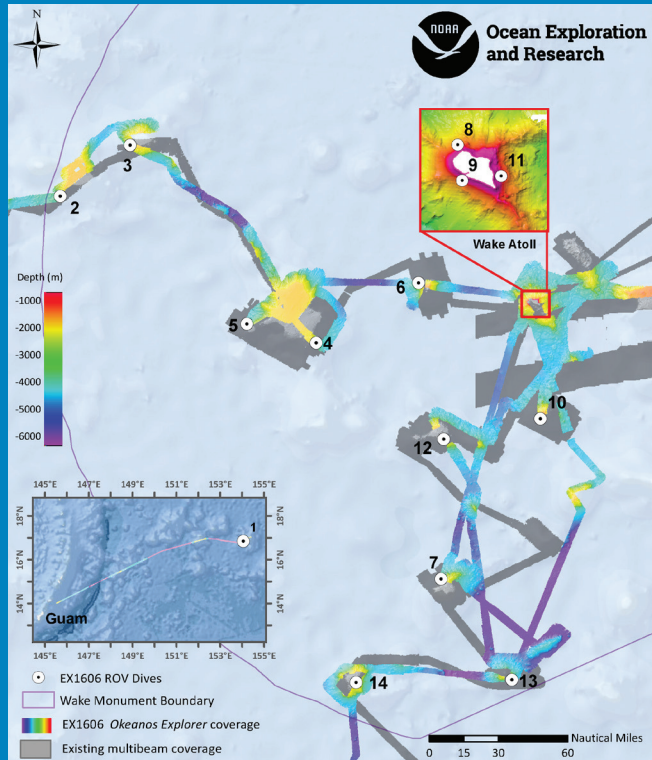


# Deepwater Wonders of Wake: Exploring the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument

NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*, July 27 – August 19, 2016

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/okeanos/explorations/ex1606/welcome.html>



This expedition is part of the three-year **Campaign to Address Pacific monument Science, Technology, and Ocean NEeds (CAPSTONE)**, an initiative to collect deepwater baseline information to support science and management decisions in and around U.S. marine protected areas in the central and western Pacific. Highlights include:



Conducted the first-ever deep submergence dives in the Wake Atoll Unit of the Monument. Prior to this expedition, only a small number of rock dredges had been conducted in the deep waters inside the Wake Atoll Unit of the Monument, and there had been no systematic exploration below SCUBA diving depths.



Discovered high-density biological communities at four dive sites. Knowledge about the conditions favorable for these communities will help researchers and managers predict other areas that are most likely to host similar communities and take steps to protect them.



Located and identified the wreck of the *Amakasu Maru No. 1*, a Japanese water tanker that was sunk by a U.S. submarine in 1942. This shipwreck target was initially located during an earlier *Okeanos Explorer* mapping expedition and was hypothesized to be the Japanese Imperial Naval Destroyer, *Hayate*, which was sunk during the World War II Battle of Wake Island.

## Expedition Operating Area: Wake Atoll Unit of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument



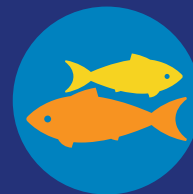
36,000 square kilometers of seafloor mapped



14 remotely operated vehicle dives at a depth range of 350 - 3,136 meters



41 biological & 20 geological samples collected



18+ undescribed species observed or collected



33 participating scientists, students, & managers