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. A healthy ocean is critical to a strong America, yet there is still so much we don’t know about our own deep waters and seafloor and the resources they hold. By leading national efforts to explore our ocean and making ocean exploration more accessible, NOAA Ocean Exploration is filling gaps in the basic understanding of our vast ocean territory, providing critical deep-ocean data, information, and awareness needed to strengthen the economy, health, and security of our nation.

**EXPLORE**

NOAA Ocean Exploration explores previously unknown areas of our deep 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 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

As the only U.S. federal program dedicated to exploring the deep ocean, NOAA Ocean Exploration executes its mission to explore for the benefit of the nation by...

**Leading and funding expeditions to explore the deep ocean** 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.

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.

We can’t manage, sustainably use, restore, or protect what we don’t know or understand. Exploration is the first step to unlocking our ocean’s full potential.

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