



OCEAN
EXPLORATION

NOAA Update

DeSSC Community Meeting - MAY 2024

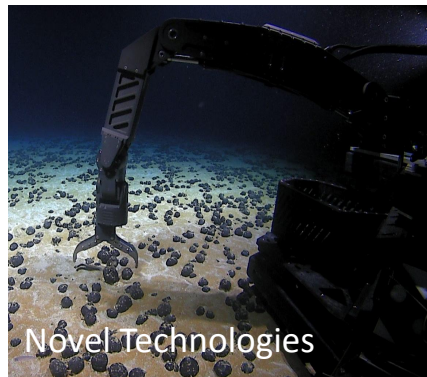
Rachel Medley,
Chief, Expedition & Exploration Division
NOAA Ocean Exploration

Mashkoor Malik
Chief, Science & Technology Division
NOAA Ocean Exploration

Explore to Discover, Discover to Understand, and Understand to Inform



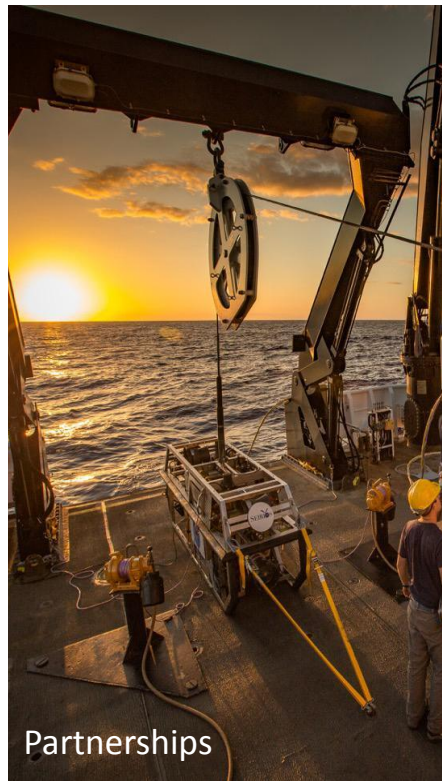
NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*



Novel Technologies



Competitive Grants



Partnerships



Education



Outreach

Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute



THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND



WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION



OCEAN EXPLORATION TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI



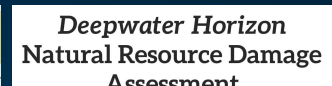
University of New Hampshire

OEI is an integrated ocean exploration cooperative that aims to:

- accelerate exploration through the development of new ocean technologies and operational concepts
- apply new approaches to underexplored regions of the US EEZ and to ocean exploration data
- train the next generation of ocean explorers and blue technology workers
- facilitates additional partnerships, such as:

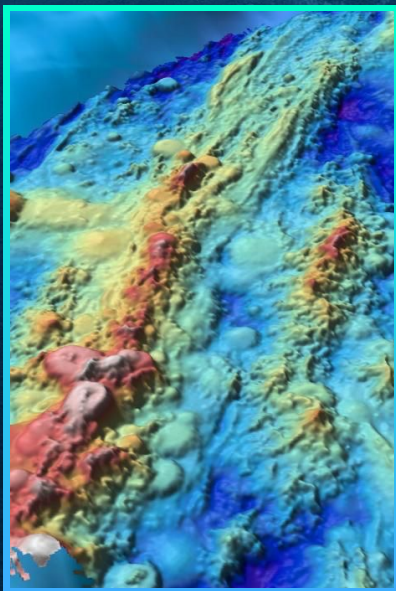


SAILDRONE



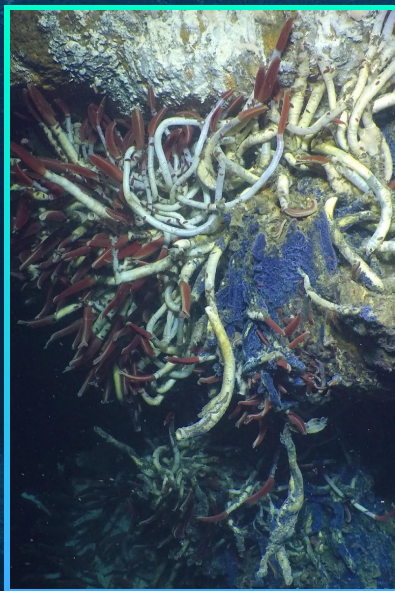
OECI: Charting Ocean Exploration's Future

SEAFLOOR MAPPING



Filling gaps in ocean mapping, with traditional vessels and novel autonomous systems, in support of NOMECS strategy and Seabed 2030.

