



**OCEAN**  
EXPLORATION

DeSSC New Users Meeting:  
*Opportunities for collaboration with NOAA  
Ocean Exploration in 2024-2026*

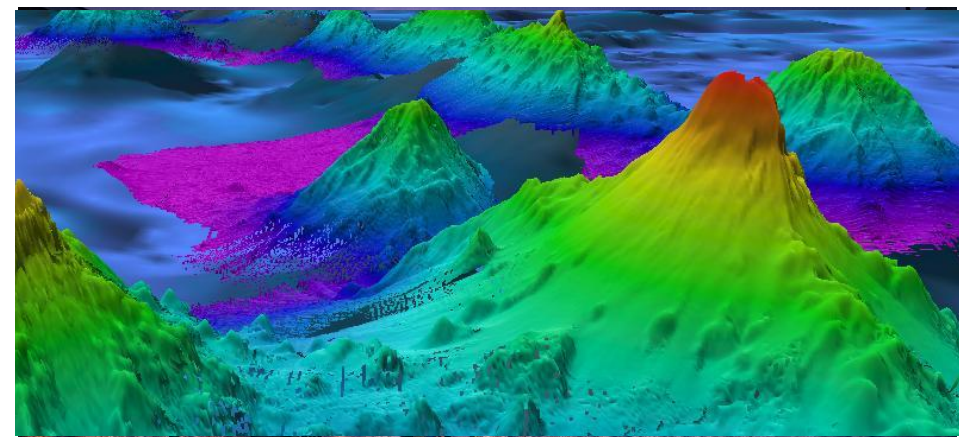
Rachel Medley



NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*



ROV *Deep Discoverer*



# Principles of Exploration



Explore to meet community needs



Always collect useful and quality data



Systematically expand exploration footprint



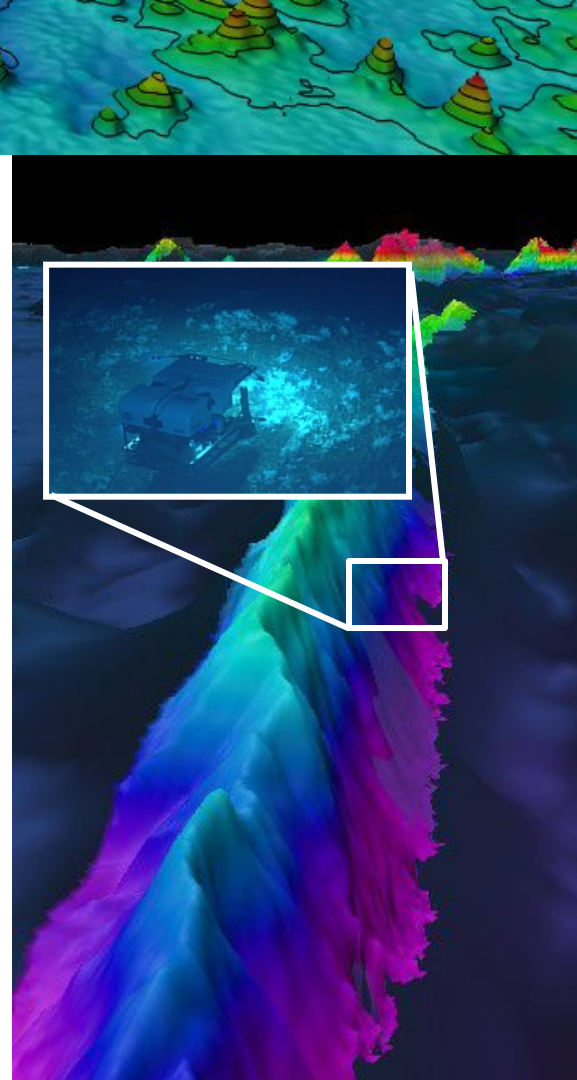
Share discoveries to engage the public



Produce open access data with necessary metadata

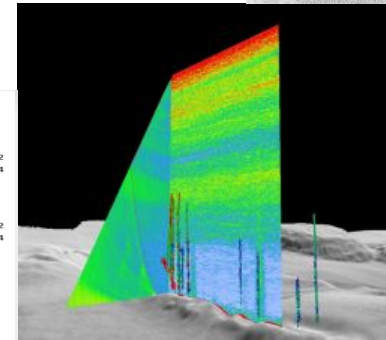
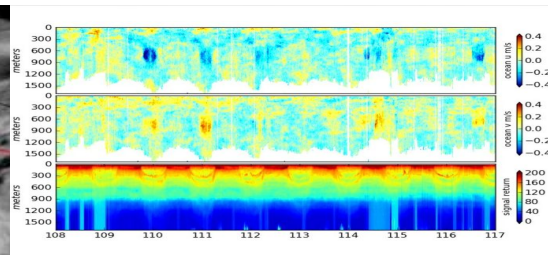
