

Strategic Plan

Vision/Mission

OER's Vision

America's future depends on an understanding of the global oceans. We explore the oceans because their health and resilience are vital to our economy and to our lives: climate, food, shipping, national defense, pharmaceuticals, and mineral resources.

or

“America's future depends on understanding the oceans. We explore the oceans because their health and resilience are vital to our economy and to our lives, climate, food, shipping, national defense, medicines, and natural resources.”

OER's Mission

Explore the ocean for national benefit.

Goals and Objectives: 1

Explore the ocean to make discoveries of scientific, economic, and cultural value, with priority to the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and Extended Continental Shelf.

- Objective 1.1: Map ocean basin features of interest.
- Objective 1.2 Characterize geological, physical, chemical, and biological phenomena.
- Objective 1.3: Characterize ocean resources.
- Objective 1.4: Discover submerged cultural resources, including shipwrecks, aircraft, and paleo-landscapes.

Goals and Objectives: 2

Promote technological innovation to advance ocean exploration.

- Objective 2.1: Stimulate development of ocean exploration sensors, technologies, and methods.
- Objective 2.2: Co-ordinate within NOAA development of ocean exploration technology.
- Objective 2.3: Share technological innovations within government agencies and with academia, industry, and the not-for-profit sector.

Goals and Objectives: 3

Provide public access to data and information.

- Objective 3.1: Maintain information systems that provide data interoperability and access.
- Objective 3.2: Distribute OER and partners' data through open portals.
- Objective 3.3: Share data management techniques with partners.
- Objective 3.4: Report discoveries and innovations to promote further research and applications.
- Objective 3.5: Explain discoveries to the public.

Goals and Objectives: 4

Encourage the next generation of ocean explorers, scientists, and engineers.

- Objective 4.1: Expand activities that educate students about ocean exploration.
- Objective 4.2: Increase opportunities for under-represented groups and individuals and for university students and early career professionals to participate in ocean exploration activities.

Goals and Objectives: 5

Expand the national ocean exploration program through partnerships.

- Objective 5.1: Engage national stakeholders, from both public and private sectors, to set priorities for ocean exploration.
- Objective 5.2: Reach out to potential international partners to encourage collaborative activities where interests converge.
- Objective 5.3: Design with stakeholders strategic paradigms for multi-year, multi-party exploration campaigns in priority ocean basins.