

# Telepresence Technology and Applications on UNOLS Ships

Dwight F. Coleman

*Director, URI-GSO Inner Space Center*



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UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



# Telepresence-Enabled Ocean Research and Exploration:

## ➤ Background –

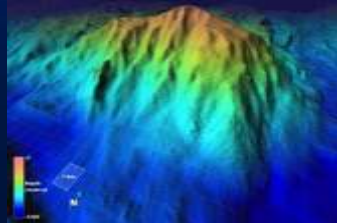
Ships/ROVs - NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* and E/V *Nautilus*  
*Deep Discoverer* and *Hercules*

Shore Facilities - Inner Space Center and ECCs

Education and Outreach – Exploration Now, Unknown Ocean

## ➤ Pilot Project –ROV *Jason* (NDSF) and R/V *Atlantis*

## ➤ Future Plans for Telepresence with UNOLS Facilities





NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*



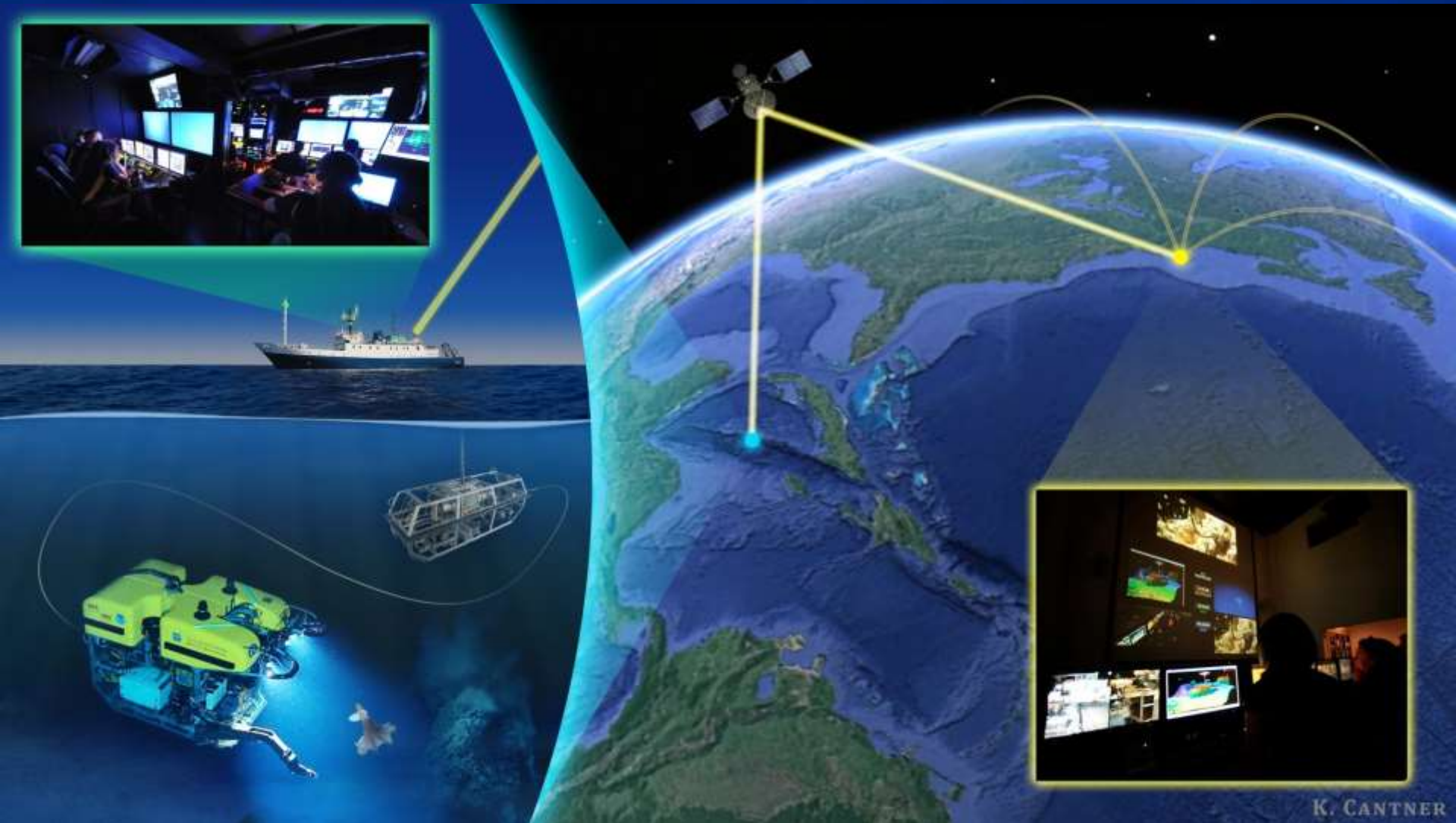
E/V *Nautilus*



ROV *Deep Discoverer*



ROV *Hercules*



K. CANTNER

# Ship-to-Shore Telepresence



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Mission  
Control





ISC Mission Control  
Sentry AUV Support



Internet2

NOAA HQ, Silver Spring



NOAA NCDDC, Stennis



NOAA PMEL, Seattle



University of New Hampshire



University of Delaware



University of Haifa, Israel



Ocean Exploration Center, Mystic

# NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer Dashboard: EX1302

Home Cruse: EX1302


### Cruise Information

Size of Cruise: 46.71 GB  
Size of Dashboard: 73.27 MB  
Free Space on Tethys: 484.30 GB

#### Operational Clocks


UTC: 2013-06-05 16:26:49  
Oceania: 2013-06-05 12:26:49  
NOAA HQ, MD: 2013-06-05 12:26:49  
DC, RI: 2013-06-05 12:26:49  
Stennis, MS: 2013-06-05 11:26:49  
Seattle, WA: 2013-06-05 09:26:49  
Hawaii, HI: 2013-06-05 08:26:49