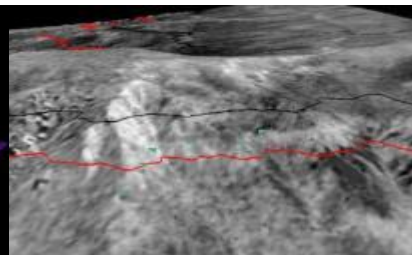
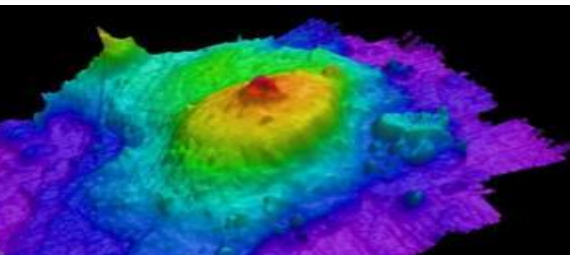


Release data in a timely manner



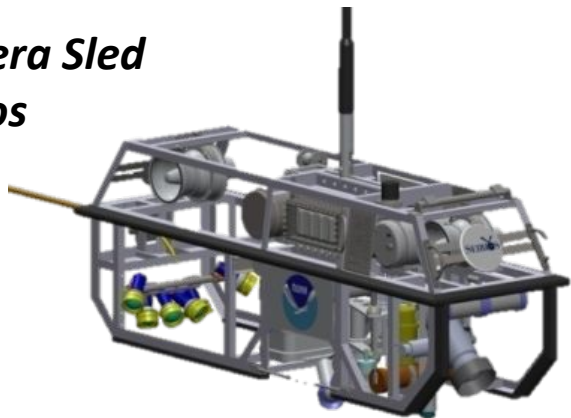
# Deep Water Mapping Sonars

- Kongsberg 26 kHz EM304 Multibeam
  - Operating efficient depths ~250 m – 6500 m
- Simrad EK60 & EK80 Split Beam Sonars (18 kHz, 38 kHz, 70 kHz (WBT), 120 kHz, 200 kHz)
  - Operating depth varies, from 10 m to full ocean depth dependant upon frequency
- Knudsen 3.5 kHz chirp Subbottom Profiler
  - Full ocean depth; ~80 m seafloor penetration
- Teledyne Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers (300 kHz and 38 kHz)
  - 100 m (300 kHz); 1300 m (38 kHz)

