

Charge
Blue Economy Subcommittee
of the
Ocean Exploration Advisory Board (OEAB)

Role of Ocean Exploration

America's future depends on understanding the ocean. We explore the ocean because its health and resilience are vital to our economy and to our lives. We depend on the ocean to regulate weather and climate; to sustain a diversity of life; for maritime shipping and national defense; and for food, energy, medicine, and other essential services to humankind. Goals of Ocean Exploration are to discover and to provide new knowledge about our oceans, including new technology, improved knowledge of the state of our oceans, and knowledge of how our oceans are changing.

Blue Economy Subcommittee

The objective of the Blue Economy Subcommittee of the OEAB is to provide advice and recommendations for how ocean exploration can help NOAA lead and contribute to the American blue economy in order to double the economic contributions from the US Exclusive Economic Zone over the coming decade. The goal is to develop a comprehensive strategy to support responsible, sustainable business growth in the marine and maritime sectors, which will also have a positive long-term impact on the health of the oceans. The American blue economy is vital to our nation because: 1) health and resilience of the oceans are critical to our economy and our lives; and 2) a robust American blue economy enhances our nation's leadership and competitiveness by strengthening our national, economic, and environmental security.

The Subcommittee will address strategic approaches in which NOAA can use ocean exploration to accelerate business growth in the American blue economy, stimulating economic activity while improving health of our oceans. Scope includes: 1) assess the current extent to which ocean exploration supports development of the American blue economy; 2) develop alternative strategies for how NOAA can engage and partner with industry in innovative and more effective ways to advance the American blue economy; 3) analyze potential alternative strategies; and 4) recommend to the OEAB selected approaches. Ocean Exploration is identified as one sector of the American blue economy. In addition, ocean exploration is a key contributor to other sectors by providing innovative tools and enriched knowledge to enable more informed management decisions:

- Seafood Production and Competitiveness (e.g., better tools and characterization to enable enhanced management of fisheries and aquaculture)
- Maritime Commerce
- Ocean Exploration (e.g., mapping/characterization of EEZ, modeling, critical minerals, pharmaceuticals)
- Energy Development (e.g., offshore oil & gas and renewables)
- Tourism and Recreation (e.g., ecotourism as well as virtual tourism, which provides popular, preferred websites on ocean topics to which the public is attracted)
- Other (e.g., national security, coastal risk reduction and preparedness, marine debris cleanup & prevention, information organization/search)

The Subcommittee includes selected members from government, academia, and industry. The Subcommittee should provide an interim report to the OEAB in approximately one year.