

Dear Fellow Explorers,

As we head into Fall, the OEI continues to make significant strides within the ocean exploration community. Some of these research and engineering outcomes will be on display at this week's [Oceans 2023](#) meeting in Mississippi. If you are attending, I encourage you to find presentations by URI graduate student, Puja Banerjee (student poster competition); [USM software engineer, Joshua Hill](#); [USM engineer, Agno Rubim de Assis](#); as well as sessions chaired by USM engineer Leo Macelloni, and a [panel with OEI Data Governance Manager, Deb Smith](#). Recently, I was also able to witness firsthand the impact of the OEI on a unique group that had gathered at NOAA Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD, to share in the [exploration of shipwrecks from the World War II Battle of Midway](#). Representatives from the Japanese Embassy, State Department, Naval History and Heritage Command, NOAA leadership and various other agencies were deeply moved to see the wrecks of three iconic aircraft carriers (Imperial Japanese Navy Kaga [\[77\]](#) and Akagi [\[77\]](#) as well as the USS Yorktown) in their final resting places. It was a great reminder that while we can measure our impact in square kilometers mapped and conference presentations, some of our most significant impressions can be elevating stories about human connections to the ocean for the world.

Adam



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AGU-OEI connections

An anticipated 25,000+ attendees will convene in San Francisco, CA, to participate in AGU23. Will you be one of them? **If you/your students are presenting (on OEI-connected/ocean exploration and science topics), hosting a workshop or panel, chairing a session, staffing an exhibit, etc. during the December 2023 meeting, please complete [this quick form](#).** The OEI would like to share these details with the broader ocean exploration community through upcoming OEI newsletter(s) and/or post to the OEI website! Questions? Please contact Holly Morin (holly_morin@uri.edu).

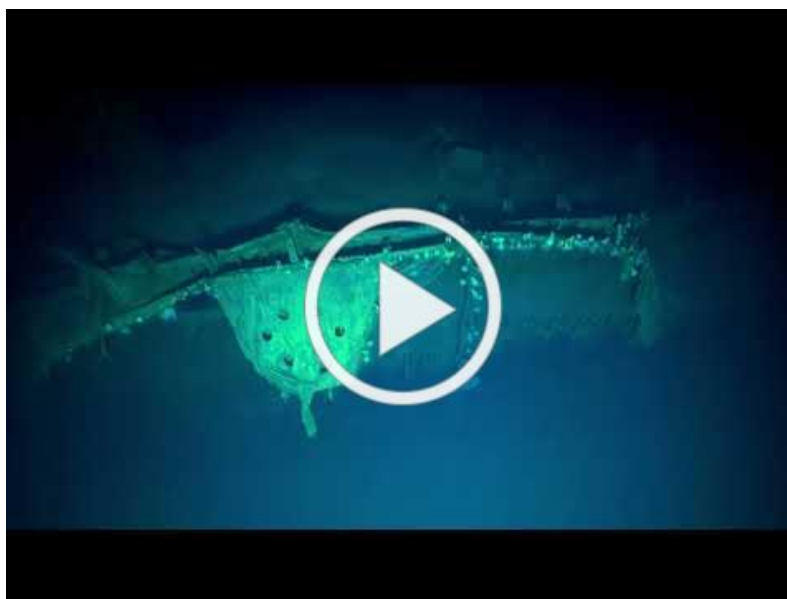


E/V Nautilus Conducts Historical Surveys of Battle of Midway Sites

The [Battle of Midway](#) was one of the largest naval battles ever and is also considered one of the most consequential events of World War II that shifted the power balance between the US and Japan. This four-day battle in June 1942 resulted in the loss of nearly 3,500 lives, hundreds of aircraft, and seven large vessels.



From September 8-12, 2023, a team led by Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) aboard Exploration Vessel (E/V) *Nautilus* conducted in-depth archaeological assessments of three World War II aircraft carriers lost during the Battle of Midway. During a combined 43 hours on bottom, non-invasive, ROV-based archaeological assessments were conducted of three iconic wrecks including: [the first visual survey of IJN Akagi](#), [the first detailed views of USS Yorktown since it was first located 25 years ago](#), and [a comprehensive survey of Kaga](#). These historically significant wrecks were explored in their final resting places within Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM), the largest marine protected area in the U.S., covering over 1.5 million square kilometers. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage site distinguished for both its cultural and natural significance.