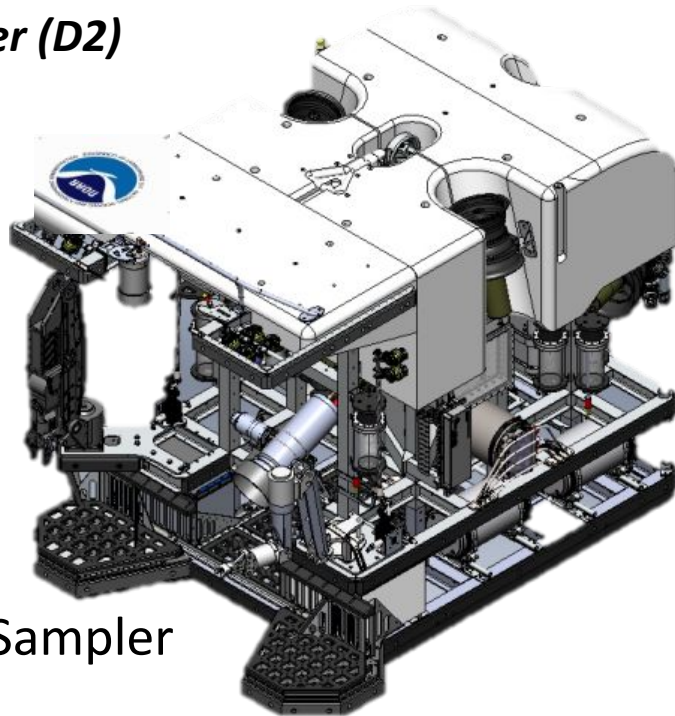


# *Seirios and Deep Discoverer Dual Body ROV*

**Camera Sled  
Seirios**



**ROV Deep Discoverer (D2)**



- 250-6000 meters operating depths
- Powerful lighting and High definition imaging
- Temperature Probe, CTD, DO, LSS, ORP
- 4 bio boxes, 2 rock boxes, and 5 Chamber Suction Sampler
- 5 x 1.7 L Niskins bottles

# What to Expect: Sampling

Up to **11** primary samples per dive:

- **Biological targets:** Potential new species, new records, or new depth ranges for a region; the dominant morphotype in a habitat; other specimens with significant discovery potential; or specimens that may contribute to connectivity studies
- **Geological targets:** Rocks with potential to contribute to significant scientific discoveries; geological history; characteristic substrate including marine minerals; samples that provide insight for potential submarine geohazards



# Ocean Networks Canada - SeaTube V3

Customizable layout:

- Options to show/hide various widgets
- Change size or position of windows

The screenshot displays the SeaTube V3 interface for the dive EX1905L2-Dive09 in the North Atlantic Ocean. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Map:** Shows the dive track on a map with a red line and a green location marker. A scale bar indicates 500m and 2000ft.
- Video:** A large video player showing a deep-sea scene with a large, brown, fan-like organism on the seafloor. The video is at 08:30:27 / 12:59:59.
- Annotation List:** A list of 21 annotations with timestamps and descriptions. The current annotation is highlighted in green: "18:24 additional specimen 4 in port outside bio box".
- Annotation Entry:** A form for adding new annotations. It includes fields for Date, Time, Taxonomy, Taxon, Comment, Resource Type (Device Data), and Resource (Insite Pacific Zeus Plus Camera on ROV Dee...). Buttons for "To Be Reviewed", "CLEAR", "SAVE & KEEP TIME", and "SAVE" are at the bottom.
- Sensor Readings:** A table showing data for 2019-09-10 18:30:29.

Sensor Readings: 2019-09-10 18:30:29		
Latitude	39.804740°	2019-09-10 18:29:59
Longitude	-66.215975°	2019-09-10 18:29:59
Heading	194.700000°	2019-09-10 18:29:59
Depth	2523.528400 m	2019-09-10 18:29:59
Oxygen Concentration	5.781321 ml/l	2019-09-10 18:29:59
Practical Salinity	34.925480 psu	2019-09-10 18:29:59
Temperature	3.281550°C	2019-09-10 18:29:59

# Open Access Data

- QA/QC'ed data are sent to archive ~ 90 days after a cruise.
- Cruise data can be discovered through the NOAA archives directly, Ocean Exploration Digital Atlas, or on the cruise landing pages



**NOAA** OFFICE OF OCEAN EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

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### Mid and Southeast US ROV and Mapping (EX1903L2)

Vessel: NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer; Cruise Dates: June 20, 2019 to July 12, 2019

Ports: Port Canaveral, FL to Norfolk, VA

Project Principals: Kasey Cantwell, NOAA/OAR/OER (Expedition Coordinator); Shannon Hoy, NOAA/OAR/OER (Mapping Lead)

The deepwater areas offshore Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina are some of the least explored areas along the U.S. East Coast. In 2019, NOAA and partners conducted a two-part expedition to map and characterize this area to support priorities put forward by the deep-ocean science and resource management communities. The primary objective of the expedition was to survey deepwater areas offshore of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina in order to provide baseline information to support management and science needs. This two-part expedition used the ship's deepwater mapping systems (Kongsberg EM302 multibeam sonar, Simrad EK60 and EK30 split-beam fisheries sonars, Knudsen 3200 chirp sub-bottom profiler sonar, and Teledyne Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler [ADCP]), NOAA's two-body deepwater remotely operated vehicle (ROV), and a high-bandwidth satellite connection for real-time ship to shore communications. This cruise report details activities associated with the second leg of the Windows to the Deep 2019 expedition (EX1903L2). 19 ROV dives were conducted, ranging in depth from 288 to 3,490 meters (978-11,450 feet) to improve knowledge of unexplored areas within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to inform management needs for sensitive habitats, maritime heritage sites, and potential resources. EX1903L2 also mapped 14,314 square kilometers of seafloor to extend bathymetric mapping coverage in the U.S. EEZ in support of Seabed 2030 and NOAA's goal to map and characterize the U.S. EEZ. Data from this expedition will help to improve our understanding of the deep-ocean habitats of the U.S. continental margin and of the connections between communities throughout the Atlantic Basin

