

## Glossary of Terms

**Platforms** - Vertical structures made of steel. The topsides – the visible portion of the platform -- contain the oil and gas processing facilities and crew accommodations. The jackets are the submerged steel support structures pinned to the seabed. The jackets essential form the artificial reef.

**Artificial Reefs** - Platform structures that transform themselves into habitat for marine organisms. Invertebrates like mussels and barnacles attach themselves to the steel structures, forming additional habitat by encrusting pilings and pipes as well as covering the bottom. This habitat in turn supports a vast array of fish.

**Natural outcrops.** – Natural formations of banks and ridges containing coral, kelp, sand and rock found in both shallow water and deeper water outcrops ranging up to 1,180 feet deep.

**Fish Assemblages** – Varieties and species of fish observed in large quantities in shallow water (0-120 feet), midwater (103-739 feet), and bottom portions (greater than 739 feet).

**Shell Mounds** – Piles of dead shells that fall from the platforms to the seabed. Each mound is approximately 25 feet high and 200 feet in diameter.

**Delta Submersible** – The underwater research vessel used by Dr. Love and his team to survey deeper depths of rock outcrops and platforms.

**Rockfish** – A feisty fish and popular delicacy also referred to as the striped bass for which California is known. Rockfish is considered by many a premier sport and commercial species. Their lifespan can be as long as 30 years.

**Decommissioning** – The process of ending the life of an offshore oil platform once a decision is made to cease oil and gas production. Decommissioning can take a number of forms, from leaving much, or all, of the structure in place to complete removal.

**Local processes** – Changes involving oceanographic conditions and patterns, and water temperatures known to take place in a particular region.