The archaeology surveys were conducted during the 27-day Ala 'Aumoana Kai Uli expedition that targeted the northwestern and most poorly known extent of PMNM, an area that includes numerous seamounts of biological and geological significance, as well as underwater cultural heritage sites associated with the Battle of Midway. The expedition was funded by NOAA Ocean Exploration via the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute, and executed under

Research Permit PMNM-2023-003 approved by the State of Hawai'i, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, NOAA, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Battle of Midway exploration dives were made possible by the expertise, support, and collaboration of many partners, including the captain and crew of E/V *Nautilus*, Ocean Exploration Trust, Nautilus Corps of Exploration, NOAA Ocean Exploration, NOAA Office of Marine National Sanctuaries, US Naval History and Heritage Command, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, SEARCH Inc., Teikyo University, Tokai University, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, Air/Sea Heritage Foundation, International Midway Memorial Foundation, and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Please visit the [Nautilus Live website](#) for more information about these archeological surveys and the Ala 'Aumoana Kai Uli (NA154) expedition, as well as highlights of one of the [dumbo octopus](#) recently seen on an ROV dive and gaining national news attention!

Announcements, Events, and Opportunities

OECI is Hiring a Marine Research Specialist

The **OECI is hiring a Marine Research Specialist** to plan, coordinate, and implement highly visible ocean exploration events including the biannual **NOAA Ocean Exploration Forum**. This individual will be responsible for innovating new ways to engage the ocean science and exploration communities through the Forum and other engagement events. In addition to the planning and coordination of the biannual Forum, this individual will also compile and write a full Forum report, which will not only act as a summary of the event and its associated outcomes, but also contribute to future ocean exploration strategic planning.



For a detailed description of the duties and responsibilities for this position, required and preferred qualifications, as well as instructions on how to apply, please visit: <https://jobs.uri.edu/postings/12265>. **First consideration will be given to applications received by October 23, 2023.** Applications received after October 23, 2023 may not be given full consideration.

NOAA Ocean Exploration Seeks Pacific Islands Science Advisor



NOAA Ocean Exploration is currently seeking a **Pacific Islands Science Advisor**. The Science Advisor will **support an upcoming campaign to map and explore the deepwater areas in the vicinity of the remote Pacific Islands**, with a focus on areas in and around the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). NOAA intends to work with this individual for an approximate four-year period (end of 2023 through end of 2027), on a full- to part-time basis, depending on the availability of the selected candidate. Candidates with expertise in any relevant STEM discipline are eligible to apply, however, applicants with expertise in interdisciplinary ocean exploration are encouraged to apply. The position could begin as early as November 2023.

Formal consideration of applications will occur on a rolling basis and will continue until a selection is made (though first consideration will be given to applications submitted by September 25, 2023). To learn more at position expectations and qualifications, as well as directions to apply please visit: <https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/news/oer-updates/2023/pacific-science-advisor.html>.

NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OAMO) is Hiring a Program Specialist

The UxS Operations Center is looking to hire a **Uncrewed Marine Systems (UMS) Specialist** at the GS-11/12 level in Gulfport, MS. The person in this role will support DriX activities in the field and in the office. This is a great opportunity for someone looking to get some valuable training and field experience in this growing field for NOAA.



The announcement is open through **Monday, Oct 2, 2023**. For interested individuals who are NOT current federal employees, please view position details here: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/749417400>
For current federal employees: <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/749416900>

OET is Hiring a Science Coordinator



With E/V *Nautilus* slated to venture into more logistically-challenging western Pacific geographies in coming years, as well as the anticipated increase in the Ocean Exploration Trust's operational tempo, hiring a **full-time Science Coordinator** will be key to the program's success. The Science Coordinator will provide critical science support by assisting OET's Science Department with the planning, execution, and reporting of expeditions aboard E/V *Nautilus*. For a detailed description of the responsibilities, requirements, and instructions on how to apply for this **new, full-time position**, please visit: <https://nautiluslive.org/about/employment>. Applications are due by **October 14, 2023**.

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