



Welcome to Focus Area 1: Ensuring a Coordinated Program of National Ocean Exploration

Over the past 5 years NOAA Ocean Exploration, as an established member of the Ocean Exploration Community, has built coalitions and demonstrated leadership in coordinating, establishing, and reinforcing core principles in treating data as a strategic asset, upholding scientific integrity, engaging from local to global and demonstrating our commitment to diversity and inclusive behaviors and policies. This leadership has been both overt and subtle, but has expanded participation and recognition of Ocean Exploration at both the national and international level, as its own unique discipline that benefits multi-disciplinary and multi-sector interests and missions.

Reference materials and corresponding presentations provided as part of this focus area showcase examples of the program's influence and collaboration across three (3) thematic areas that help to drive and align an integrated Ocean Exploration paradigm. You will also see leadership at every level in this office through the reference materials, narratives, and vignettes that you will be listening to and reading as part of this review.

Coalition Leadership: Three Thematic Areas

- 1) **Federal Leadership** ---how NOAA Ocean Exploration builds coalitions and demonstrates leadership across government partnerships/agencies and federal networks: National Ocean Mapping Exploration & Characterization (NOMECE) Council, Interagency Working Groups on Ocean Exploration and Characterization (IWG-OEC) & Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IWG-OCM), and different regional campaigns (ASPIRE, EXPRESS, SeaScapeAK, Beyond the Blue)
- 2) **Internal Leadership** --- Manuals, SOPs, Best Practices, etc, emblematic of the NOAA Ocean Exploration Identity; authoritative documents shared externally to define Ocean Exploration as its own discipline
- 3) **External Leadership** ---- NOAA Ocean Exploration is changing traditional paradigms and is building coalitions and leading with external groups and partnerships to advance and coalesce Ocean Exploration activities



Slide 2: Focus Area 1 is broken down into 3 distinct themes

- 1) **Federal Leadership** ---how NOAA Ocean Exploration builds coalitions and demonstrates leadership across government partnerships/agencies and federal networks specifically looking at highlight the program's influence, participation, and visibility in the national coordination of ocean exploration activities the initial recordings and reference materials focus on NOMECE and IWGs

From there we highlight NOAA Ocean Exploration participation moving from the national to the regional level with participation in campaigns that support and are supported by NOMECE goals and objectives; over the past 5 years NOAA Ocean Exploration has lead or significantly contributed to several campaigns including ASPIRE, Express, Seascope AK and the latest is the Beyond the Blue: Illuminating the Pacific which NOAA Ocean Exploration is spearheading as part of a broader cross agency effort.

The second thematic area highlights

- 2) **Internal Leadership** --- SOPs/Best Practices/Code of Conduct/Metrics/GRPR/messaging/documents -- while these documents and

- 1) standards are made for our internal accountability, quality assurance, and continuity of operations these **authoritative documents are** also shared publicly which has helped to provide a framework that the Ocean Exploration community can adapt or adopt helping to galvanize the community in defining **Ocean Exploration as its own discipline working to align common standards and best practices;**

The 3rd thematic area is how NOAA Ocean Exploration has approached our external partnerships - this may be the most subtle yet exceedingly significant leadership contribution

- 2) **External Leadership**----- Specifically the External leadership section highlights the relationship and partnership we have been cultivating with the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute (OECI) over the past 5 years as an example of how the program has incorporated this partnership into our culture as an extension of our mission capabilities. In doing so the program has expanded access and awareness of Ocean Exploration activities, capabilities, and value. Specifically OER
 - a) transformed the way CIs collaborate and are used in NOAA (CIs are typically used for staffing or as passthrough for R&D to universities) we changed the narrative to make our relationship truly collaborative and cross cutting between institutions, disciplines, missions, and sectors
 - b) expand the reach and participation in ocean exploration using this mechanism
 - c) In turn the access OER could provide to the OECI became a beacon for other NOAA programs and agencies -- resulting in increased collaborations for OER and OECI; more IAAs and additional leveraging of funds, in-kind contributions, and innovative solutions and technologies that have bolstered a variety of opportunities across academia, non-profit, industry, and gov
 - d) As a result of NOAA Ocean Explorations open and collaborative approach, our program is viewed as a reliable and trusted partner across many agencies and other NOAA programs. In the past several years as NOMECS and regional campaigns have continued to gain momentum along with the visibility of the OECI - NOAA Ocean Exploration is sought out for collaboration and expertise as a trusted partner and authority across the multi-mission Ocean space.