#### Cruise Data and Resources

Cruise Summary Report (PDF - 2.42 MB)	<a href="#">Open</a>	<a href="#">Click to open link</a>
Mapping Summary Report (PDF - 1.52 MB)	<a href="#">Open</a>	<a href="#">Click to open link</a>
Ship Navigation Data (ASCII)	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Use zip utility to open file</a>
Ship SCS/Sensor Data (ASCII)	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Use zip utility to open file</a>
Ship SCS/Sensor Data (NetCDF)	<a href="#">Open</a>	<a href="#">NetCDF file format: special software needed to read</a>
Mapping Products	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Use zip utility to open file</a>
GIS Products	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Use zip utility to open file</a>

#### Submersible Data and Resources

Dive Summaries	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Use zip utility to open file</a>
Dive Tracks	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Use zip utility to open file</a>
CTDs from Submersibles	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Use zip utility to open file</a>
ROV Dive Event Logs	<a href="#">Open</a>	<a href="#">Click to open link</a>
Cruise Video Collection Self-Service Portal	<a href="#">Open</a>	<a href="#">Click to open link</a>
Specimens Collected During Dive Operations	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Click to open link</a>
Submersible Navigation/Sensor Data (ASCII)	<a href="#">Download</a>	<a href="#">Use zip utility to open file</a>

#### Collected Specimen Repositories

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (Biological Samples)	<a href="#">Open</a>	<a href="#">Click to visit repository website</a>
Oregon State University's Marine Geology Repository	<a href="#">Open</a>	<a href="#">Click to visit repository website</a>




# Beyond the Blue: Illuminating the Pacific



Operating Area for Beyond the Blue

# What will be part of Beyond the Blue?

- All of NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* expeditions for CY 2024-2026(+?)
  - OER funded work on R/V Nautilus (Ocean Exploration Trust)
  - NOAA Deep Sea Corals next Regional Initiative
  - Opportunistic deployments for Argo floats, drifters, and other autonomous systems to extend coverage throughout the Pacific
  - Partnership driven expeditions and engagement best practices with Pacific Island Nations
  - BOEM/USGS collaborative projects
  - DPAA collaborative efforts
  - And more!
- 

# How to Get Involved



- Call for Input -
- Become a Science Lead on the NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer
  - Looking for early career scientists that have expertise in: geology, benthic ecology, deep water corals, water column, seeps, deep ocean features/creatures & more.....
  - Email [EX.ExpeditionCoordinator@noaa.gov](mailto:EX.ExpeditionCoordinator@noaa.gov) for more information and to express your interest in potentially being a science lead on an expedition
- Participate with us from shore:

<https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/okeanos/collaboration-tools/>

- Input for targets, where we go and what we see
- Access to real-time annotations, science chat room, telepresence comms
- Community connections through expeditions

