Welcome to the deep sea

A brief introduction to the past, present and future of deep sea research

Peter Girguis, Harvard University
Deep sea research has been a part of oceanography since its inception

- Took place aboard a military corvette
- Funded by the Royal Society
- 6 scientists, 21 officers, 200 seamen
- Sailed ~68,000 nautical miles over 4 years
- 362 sampling sites
The 20th century was a watershed for deep sea research.
Today, advanced submersibles and robots are ever-present in the deep sea.

photos courtesy of WHOI, Ocean Exp. Trust, Neptune Canada, Alcen Inc.
## How is deep sea research conducted today?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEN:</th>
<th>NOW:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Deep sea research support was “haphazard”</td>
<td>- Deep sea research support is far more consistent</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Not open to all</td>
<td>- Largely open to all</td>
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<td>- Women were not allowed on board</td>
<td>- Samples and data are supposed to be broadly available</td>
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<td>- Samples were not deposited in open repositories</td>
<td>- Training programs exist</td>
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<td>- Training was on the job</td>
<td>- Efforts are both governmental and private</td>
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How can you get involved?

- You’re here... that’s a great start!
- Reach out to the agencies and operators
  - NSF, NOAA, SOI, OET and all the institutions
- Volunteer or, better yet, apply for jobs
  - CONSIDER WORKING WITH THE OPERATORS!
- Apply for funding !!!
Remember this...

“The real voyage of discovery consists not [just] in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.”

— Marcel Proust