

Hello Ocean Explorers!



Happy New Year! As the calendar turns, the OEI can reflect on a tremendous year of activities and look forward to an exciting year to come. The *Nautilus* season wrapped up in late December after a cruise to unexplored seamounts west of Hawaii. I was fortunate to be able to participate in that cruise and it was my first time at sea in over two years, and my first OEI cruise. It felt great to be exploring once again and I'm hopeful that 2022 brings many more opportunities for us all.

The OEI is busy coordinating a packed year of cruises for 2022 – including the USM team that is currently out searching for the *Norlindo* wreck using the Eagle Ray AUV – and embarking on planning for 2023. We are well into the process of developing the proposal for OEI Year 4, with pre-proposals to be submitted soon. This proposal process has enabled active collaboration between the OEI partners and NOAA Ocean Exploration. Activities in both Year 3 and 4 will also include some new partnerships including the SailDrone Surveyor cruise to the Aleutian Islands (Alaska), which will be partly sponsored by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) using the newly approved Interagency Agreement, as well as developing partnerships with the NOAA Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) programs to characterize and restore mesophotic and deep benthic habitats in the Gulf of Mexico. Both programs are great examples of how the expertise and technologies within the OEI can be effectively applied to the diversity of priorities across the federal ocean enterprise.

We are looking forward to all of our friends and colleagues joining us as partners, participants, or observers in our efforts to advance the pace of ocean exploration through new technologies, sustained operations, and by engaging and training a new and diverse community of explorers.

Best,
Adam

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OEI and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)

Through collaboration with NOAA Ocean Exploration, the OEI has been selected as the lead Institute to conduct three, large research programs in the Gulf of Mexico to conduct further research related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Based on the

findings of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), NOAA has chosen the OECI to conduct mapping, habitat assessment, and coral propagation work in affected areas of the Gulf. Over the next 5-7 years the OECI will spend up to 120 days at sea conducting research with ROVs, AUVs, and landers to assess damaged habitat and assist with recovery efforts.

Over the next few months, a deliberate planning phase will begin; this will allow the OECI to best pair its vehicles, personnel, and available vessels to meet the NRDA requirements. The Deepwater Horizon NRDA Trustees have committed to mapping impacted habitats at a very high resolution only achievable through the use of AUVs. The expertise of the OECI is immediately being called upon to integrate a synthetic aperture sonar and laser line scanner into a REMUS 600 AUV. This project is being led by [WHOI's Oceanographic Systems Lab](#) which will demonstrate the new system during a field program in June/July onboard the NOAA Ship *Pisces*.

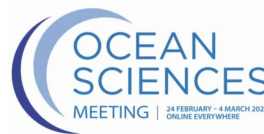
More details on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment can be found at <https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/>.



OECI at the 2022 Ocean Sciences Meeting

OECI partners will be presenting during the upcoming [Ocean Sciences Meeting](#), which will be held **virtually** from **February 24-March 3, 2022**. Pre-recorded presentations and posters will be available online for viewing in advance. We hope you will join

online discussions during the meeting in association with the various ocean science and exploration sessions listed below. More details about specific OECI-focused presentations will be provided in the February OECI Newsletter- stay tuned!



DS03 Discovering the Unknown Ocean: NOAA Ocean Exploration 2001 – 2021

3 sessions- 9:00AM, 10:00AM, and 11:30AM; 2/28/2022; Room 13

<https://osm2022.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/3/sessiongallery/17>

<https://osm2022.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/3/sessiongallery/477>

<https://osm2022.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/3/sessiongallery/478>

EDo6 Enabling Remote Ocean Science and Educational Opportunities, Lessons Learned During a Global Pandemic and Benefits for the Future

3 sessions- 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 11:30 AM; 2/29/2022; Room 12

<https://osm2022.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/3/sessiongallery/92>

<https://osm2022.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/3/sessiongallery/496>

DS07 Advancing Ocean Exploration Technology 01

2 sessions- 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM; 3/1/2022; Room 13

3 sessions- 9:00AM, 10:00 AM, and 2:30 PM; 3/2/2022; Room 13

<https://osm2022.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/3/sessiongallery/186>

<https://osm2022.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/3/sessiongallery/482>

<https://osm2022.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/3/sessiongallery/483>

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<https://osm2022.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/3/sessiongallery/485>

DSP03 Deep Sea Processes/Exploration Posters (DS07)

8:00 PM; 3/2/2022; Room 13

<https://osm2022.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/3/sessiongallery/387>

IN03A Indigenous Partnerships for a Sustainable Ocean

11:30 AM; 3/3/2022; Room 20

<https://osm2022.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/3/sessiongallery/87>