### Live Video



**Error in EX1302 status update feed**

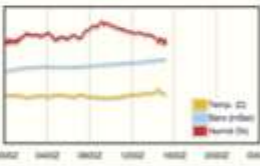
### GGA Data for 2013-06-05



### Resource Links

Explore NOAA.gov  
Official website for OER  
Okeanos Explorer Portal  
Web Portal for the EX Program  
Ocean Explorer - Overview  
Official website for work done by Okeanos Explorer

### MET Data for 2013-06-05



### Ship-to-Shore Data Transfer Panel


**EX1302 Data Upload Update - Wed, 05 Jun 2013 14:30:00 GMT**  
2013-06-05 11:30:00

- 1 file updated in: /JCSData/EventData/SAMOG
- 23 files updated in: /JCSData/MALER
- 13 files updated in: /JCSData/METOC
- 14 files updated in: /JCSData/NAV
- 11 files updated in: /JCSData/VEHICLES
- 1 file updated in: /EX1302

**EX1302 Data Upload Update - Wed, 05 Jun 2013 13:30:00 GMT**  
2013-06-05 10:30:00

- 1 file updated in: /JCSData/EventData/SAMOG
- 23 files updated in: /JCSData/MALER

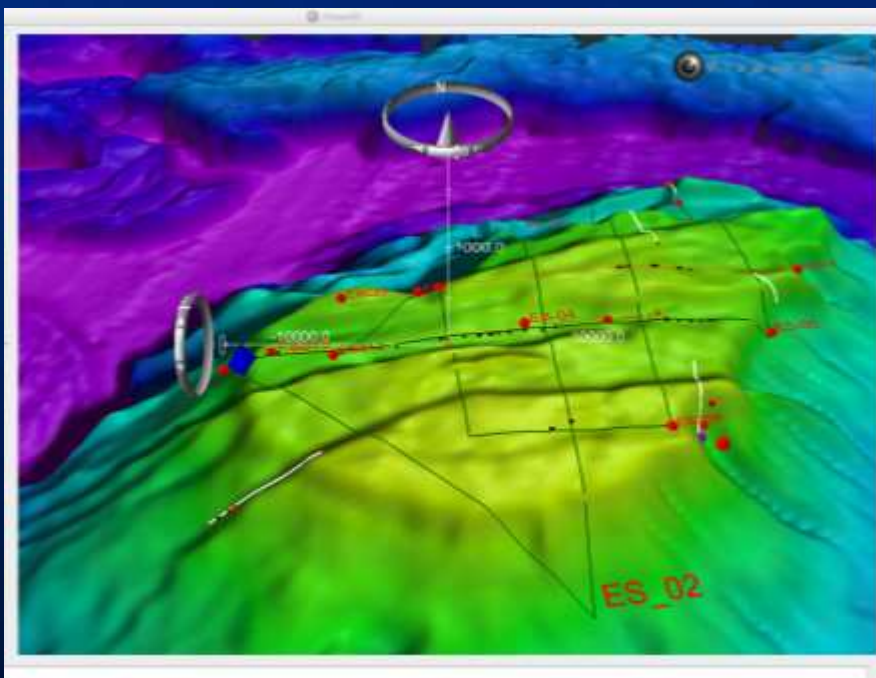
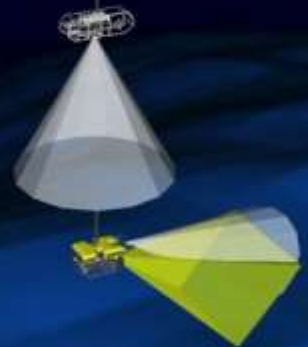
### TSG Data for 2013-06-05



**Star View**

Selected Unit: ROV  
 Lat (deg): 004° 40' 35.413" N  
 Lon (deg): 125° 05' 14.115" E  
 Speed (kt): 0.0  
 Heading (deg): 180.0  
 Pitch (deg): 0.0  
 Roll (deg): 0.0  
 Course (deg): 0.0  
 Sea floor (ft): 6231  
 Depth (ft): 16777.4

2010-Jun-29 00:32:54 Z

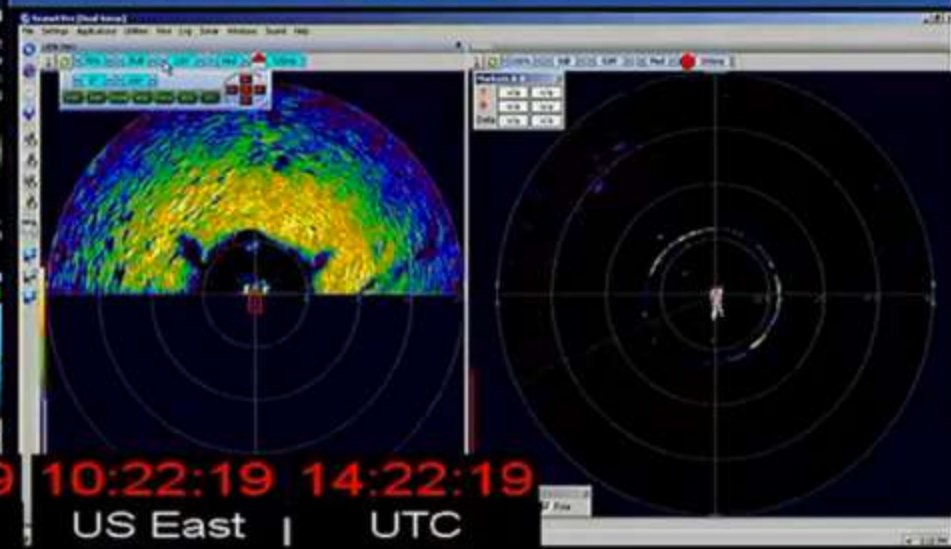
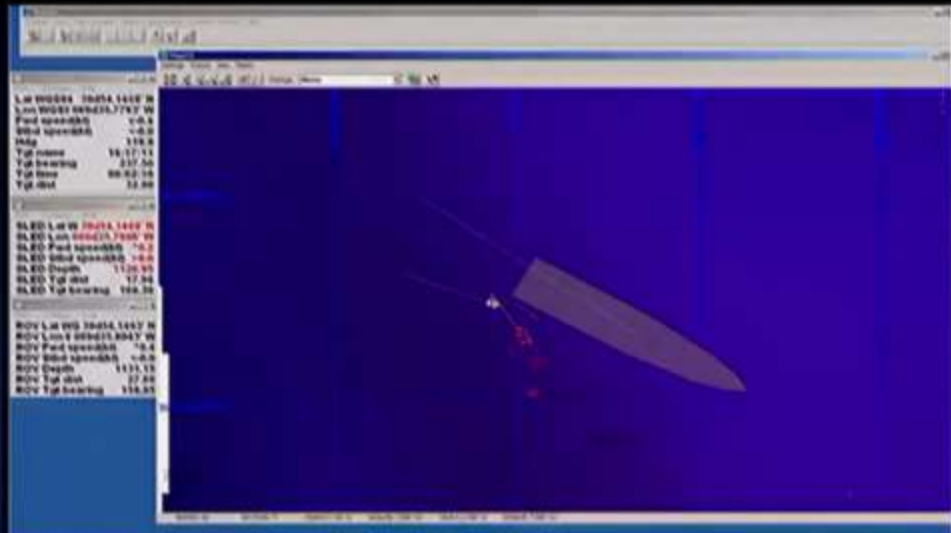