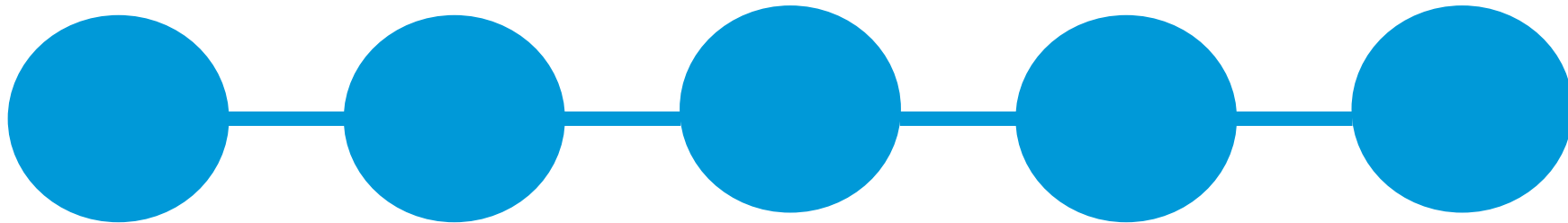


# Explorer-in-Training Internship



- Two paths: Expedition experience with ~3-4 weeks at sea, or focus in Science Communications or Science and Tech for a 10 weeks, shore-based, summer
- Open to U.S. citizens, undergraduates, graduates, and recent grads of U.S. institutions, degree or focus in any field related to ocean exploration
- Accepting applications now!
  - **Applications for the 3-4 week expedition-based opportunities will be accepted on a rolling basis, with a priority deadline of January 31st, 2024.**
  - **Applications for the 10-week shore-based opportunities are currently closed - but will reopen in the fall of 2024**

# Competitive Grant program - FY 25 Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity



Notice of Funding  
Opportunity  
Spring 2024

Pre-proposal  
Deadline  
~ **May 30, 2024**

Full Proposal  
Deadline  
~ **October 5, 2024**

Award  
Notification  
April 2025

Award  
Start Date  
Sept 2025

- Ocean Exploration Fiscal Year 2025 NOFO will be available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov):
- Proposal awards range from minimum award ~\$50k to maximum award of \$1M

*Scan to learn more  
about our competitive  
grant program*



# Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute



THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND



WOODS HOLE  
OCEANOGRAPHIC  
INSTITUTION



OCEAN  
EXPLORATION  
TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTHERN  
MISSISSIPPI



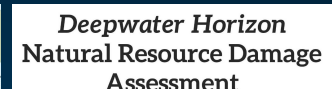
University of  
New Hampshire

OEI is an integrated ocean exploration cooperative that aims to:

- accelerate exploration through the development of new ocean technologies and operational concepts
- apply new approaches to underexplored regions of the US EEZ and to ocean exploration data
- train the next generation of ocean explorers and blue technology workers
- facilitates additional partnerships, such as:

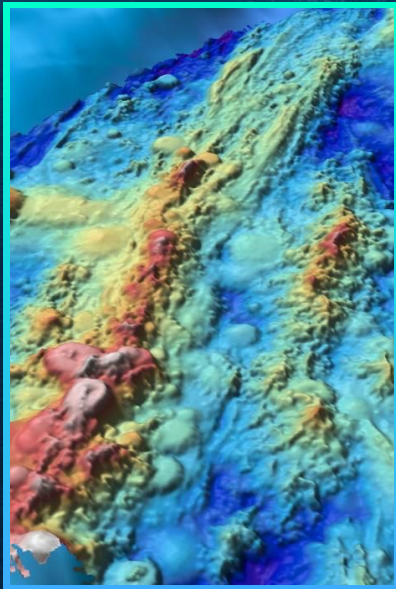


SAILDRONE



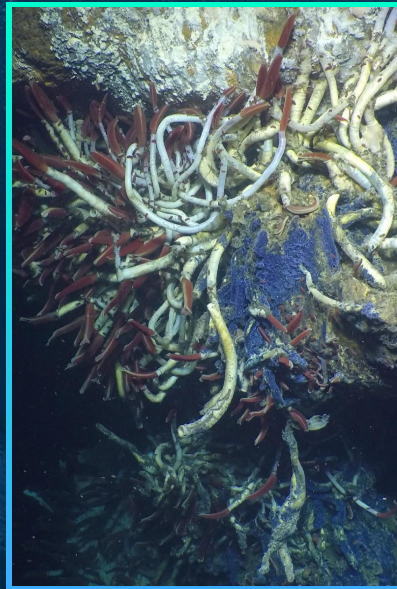
# OECI: Charting Ocean Exploration's Future

## SEAFLOOR MAPPING



Filling gaps in ocean mapping, with traditional vessels and novel autonomous systems, in support of NOMECS strategy and Seabed 2030.

## WATER COLUMN & BENTHIC EXPLORATION



Exploring the ocean interior for scientific advancement, sustainable development, and ocean health and safety.

## OCEAN TECHNOLOGY



Expanding ocean research and exploration capacity through cooperative robotics, autonomy, and telepresence.

## EDUCATION & OUTREACH





Partnership with Tuskegee University and New England Institute of Technology to expand participation in Ocean Exploration.





**OCEAN**  
EXPLORATION

## Explore with us:

 [oceanexplorer.noaa.gov](https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov)

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