

Video Transcript - Biocube Near the Golden Gate Bridge, California

- Speaker 1: Tell you what. I am going to do a quick tack around the tower here. Get out of here into the lagoon.
- Liittschwager: I live in San Francisco so I wanted to deal with cube close to home. And I wanted it to be different than any of the other ones that I've already done. To do a plankton sample at the surface seemed [00:00:30] interesting to me. So the idea was to go out underneath the bridge and sail into the incoming tide.
- Liittschwager: So on the boat, we would put out 330 micron plankton net. It catches creatures about a third of a millimeter and larger. And then after a short time, sometimes as little as a minute, we would pull it back in [00:01:00] and on the bottom of it is this little jar, where all the creatures end up. And then you put that in a plastic bag and then get it down below deck out of the sun and keep it cool.
- Liittschwager: Then we get back to the studio, [00:01:30] which is several different places. One was a little storage room by the dock. One was my garage. Wherever we could quickly get to the specimens. We would spread them out in to trays, so they would get some air.
- Speaker 3: Okay, there's two more little dings, I don't know if that would be better ... I think ...
- Liittschwager: And we could look at them very closely, sort through them and pick out the little jewels that we found.
- Speaker 3: [00:02:00] Nice green eyeballs. That was worth the trouble.
- Liittschwager: We started the project using a 330 micron plankton net, but then later, [00:02:30] we wanted to look at even smaller things. So we used an 80 micron plankton net. So that's something that's about a 12th of a millimeter. Really tiny. Then you enter the world of diatoms. And the number blooms to 2.6 billion creatures. Through one cubic foot spot over the course of a normal day.