EX is 1250. We are currently conducting ROV operations at hydrothermal vent site, on "Mount Dent". Operations are being conducted in waters within the Cayman Islands Exclusive Economic Zone. The ship's current heading is 035 degrees, and the location is 18 22.62 N, 81 47.88 W. ROV operations will continue throughout the day.

- (5:49:39 PM) Bobbie: what ar the white boulders -zoom ?
- (5:50:16 PM) Bobbie: ahhhhh ?
- (5:50:32 PM) jamesonclarke: limestone?
- (5:50:49 PM) mikeheadle: talc?



 **OKEANOS EXPLORER 2013**



**07:22:19 10:22:19 10:22:19 14:22:19**  
**US West , Okeanos US East | UTC**

E/V Nautilus is linked up LIVE to the Inner Space Center! Watch the live feeds now! Catch what you missed on Exploration Now!

Select a featured video below:

-   
[Live Stream](#)
-   
[What's an ROV?](#)
-   
[About the IBC](#)
-   
[Deep Sea Communities](#)
-   
[Lost City 2005](#)
-   
[NOAA Mid-Cayman Rise Highlights](#)
-   
[Nautilus NA017 Highlights](#)

See more awesome clips in our video galleries!

The Inner Space Center, located at the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography, utilizes telepresence technologies to bring oceanographic exploration to the world in real time. Please browse our live video feeds and video gallery to learn more about the projects we support.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Ocean Explorer • NOAA

# OCEAN Explorer

OCEAN EXPLORER | EXPEDITIONS | EDUCATION | ABOUT

NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer, "America's Ship for Ocean Exploration"

Featured Expedition: [Gulf of Mexico 2012 Expedition](#)



-  [Okeanos Explorer](#)
-  [Education](#)
-  [Expeditions](#)
-  [Slideshows](#)
-  [Video Gallery](#)
-  [Okeanos Explorer Data Atlas](#)

### Featured Content

Watch video clips from the [Okeanos Explorer Gulf of Mexico 2012 Expedition](#) - See how scientists used the tandem remotely operated vehicles (ROV's), [Little Hercules](#) and [Scripps](#), to



STAY CONNECTED

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

# NAUTILUS LIVE

Explore the ocean LIVE with Dr. Robert Ballard and his Corps of Explorers aboard E/V Nautilus

SEA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

- [THE MISSION](#)
- [THE HIGHLIGHTS](#)
- [THE TECH](#)
- [THE TEAM](#)
- [THE LATEST](#)
- [FOR EDUCATORS](#)
- [FOR KIDS](#)

OFFSEASON  
NOV 2011 - FEB 2012



Want to call on Nautilus? Go here to find out how:  
<http://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/nautilus/> 4 months 2 weeks ago

DATA LOG OFFLINE



- HIGHLIGHTS
- [2012 Nautilus Biology Summary](#)  
7 months 4 weeks ago
  - [Kistler G. Stapanian - Dive Highlights](#)  
8 months 3 days ago
  - [Kistler P. Stapanian - Dive Highlight](#)  
8 months 3 days ago



**E/V Nautilus**  
SHIP OF EXPLORATION



**ROV Hercules**  
UNMANNED SUBMERGIBLE



**ROV Argus**  
UNMANNED SUBMERGIBLE



Production Control and Studio



Mystic Aquarium – Nautilus Live Theater, CT



Cape Henry Collegiate School, VA



Exploratorium, San Francisco



Scottsdale, AZ Boys & Girls Club

# THE UNKNOWN OCEAN

LIVE INTERACTIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING UTILIZING  
SHIP-TO-SHORE TELEPRESENCE TECHNOLOGY

**THE UNKNOWN OCEAN**  
EXPLORING INNER SPACE

Inner Space  
center

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF RHODE ISLAND  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF OCEANOGRAPHY



**RESEARCH**  
PROTECT OUR OCEANS

**MYSTIC  
AQUARIUM**

South Carolina  
**Aquarium**





Mystic Aquarium  
Unknown Ocean Kiosk



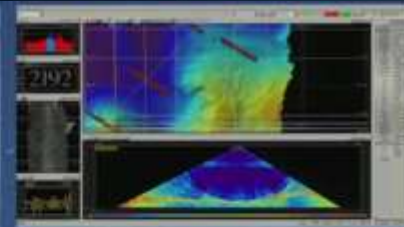
# MYSTIC AQUARIUM – NAUTILUS LIVE THEATER