OPog National Priorities for Ocean Exploration and Characterization within the US EEZ

11:30 AM; 3/3/2022; Room 18

<https://osm2022.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/3/sessiongallery/27>

DSP04 Deep Sea Processes/Exploration Posters (DS09)

7:00 PM; 3/3/2022; Room 16

<https://osm2022.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/3/sessiongallery/388>

E/V Nautilus 2021 Communications Recap

Global audiences and learners of all ages joined *E/V Nautilus* and the Corps of Exploration exploring the Eastern Pacific Ocean from Southern California to the coast of Canada and into the Central Pacific to the Hawaiian Islands and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument over five months in 2021. Shown below are a selection of the reach and impact stats from the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) education and outreach team's recent report out about sharing ocean exploration stories and the excitement of discovery across the season.

Expedition outreach centers on the people who conduct ocean exploration using all participants as role models for STEM careers with a particular focus on students and professionals from across Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute (OECI) partners. Highlights of the year include hosting 341 live ship-to-shore interactions in English and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian language) with classrooms and communities; the safe return of at-sea education programs including 23 students and 12 educators in key expedition roles; a 14-part, live social media event series produced with the support of URI's Inner Space Center team; expanded access to educational resources through closed captioning of media and Spanish translation of education resources; and over a half million views of new media produced to tell the stories of cutting-edge advances in ocean exploration. These stats pull from outreach conducted across ten expeditions funded by the OECI via NOAA Ocean Exploration, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, NASA, Harvard, and Ocean Networks Canada; the education programs reported here are funded by the Office of Naval Research, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, CITGO, and private donors.

- **168 Corps of Exploration role models at sea**
 - Including **23** students & **12** educators
- **167** days of live streaming
- **280,000 hours** of live streaming views
- **19,700+** questions submitted for the team
- **341 ship-to-classroom Q&As** reach 13,900+ students in 38 states
- **14 social media events**, feature **39 explorers**, gain **93,000 views**
- **15** blogs, **13** photo albums, **26** highlight videos
- **549,000 +** views of production pieces OET created this year

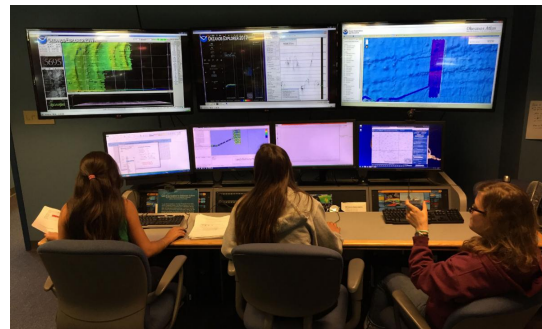
**9.1 million views of ocean exploration discoveries
and STEM career content**



Opportunities

NOAA 2022 Explorer-in-Training Program is now open!

Applications are currently being accepted for opportunities between March to September of 2022 and are **due February 5 (2-4 week expedition-based opportunities) or February 15 (10-week internship program).**



This year, the Explorer-in-Training Program will feature **two paid internship options and themes:** (a) 2 to 4-week expedition-based opportunities (Hydrography & Seafloor Mapping) and (b) 10-week summertime opportunities (Exploration Education, Media, & Science Communication). The 10-week internships give students an opportunity to develop their skills/knowledge through long-term projects supported by NOAA Ocean Exploration mentors. Expedition-based internships provide support for NOAA Ocean Exploration expeditions, giving students the chance to contribute to mission efforts while gaining tangible skills. Applicants may apply for both internship options via a single application form. **To learn more, please visit [NOAA Ocean Exploration's website](#).** The Explorer-in-Training Program is managed in partnership with the Cooperative Program for the Advancement of Earth System Science (CPAESS), a community program of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). To apply, please visit the [CPAESS/UCAR Explorer-in-Training page](#) or use [this link](#) to access the application portal.

Position Announcement: Education Development Specialist (ocean science and exploration)

CollabraLink is seeking an Education Development Specialist, **contracted to work directly with the NOAA Ocean Exploration education team.** The ideal candidate will have demonstrated experience in formal classroom lesson development, instruction and educator professional development with contemporary attention to science standards (i.e., NGSS, phenomena, modern instructional pedagogy). The Education Development Specialist will be part of a high-functioning team dedicated to supporting educators and advancing ocean science education/ocean literacy in Middle School and High School classrooms, and will guide the development of high-quality educator resources and design and execute educator professional development with the goal of

enhancing the science content and contemporary pedagogical knowledge of teachers of science/ocean science.

[Full job description and link to apply.](#)

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