The presentations and resources that are highlighted in these thematic areas, as part of this 5 year retrospective are meant to be emblematic of how NOAA Ocean Exploration, as part of the community, has had an integral role and impact in growing and enhancing Ocean Exploration. These are just a few examples of contributions but are certainly not exhaustive in terms of leadership and expertise that cross cuts many other Ocean Exploration domains. In fact as you continue to participate in the Program Review you will undoubtedly encounter leadership and coalition building activities from this office that are expanded upon in the Technology and Outreach and Education achievements of the past 5 years which are highlighted in Focus Areas 2 & 3 respectively.

Alignment with Strategic Plans

Strategic Plan	Goal Addressed (Objectives)	Topic/Objective
NOAA Ocean Exploration 2023-2026	Goal 1 (Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4)	EXPAND NOAA OCEAN EXPLORATION'S CAPACITY FOR GLOBAL EXPEDITIONS TO ENABLE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY
	Goal 2 (Objectives 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)	DEVELOP AND FIELD TEST THE EMERGING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGIES NECESSARY TO EXPLORE THE OCEAN
	Goal 3 (Objectives 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)	DEVELOP AND FIELD TEST THE EMERGING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGIES NECESSARY TO EXPLORE THE OCEAN
	Goal 4 (Objective 4.1, 4.2, 4.3)	INVEST IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TO UNLOCK INNOVATION
	Goal 5 (Objective 5.1)	EDUCATE, INSPIRE, AND PROMOTE THE VALUE OF THE OCEAN
	Goal 6 (Objectives 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)	EMBRACE THE VOLUME, VELOCITY, AND VARIETY OF OCEAN EXPLORATION DATA TO DRIVE DISCOVERIES
OAR	Goal 2 (Objectives 2.1, 2.3)	Produce, analyze, and interpret observation records to understand the Earth system and inform the public
NOMECS*	Goal 1, Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 5 *All Goals of strategy have been influenced and lead by NOAA Ocean Exploration	To map the US EEZ, identify priority areas within US EEZ, and explore and characterize these priority areas, leveraging the expertise and resources of multi-sector partnerships. Deploying new and emerging science and technologies at scale, in partnership with private industry, academia, and non-governmental orgs



As you go through the different recordings and reference materials you will see clear alignment in how our program has or is progressing towards achieving several different strategic goals across NOAA Ocean Exploration, NOAA Research, and the NOMECS strategic plans. Specifically throughout the 3 thematic areas you will find several of these goals/objectives and measures of success are being addressed.

Office Hours & Program Review Date

Office Hours for Focus Area 1:

- Thursday September 26th 09-10am (ET)
- Wednesday October 02 10 - 11am (ET)
- Friday October 04 (as needed)

Program Review Schedule for Focus Area 1:

- Wednesday October 09



After you've had a chance to review the recordings, reference materials and program review materials I am very much looking forward to additional discussions during scheduled "Office Hours" for Focus area 1 on thursday sept 26 and wed oct 02. If for any reason neither of those dates/times align with your schedule I am happy to schedule an additional time on Friday Oct 04 - please contact David Turner or Joanne Flanders if you wish to do so to set an alternative time.

Additionally during the in person Program review Focus area 1 will be discussed on Wed Oct 09 where I am looking forward to additional conversation and recommendations from the review panel. As always thank you for your time and I hope you see the leadership that is reflected at all levels throughout this program as you watch these recordings and participate in this review.