## Exploration Command Station

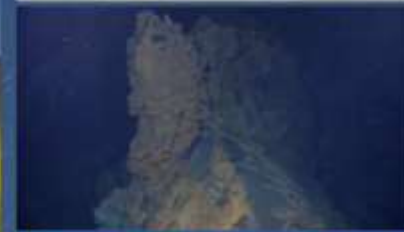


# The Unknown Ocean

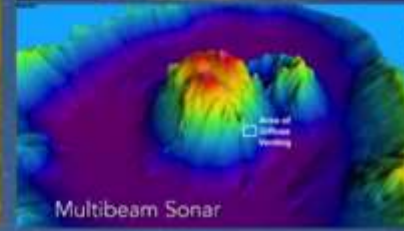
## Mapping the Seafloor



Multibeam Sonar



Seafloor



Bathymetry

Multibeam Sonar



1:29



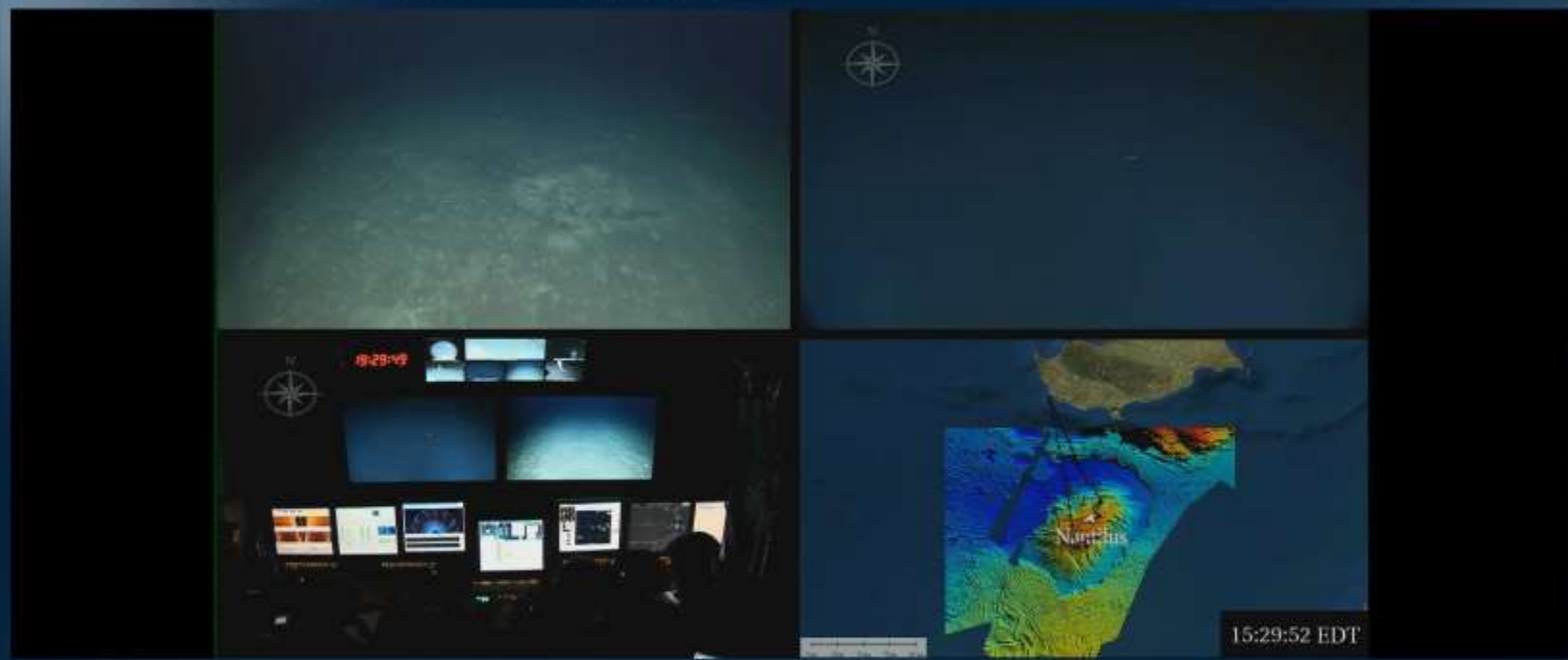
Select A Video:

- Geology 1:18
- Mapping the Seafloor 1:29**
- Okeanos Explorer 1:07
- Remotely Operated Vehicle 1:41
- Telepresence 1:27
- Dive to the Seafloor 1:13
- Deep Sea Creatures 1:57
- Deep Sea

# The Unknown Ocean: Exploring Inner Space

Live Feeds from the E/V Nautilus

Inner Space  
center



LIVE



Select A Video:



# EXPLORATION NOW

A Portal for Discovery

LOCATION  
**INNER SPACE CENTER**

LOCATION  
**NARRAGANSETT, RI**

STATUS  
**PREVIOUSLY RECORDED**



**E/V NAUTILUS**



**STS BODRUM**



**R/V ATLANTIS**

STATUS  
**OFFSEASON**  
LOCATION  
**CARIBBEAN SEA**



STATUS  
Thank you for being a part of our 2013 season! Follow us on facebook and twitter for updates on 2013 results and plans for 2014, which will take us back to the Gulf of Mexico & Caribbean.  
1 month 4 weeks ago



Mystic Aquarium – Nautilus Live Theater



## OCEAN EXPLORATION HUB

2013 ROV Shakedown and Field Trials in the U.S. Northeast Canyons: Follow along as the Okeanos Explorer team "shakes down" a new remotely operated vehicle (ROV) capable of diving to depths of 6,000 meters.