WATER COLUMN & BENTHIC EXPLORATION



Exploring the ocean interior for scientific advancement, sustainable development, and ocean health and safety.

OCEAN TECHNOLOGY



Expanding ocean research and exploration capacity through cooperative robotics, autonomy, and telepresence.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Partnership with Tuskegee University and New England Institute of Technology to expand participation in Ocean Exploration.

Our Principles of Exploration Meet the National Imperative

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR MAPPING, EXPLORING, AND CHARACTERIZING THE UNITED STATES EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE



NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR MAPPING, EXPLORING, AND CHARACTERIZING THE UNITED STATES EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE



Explore to meet community needs



Always collect useful and quality data



Systematically expand exploration footprint



Share discoveries to engage the public

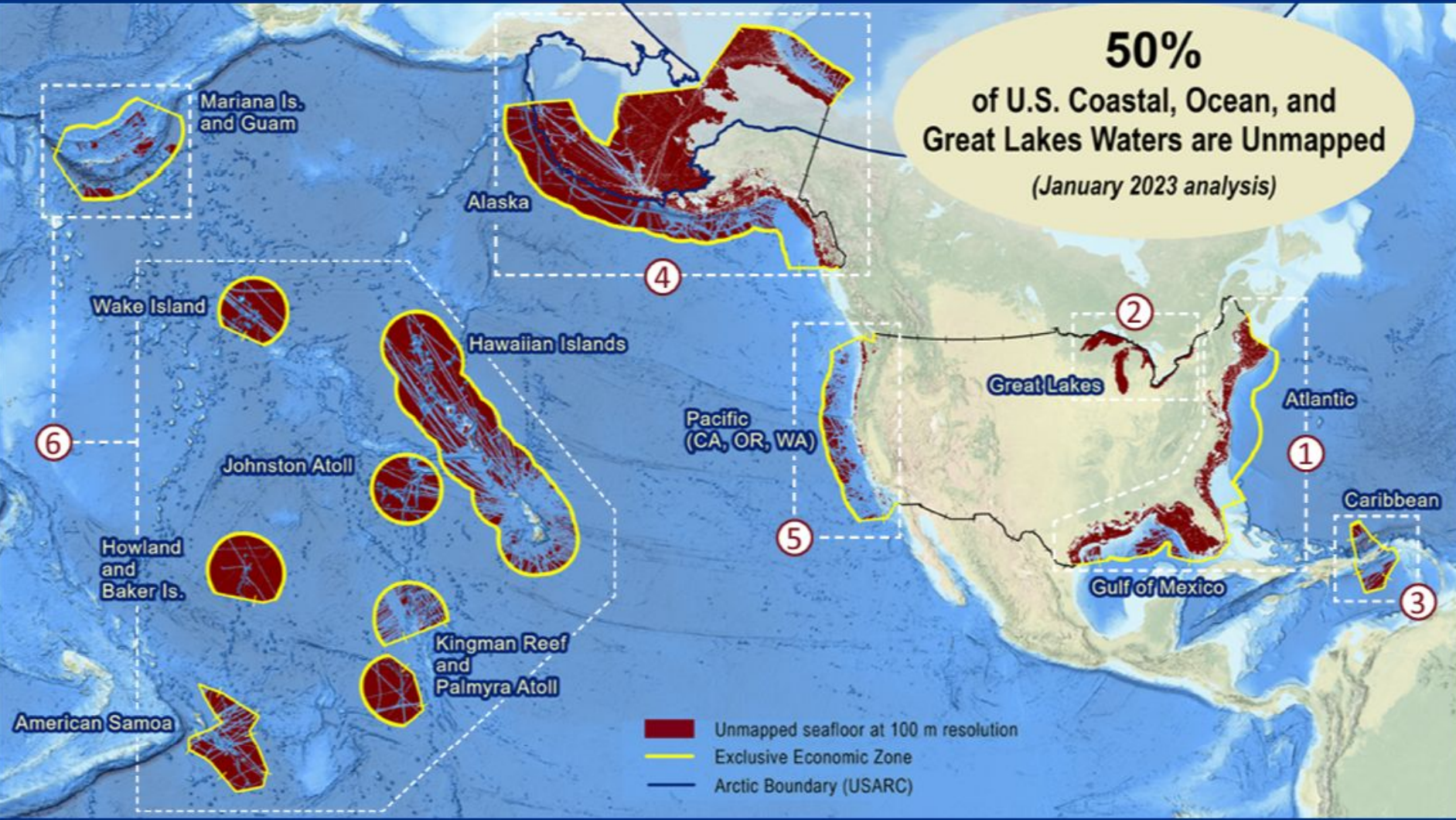


Produce open access data with necessary metadata




Release data in a timely manner

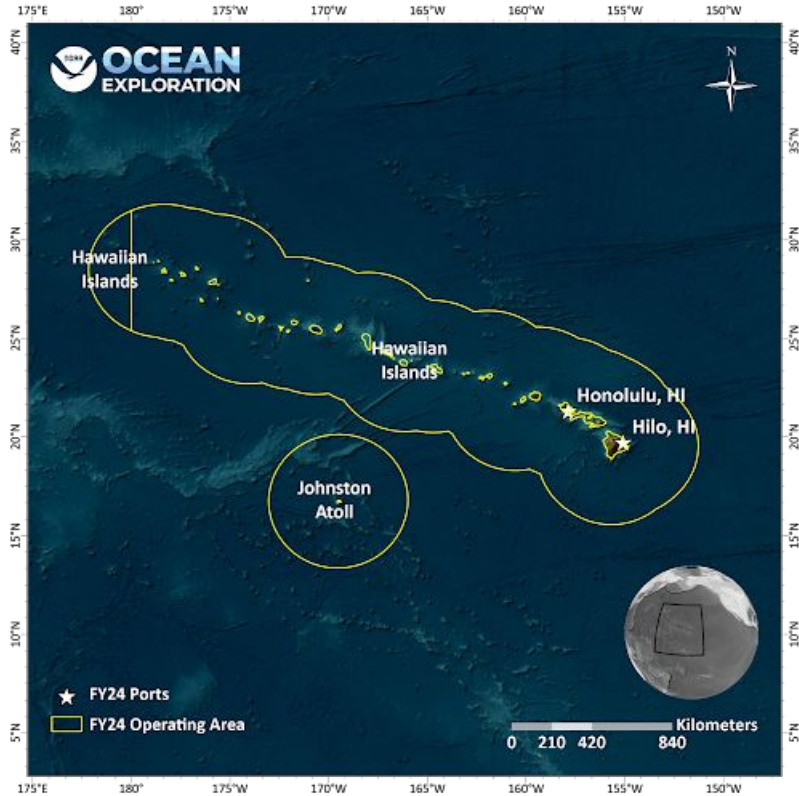
50%
of U.S. Coastal, Ocean, and
Great Lakes Waters are Unmapped
(January 2023 analysis)



What will be part of Beyond the Blue?

- All of NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* expeditions for CY 2024-2026(+?)
 - OER funded work on E/V Nautilus (Ocean Exploration Trust)
 - NOAA Deep Sea Corals next Regional Initiative
 - Opportunistic deployments for Argo floats, drifters, and other autonomous systems to extend coverage throughout the Pacific
 - Partnership driven expeditions and engagement best practices with Pacific Island Nations
 - BOEM/USGS collaborative projects
 - DPAA collaborative efforts
 - And more!
- 

