

## MANNED SUBMERSIBLES



**APPLICATION:** Research submersibles are used to provide scientists with in-situ access and manipulation capabilities to ocean depths beyond the limitations of wet diving. These small (10- 25' LOA), one atmosphere submersibles rely on a surface vessel for deployment/recovery, communication/tracking during dives, transportation, and supplies. Submersibles are manned and maintained by a dedicated crew and carry one or more scientists. Submersibles used by NURC/UNCW are leased from commercial vendors, and can support research to depths of 6,000 meters.

**DESCRIPTION:** Submersible equipment and payload capability varies from submersible to submersible, however, most include: multi-function manipulator, sample storage containers, color video cameras/recorders, 35mm still camera with strobes, sonar, suction collection tube, and oceanographic data acquisition systems. NURC/UNCW maintains an array of additional collection tools that can be mounted to the outside of most submersibles. NURC/UNCW will assist scientists who wish to integrate special equipment supplied by the science party, however, advanced communications pertaining to the requirements are highly recommended.