OKEANOS EXPLORER 2010  
NOAA BATALA EXPLORATION



Live



Live



Live

The Okeanos Explorer is the first vessel in the fleet of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to be dedicated solely to exploration and discovery missions. It's equipped with a remotely operated vehicle (ROV), sophisticated multibeam sonar technology for mapping the sea floor as deep as 6000 meters (nearly 20,000 feet), and 24-hour satellite telecommunications equipment to beam images in real time from the ship and ROV to destinations on shore. The Okeanos Explorer is primed for making new discoveries with every mission it undertakes. Venture into the vast and largely unknown ocean and follow along with the Okeanos Explorer scientists and crew on their discovery voyages.





## Telepresence – Pilot Project for UNOLS:

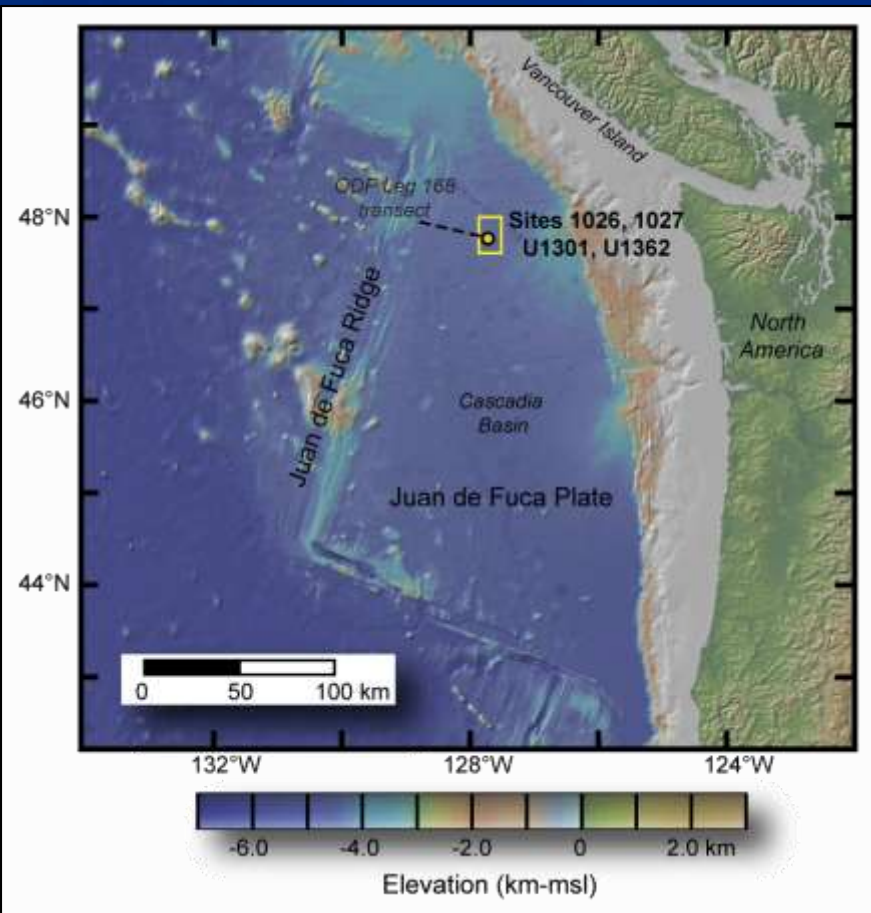
- Project conceived after last UNOLS Council Meeting – sponsored by ONR and NSF
- Targeted funded NSF projects that planned to use the ROV *Jason*
- Focus was on education and outreach, not remote science
- Found willing PI's with existing outreach programs to use *Jason* on the R/V *Atlantis* – July 2013

Doug Toomey, Anne Trehu, Dean Livelybrooks  
Cascadia Initiative – Ocean Bottom Seismometers

Andrew Fisher, Eastern Flank of Juan de Fuca Ridge –  
Hydrogeology, Geochemistry, Microbiology at CORK sites

- Conducted science communication training for the educational teams onboard to support live ship-to-shore interactions and video broadcasts about the research

# National Deep Submergence Facility



# National Deep Submergence Facility







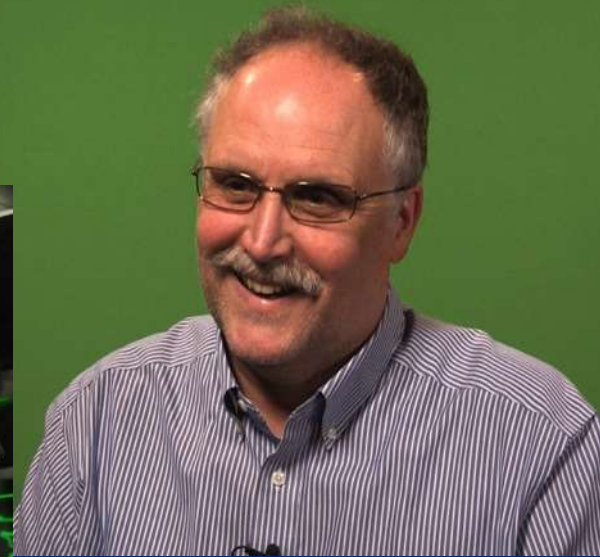
GATU 7 4

TARE WEIGHT	4185 LBS
MAX GROSS WEIGHT	36060 LBS
TOP LOAD ONLY	



Mobile Telepresence Unit (MTU)