FY24 *Okeanos Explorer* Schedule Overview



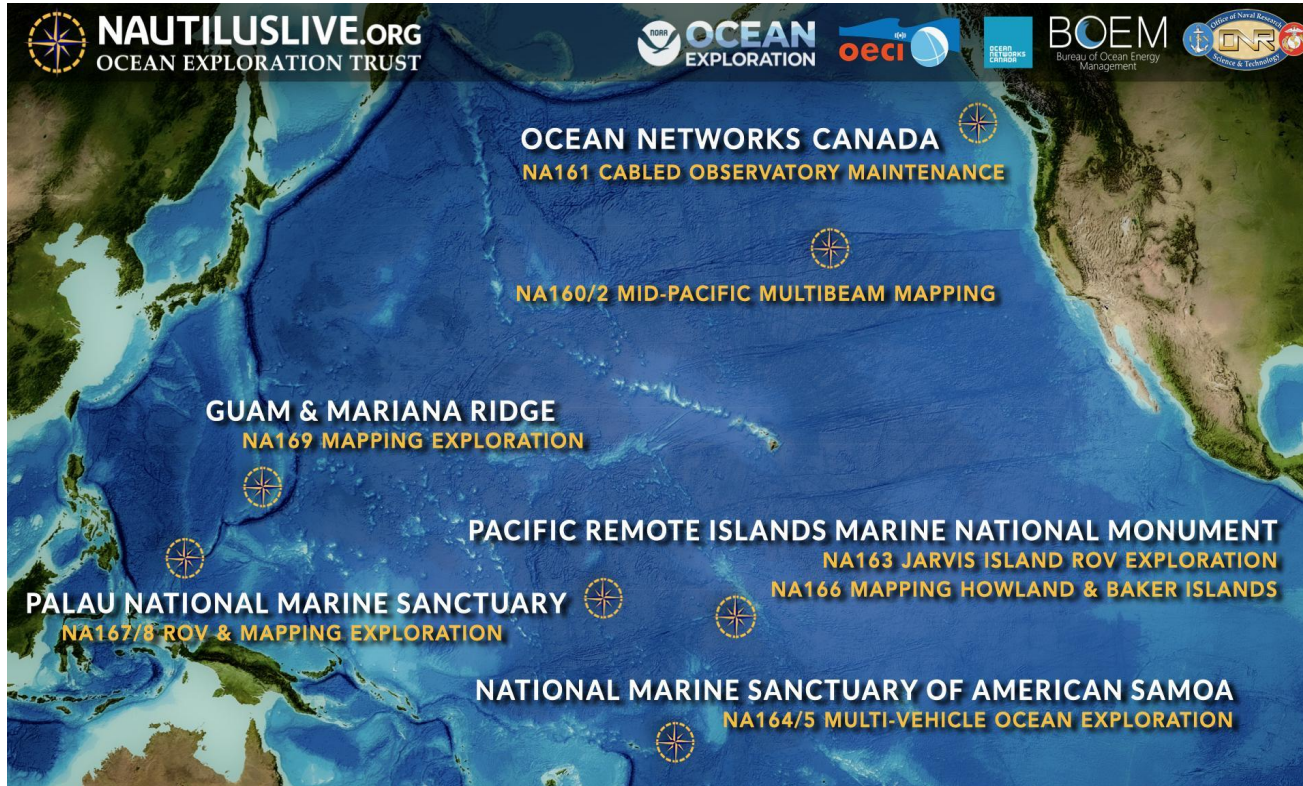
Operations in the Pacific Islands will include mapping operations in and around:

- Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
- US EEZ around the Hawaii Crescent
- Johnston Atoll

Unmapped areas >200m w/ Modern Bathymetric Coverage

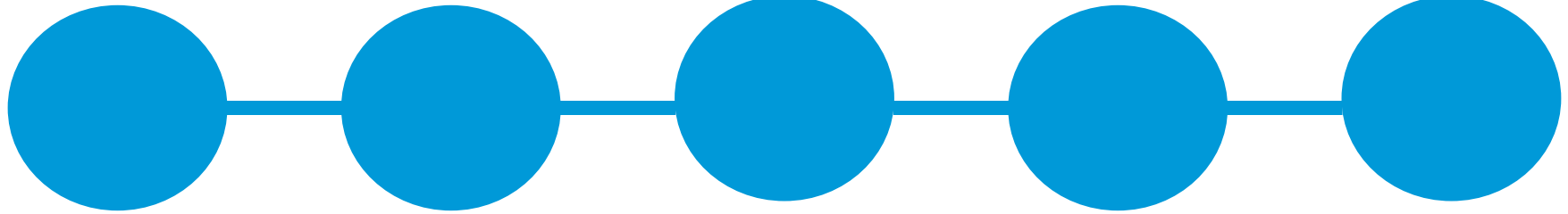
- Hawaiian Waters: 42% remain
- Johnston Atoll: 65% remain

OECI funded Nautilus Expeditions in 2024



- Expeditions will focus on mapping, ROV, and technology integration and interoperability solutions
- Expeditions this year (with the expectation of NA 161 ONC) will all support the Beyond the Blue Campaign
- Expeditions are planned in close collaboration with Pacific Island Nations, indigenous knowledge holders, and regional partners

Competitive Grant program - FY 25 Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity



Notice of Funding
Opportunity
Spring 2024

Pre-proposal
Deadline
~ **May 30, 2024**

Full Proposal
Deadline
~ **October 5, 2024**

Award
Notification
April 2025

Award
Start Date
Sept 2025

- Ocean Exploration Fiscal Year 2025 NOFO will be available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov):
- Proposal awards range from minimum award ~\$50k to maximum award of \$1M


*Scan to learn more
about our competitive
grant program*








OCEAN EXPLORATION

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Questions?

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