

EXPLORING THE OCEAN FOR NATIONAL BENEFIT

The ocean plays a critical role in supporting life on our planet, providing us with air to breathe and food to eat and regulating weather and climate patterns. Despite the fact that we depend on a healthy ocean there is still so much we don't know about ocean waters, the seafloor, and the resources they hold. **NOAA Ocean Exploration** is dedicated to exploring the unknown ocean, unlocking its potential through scientific discovery, technological advancements, partnerships, and data delivery. By leading national efforts to fill gaps in basic understanding of the marine environment, we are providing critical ocean data, information, and awareness needed to strengthen the economy, health, and security of the United States and the world.



EXPLORE

NOAA Ocean Exploration **explores previously unknown areas** of our ocean using the latest tools and technology, making discoveries of scientific, economic, and cultural value.



EXPERIENCE

NOAA Ocean Exploration provides opportunities for people across the globe — from scientists, to the next generation of ocean explorers, to members of the public — to **experience ocean exploration**.



UNDERSTAND

NOAA Ocean Exploration makes data needed to **understand and manage** our ocean publicly available, providing a unique and centralized national resource of critical ocean information.

Meeting Our Mission to Explore the Ocean for National Benefit

With priority placed on exploration of deep waters and the waters of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, NOAA Ocean Exploration executes its mission to explore for the benefit of the nation by...



Leading and funding mapping and exploratory expeditions on NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* and other research vessels, using ship-based sonars to collect seafloor and water column data, and conducting visual surveys for fine-scale observing and sample collection in order to develop a more complete understanding of our ocean.



Pushing the boundaries of technology and operations through the continued advancement and development of shipboard and uncrewed systems and the application of emerging tools such as 'omics and cloud-based technologies for data processing, allowing more effective and efficient mapping, exploration, and understanding of the ocean environment.



Making collected data and information publicly available in increasingly innovative and accessible ways, quickly giving resource managers, the academic community, the private sector, and others information needed to identify, understand, and manage ocean resources for this and future generations.



Sharing the excitement of ocean exploration with people around the globe and inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, and leaders through live exploration video, online resources, training and educational opportunities, and public events.



Establishing public, private, and academic partnerships in order to leverage complementary expertise, produce innovations in exploration tools and capabilities, and enhance the potential for significant new advances in discovery, understanding, action, and inspiration.



Investing in and expanding the diversity of thought, background, and disciplines engaged in ocean exploration, to increase equity and representation within the ocean science community and ensure all voices are included and heard throughout all scientific and educational activities.

Through these and other activities, NOAA Ocean Exploration contributes to the protection of ocean health, understanding of climate change impacts on the ocean and our planet, sustainable management of our nation's marine resources, acceleration of our national economy, and the building of a better appreciation of the value and importance of the ocean in our everyday lives.

To manage, sustainably use, and protect our ocean, we must understand it. Exploration is the first step to unlocking our ocean's full potential.



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