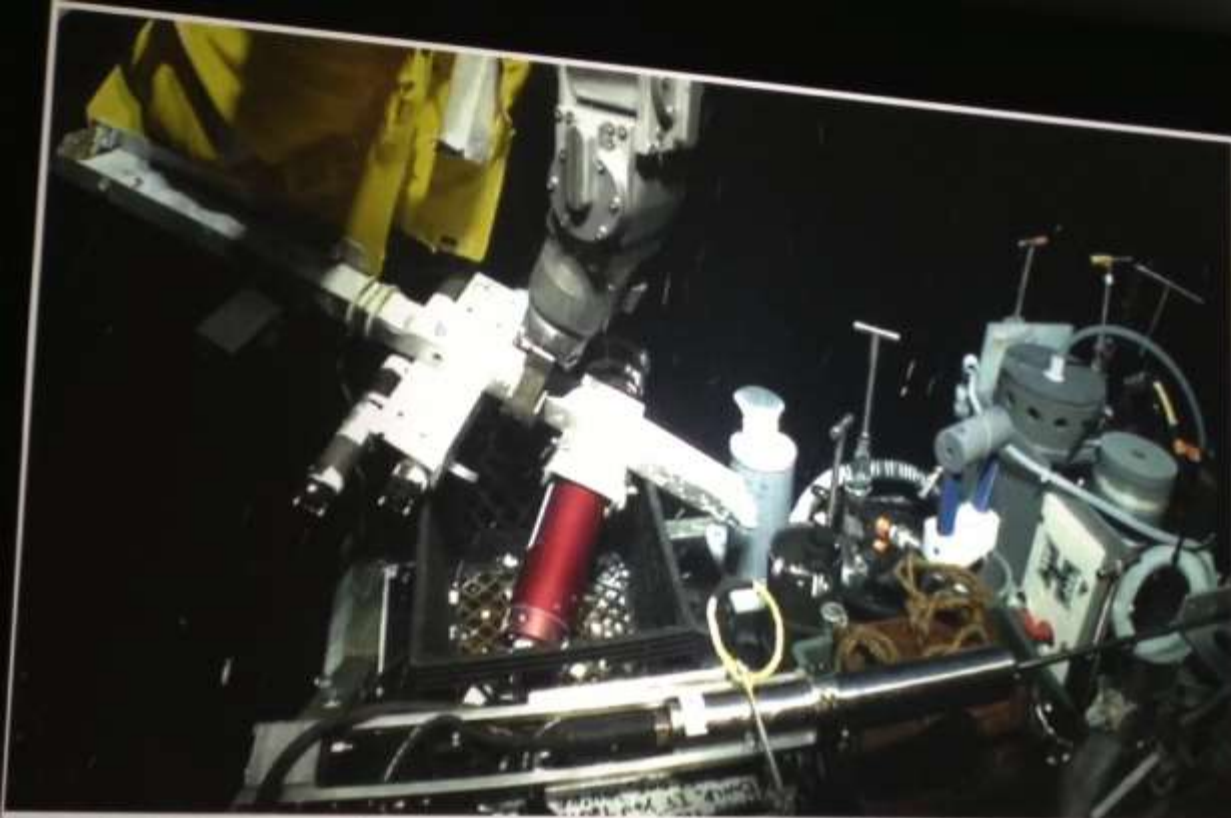














# ATLANTIS LIVE

Explore the ocean LIVE with scientists and engineers aboard R/V Atlantis

WATCH LIVE

THE MISSION

THE HIGHLIGHTS

THE TECH

THE TEAM

THE LATEST



Home

## THE HIGHLIGHTS



### Meet the Team



Chelsea Catania  
researcher

### Jason Dive Highlight - Octopus's Garden

It is not uncommon for an octopus to take up residence in or around a CORK. This footage taken by a Jason camera at the bottom of the ocean shows the resident octopus at CORK 1362B.



# New Frontiers in Ocean Exploration

The E/V *Nautilus* 2013 Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Field Season

GUEST EDITORS | KATHERINE L.C. BELL,  
MICHAEL L. BRENNAN, AND NICOLE A. RAINEAULT

## EXPANDING THE TELEPRESENCE PARADIGM

Live Interactive Programming from R/V *Atlantis* and ROV *Jason*

By Dwight F. Coleman, Dean Livelybrooks, Sharon Katz Cooper,  
Gregory Mulder, Andrew T. Fisher, Anne M. Tréhu, and Douglas R. Toomey

Since 1981, Robert Ballard has envisioned a concept of ocean exploration with multiple ships collecting video and data from the depths of the world ocean and broadcasting discoveries in real time through ship-to-shore satellite technology. In 1989, the telepresence vision was realized when the first Jason Project broadcasts employed ROV technology developed by the Deep Submergence Laboratory at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). Those early telepresence-enabled broadcasts delivered live educational programming to vast audiences who could participate in the exploration as it was happening.

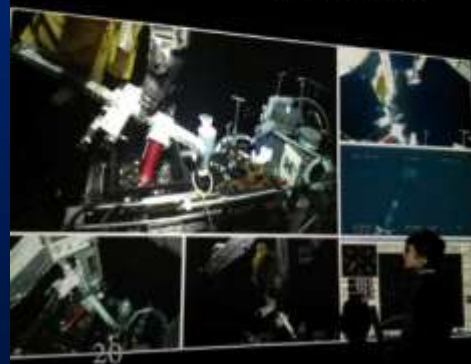
The vision expanded in 2003 when the Institute for Exploration developed a new suite of ROV and telepresence technologies as part of a portable system that was installed on ships of opportunity. In 2007, those expeditions began to feature live broadcasts 24 hours a day to audiences on the Internet and at venues such as Mystic Aquarium, all made possible through a prototype version of the Inner Space Center (ISC) at URI GSO. Since 2009, the telepresence paradigm has grown substantially with the development of E/V *Nautilus*, introduction of the NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*, and construction of the permanent ISC. Live broadcasting can now originate from two ships of



Figure 1 (above). ROV Jason, part of the UNOLS National Deep Submergence Facility operated by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Photo credit: Tom Bellini, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

exploration that have dedicated ROV and telepresence systems installed on board and that conduct field work up to six months each year.

Beginning in 2013, the telepresence-enabled exploration paradigm expanded yet again to involve more ships, including the Schmidt Ocean Institute's R/V *Falkor*, the University of Washington operated R/V *Thomas G. Thompson*, and the WHOI operated R/V *Atlantis* (the latter two ships are part of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System [UNOLS]). Many more live feeds could now be received and distributed through the ISC and used for live video production associated with the Exploration Now program (see page 22). We report here on two specific telepresence-enabled projects conducted during the summer of 2013 on board R/V *Atlantis* that used the Jason ROV system (Figure 1). This project represents a milestone in the development and use of telepresence technology for UNOLS platforms, leading to even greater expansion of the telepresence vision for the academic research fleet, with several new ships slated to come on line in the near future.



