OER Priorities and Activities for FY 2015-2017

Third Meeting of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board
Narragansett, Rhode Island
October 1-2, 2015
Overview

• NOAA Priorities in the Pacific
• FY15 Update: *Hohonu Moana* Expedition
• FY16 FFO
• FY16-18: Exploration Priorities and Partnerships
CAPSTONE: Cross NOAA Line Office Initiative

- CAPSTONE is systematically collecting baseline information to support NOAA and partner science and management needs within Monuments, Sanctuaries, and other protected places in the U.S. Pacific Islands.
- Broad internal support;
- Key science objectives:
  - collect data for priority monument and sanctuary science and management needs
  - identify and map vulnerable marine habitats
  - characterize seamounts in the Prime Crust Zone
  - investigate the geologic history of Pacific seamounts
  - investigate deep-sea biogeographic patterns
- Expeditions within the U.S. EEZ/ECS
- Responsive to *Ocean Exploration 2020* and *National Forum 2014* recommendations
FY 15: 126 Days in the Pacific
Pacific Campaign (CAPSTONE) Just completed the Hohonu Moana Expedition:

- Focused on two Monuments including the recently expanded PRIMNM, and supported one Sanctuary.
- Initial testing of physical sampling capabilities, focused on potential new species and records for the region and geologic characterization of seamounts
- First time conducting telepresence operations in the region. Two new ECCs brought online enabling participation in future EX, Nautilus operations.
FY16-17 CAPSTONE Activities

FY 16: ~195 DAS in Central and Western Pacific
- Focus on 3 marine monuments including the recently expanded PRIMNM
- Within U.S. EEZ
- 75 DAS allocated by other NOAA programs

FY17: TBD but likely ~ 195 in Central Pacific
- Focus on 2 marine monuments, 1 marine sanctuary and the Phoenix Islands Protected Area
- NOS, NMFS priorities
- Expect approximately 75 DAS to be requested by other NOAA programs
FY15-17 Idealized Prospective NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer Ship Track

Mariana Trench MNM

Papahānaumokuākea MNM

Pacific Remote Islands MNM

Phoenix Islands Protected Area

NMS American Samoa, Rose Atoll MNM
FY16 Federal Funding Opportunity

- FY16 OER Federal Funding Opportunity released
- Expect to award $3 million in three areas:
  - ocean exploration
  - marine archeology
  - technology
- Atlantic and Gulf EEZs and ECS of particular interest
- [http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/about/what-we-do/funding-opportunities.html](http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/about/what-we-do/funding-opportunities.html)
Mid-/South Atlantic Campaign

FY16 – and beyond

- Preliminary discussions are underway about a partnership in the Mid and South Atlantic
- Cross-NOAA Partnership
- Areas include NOS and NMFS priorities and BOEM regional focus area
- Will include the BOEM/USGS/NOAA work this in broader NOAA investment in this region FY16-FY20
OER Opportunities: FY18

- *Okeanos Explorer* returns to the Atlantic
- Opportunities to collaborate with the European Union in with operations in the U.S. EEZ and ECS (Ireland, France)
- Potential collaboration with Canada
- Expanded partnership with BOEM-USGS-NOS-NMFS
- Potential partnerships with NASA and ONR
Questions?

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