

DRAFT
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Office of Ocean Exploration and Research Strategic Plan Elements for FY 2016-2020

OER's VISION

A fully explored ocean results in discoveries that provide lasting benefits for the nation's environmental, economic, and societal needs.

OER's MISSION

Explore the ocean for NOAA and national benefit

OER's STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1 *Conduct place-based and theme-based ocean exploration to make discoveries that provide scientific, economic, and cultural value--with an emphasis on the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and Extended Continental Shelf.*

Objective 1.1: Map and characterize ocean basin features of interest.

Objective 1.2: Discover and characterize geological, physical, chemical, and biological ocean processes and phenomena.

Objective 1.3: Discover and characterize potential ocean resources.

Objective 1.4: Discover and characterize submerged cultural resources in the ocean including shipwrecks, aircraft, and paleolandscapes,

GOAL 2 *Advance the pace, scope, and efficiency of ocean exploration and discovery through technology innovation*

Objective 2.1: Stimulate new development and improvement of ocean exploration sensors, technology, and methods.

Objective 2.2: Transition new innovations between NOAA and academia, industry, and the not-for-profit sector.

Objective 2.3: Lead and coordinate new ocean exploration technology development throughout NOAA.

GOAL 3 *Provide easy and open access to all of the information OER produces*

Objective 3.1: Manage OER information to advance national and community priorities for ocean exploration data interoperability and access.

Objective 3.2: Distribute OER and partner exploration information through free and open data and information portals

Objective 3.3: Transfer data management techniques to ocean exploration partners

Objective 3.4: Communicate the outcomes of exploration discoveries and technical innovations across sectors to facilitate the transition of exploration results to research, application, and management.

GOAL 4 *Develop the next generation of ocean explorers, scientists, and engineers*

Objective 4.1: Expand the quantity and variety of materials and activities capable of inspiring and educating students about ocean exploration, science, engineering, and related careers.

Objective 4.2: Increase opportunities for participation in ocean exploration-related Science, Technology, Engineering, and Technology activities by historically underrepresented groups and individuals.

Objective 4.3: Increase opportunities for participation in ocean exploration activities for undergraduate students, graduate students, and early career scientists and engineers.

GOAL 5: *Build the U.S. National Ocean Exploration Program through planning and exploration partnerships that advance national ocean exploration priorities.*

Objective 5.1: Engage national ocean exploration program stakeholders to identify ocean exploration priorities, needs, and capabilities.

Objective 5.2: Work across federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to encourage coordination of ocean exploration activities where interests intersect.

Objective 5.2: Collaborate with stakeholders to design strategic frameworks for multi-year multi-platform, multi-partner ocean exploration campaigns in priority ocean basins.