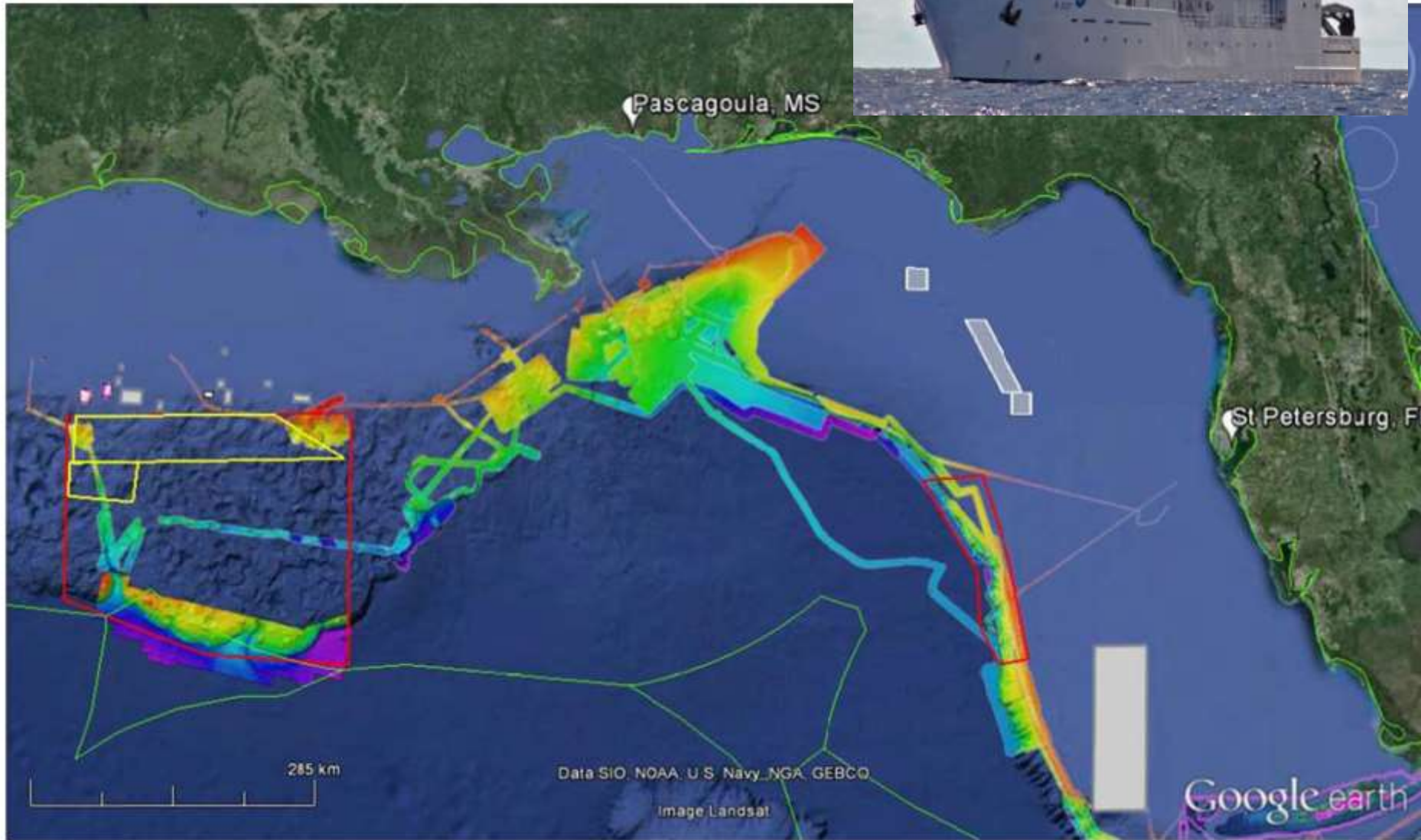
## Challenges

- Need for more technical support – satellite operations, network engineering, telepresence systems, production logistics, shore
- Funding – can't rely on supplemental funding - need to plan for and budget for telepresence activities through the proposal process

## Successes

- Outreach – lots of interest in the scientific activities, conducted more than 100 live interactions with various audiences
- Data transfers to shore for remote science collaboration
- Bonus – supported Chris Reddy's shore-based participation during Dave Valentine's cruise in October
- Leading to more telepresence-enabled cruise opportunities

