DESCEND2 report is complete

A few hard copies are available up front. Get one during the break.

More hard copies were supposed to arrive, but did not. They will live at the UNOLS office, who will mail you one if you are interested.

PDF Versions:

Later during this meeting, I'll ask Annette to post the Dropbox link for you to download the report ASAP.

In the next few days, it will also be up on the UNOLS-DeSSC website.



DESCEND2 report key findings

Keep these in mind as you consider the topics that are put before you today during the breakout.

Key Findings

- 1) Federal agencies should promote joint programs that bring different communities together to advance technologies and address transdisciplinary questions, e.g. NASA astrobiology and NSF Ocean Sciences.
- 1A) Support advances and initiatives in robotics, automation, sensor development, and big data management/analyses that will foster new avenues for exploration and advance our understanding of geological, geochemical, and ecological processes in the ocean, on the seafloor, and within the Earth's interior.
- 1B) Increase attention to, and support for, exploring and studying underserved habitats such as the shallow shelf, midwater, sub-ice ocean, abyssal plains, and trenches. Including these regions will help us better understand the biotic and abiotic evolution of our ocean system, and assess its sensitivity to natural and anthropogenic change.
- 2) Federal agencies, philanthropic entities, and academic institutions that support Earth-Ocean research should actively collaborate to promote effective communication among all parties. Special attention should be paid to developing programs that incentivize established investigators to engage and mentor early career scientists. Agencies and entities should place a greater emphasis and recognition for public service and engagement.
- 2A) Enhance cooperation among governmental and philanthropic foundations to enable scientific pursuits that leverage public/private resources to greater effect than can be achieved through any one means of support.
- 2B) Develop programs to promote inclusivity and increase diversity in the ocean sciences. Studies have shown that diversity writ large improves the quality of research.
- 2C) Engage and train early-career scientists as a key to maintain a vigorous research community.