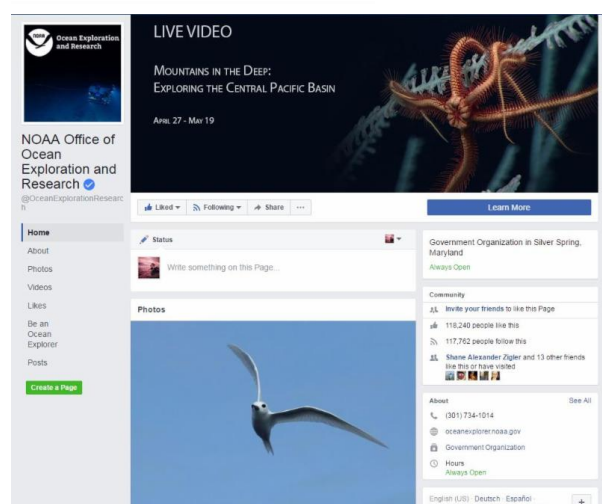




## Ocean Exploration Education Highlights July 2017

Welcome to the NOAA Ocean Explorer Education Highlights newsletter. This monthly newsletter provides you with quick access to ocean exploration-focused, standards-based tips and tools to bring the excitement and science of ocean exploration into your classroom!

### Never Miss a Highlight From the Deep Sea!



#### Follow us on Facebook!

NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research shares our most exciting images, videos, news and other highlights from our explorations of the deep ocean on our [Facebook page](#).

By following us on Facebook you will be the first to know about our latest discoveries. You'll stay in the loop about our current and upcoming expeditions and see stunning images of the wonders of the deep.

### Summer Fun!

#### [My Submarine Ocean Explorer](#)

Take a journey inside your own submarine and explore the oceans! My Submarine Ocean Explorer is a fun way to learn about ocean habitats and organisms. This [interactive exploration tool](#) uses videos, images and animations to engage young learners in deep ocean discovery.

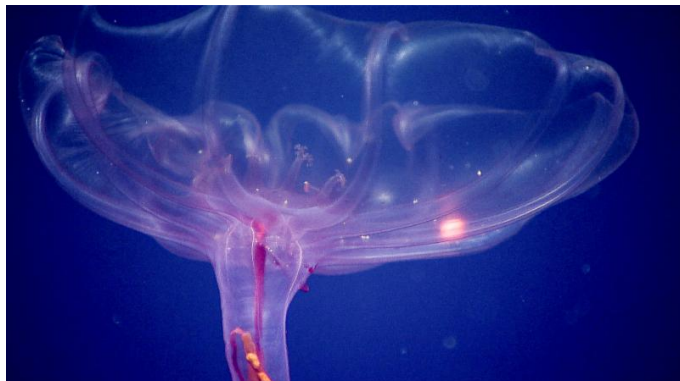


Take command of the submarine and scroll through the creatures and features on the right menu panel or pick a location from the expeditions map on the left panel. There are a total of 20 creatures and features to explore including ocean organisms, shipwrecks, vents, volcanoes and much more. The content is designed for children to explore and has material for teachers and older students suitable to download, print and use for book reports and research.

### Image of the Month

#### Beautiful Sea Cucumber

This pelagic holothurian, or sea cucumber, is unusual in appearance when compared with other sea cucumbers because it swims in the water column and resembles a jellyfish.



This sea cucumber was discovered on May 6th, 2017 during mid-water transects at about 1,400 meters (4,595 feet) depth. We have seen many of these sea cucumbers, along with other amazing creatures on the [Mountains in the Deep: Exploring the Central Pacific Basin](#) expedition.

This pelagic holothurian (sea cucumber) is unusual in appearance because of its resemblance to a jellyfish. *Image courtesy of the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, Mountains in the Deep: Exploring the Central Pacific Basin.*

View this expedition [highlight video](#) to take a stunning journey through the water column of the Pacific Ocean, and read why we explore the water column [here!](#)

### Upcoming Expeditions!

From July 13 through August 3, 2017, the NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* will conduct remotely operated vehicle (ROV) and mapping operations starting and ending in Honolulu, with the majority of time spent within waters of the Johnston Atoll.



A group of children watch the *Okeanos Explorer* live feed on February 27, 2017 during their visit to the Charleston Marine Life Center in Oregon. *Image courtesy of the Charleston Marine Life Center, Oregon.*

Watch the ROV *Deep Discoverer's* live video feeds on your computer [here](#), or download our free mobile app (for [iOS](#) or [Android](#) devices) that will allow you to bring the excitement of ocean discovery directly to your smart phone or tablet. Visit our [website](#) to see exciting discoveries we have made thus far this year. An overview of the entire 2017 field season can be found [here](#).

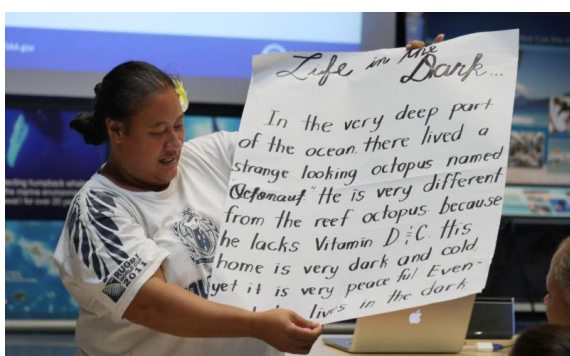


Explorers on board NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*. *Image courtesy of the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, Discovering the Deep: Exploring Remote Pacific MPAs.*

#### Meet Explorers on Board Our NOAA Ship!

One of the questions our shipboard scientists receive is: How did you get here? In this article an Expedition Coordinator, a Biologist, a Geologist, a Data Manager and a Mapping Lead describe what inspired them to become ocean explorers, and how they got to their respective careers.

Read their stories [here](#).



An educator during a NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research professional development seminar in Pago Pago, American Samoa in April 2017. *Photograph by Emily Narrow, GFOE.*

#### Education Professional Development

NOAA OER holds Professional Development workshops for educators at 15 [alliance sites](#) across the country during the spring and fall seasons.

If you want to learn about why and how we explore the deep ocean, please attend one of our free educator professional development workshops at an aquarium or science center near you this fall! Upcoming fall workshops will be listed on our [website](#) soon.

We hope that these Exploration Education Highlights will help you focus more of your classroom teaching and learning on the amazing discoveries taking place right here, right now, on our own Planet Ocean! Onward and downward!

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