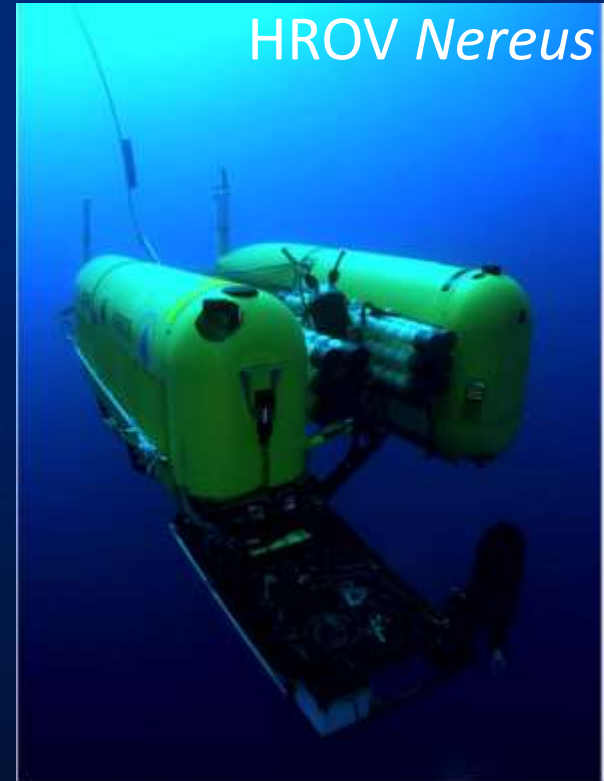
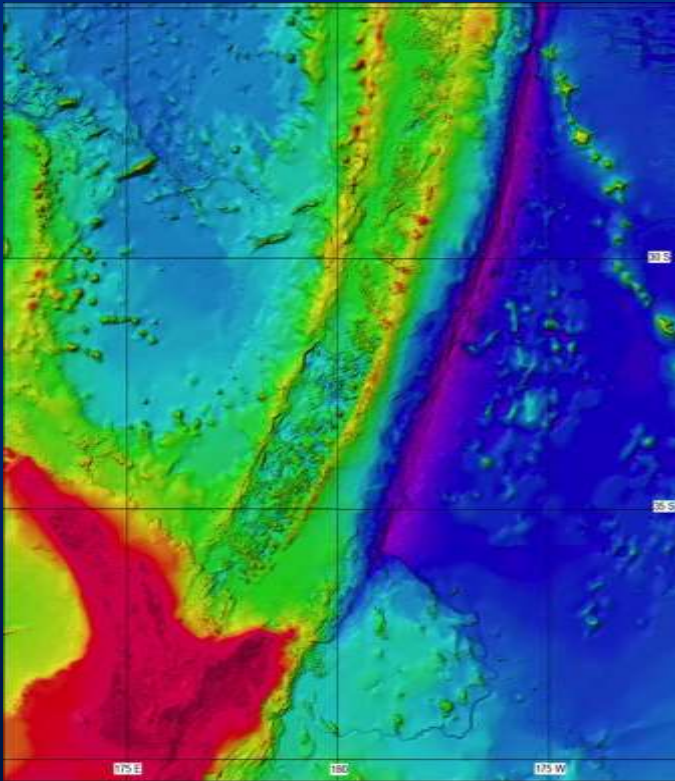
## EX1402 Leg 3 Overview Map



Tim Shank's project:



*R/V Thompson*



Kermadec Trench, April 10 to May 20, 2014



# NAUTILUS EXPLORATION PROGRAM



# TREET: Transforming Remotely-conducted Research through Ethnography, Education, & Rapidly-evolving Technologies

Zara Mirmalek



# TREET Participants:

## Interdisciplinary Principal Investigators:

Chris German, WHOI

Katy Croff Bell, OET

Zara Mirmalek, Harvard University

Amy Pallant, Concord Consortium

Kanna Rajan, MBARI

## Early Career Scientists & Undergraduates

Anna Michel, WHOI

Scott Wankel, WHOI

Masako Tominaga, Michigan State University  
+ students

Eric Mittelstaedt, University of Idaho +  
students

Pete Girguis, Harvard University + students

Chris Roman, University of Rhode Island

## Expert Mentors

Steve Carey, University of Rhode Island

Cindy Van Dover, Duke University

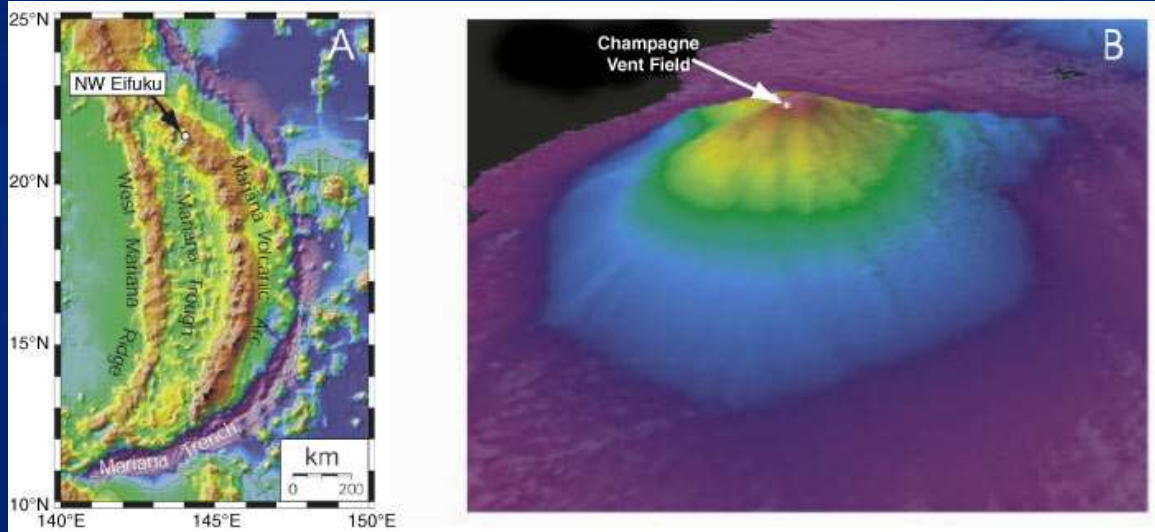


TREET Co-PIs, Early Career Scientists, Expert Mentors, + 8 Undergraduates (not pictured, pending permission to use their images)

# TREET Focus & Goals

- To understand and capture the ways in which telepresence-enabled cruises
  - further ocean science and exploration
  - can be advanced with new technologies and social practices
  - allow more access to research environments
- To develop education tools for undergraduate training
- To produce an ethnographically informed study to feed forward in developing new technologies and social process for telepresence communities

# Craig Moyer and Bill Chadwick's project, Nov-Dec, 2014:



*R/V Revelle*



Smithsonian  
National Museum of Natural History

# Q?rius





NOAA  
Science-on-a-Sphere  
Education Center

Silver Spring



R/V Sikuliaq



Future RCRV(s)



R/V Neil Armstrong and R/V Sally Ride



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# R/V Endeavor





*JOIDES Resolution*