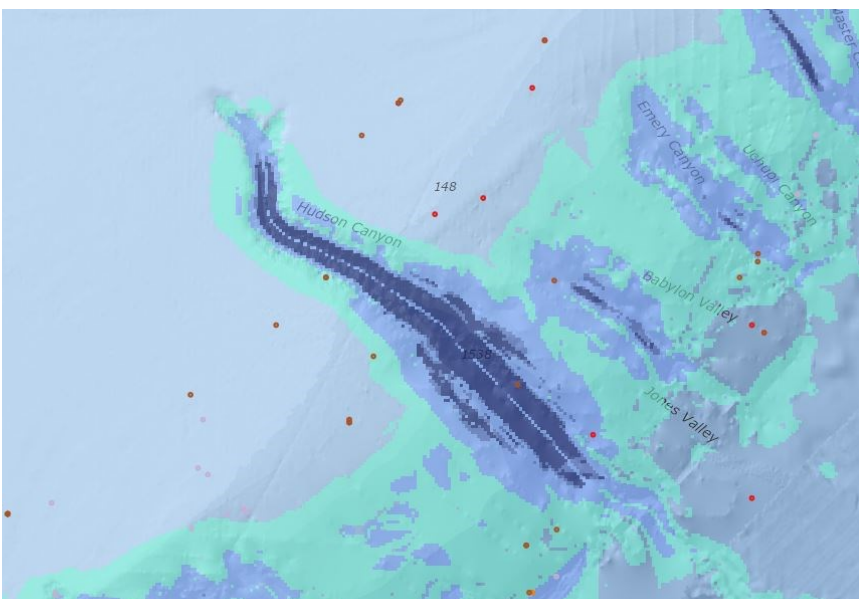
From these sessions, teachers also learned how to develop intellectually engaging and challenging lessons with the Portal that could be incorporated into their own classrooms. Overall, approximately 500 students were reached via the 20 teachers who participated in this professional development session.

USERS

Wildlife Conservation
Society Professional
Development and K-12
School Teachers

LOCATION

New York Aquarium,
Coney Island



Map: Habitat for corals in the Hudson Canyon vicinity.