

GLOBAL DEEP SEA EXPLORATION GOALS

Ocean Discovery League is developing the Global Deep Sea Exploration Goals—10,000 targeted seafloor locations that, when visually explored, will provide the first equitable and representative visual characterization of the entire deep sea floor.



These targets are generated using an algorithm developed by our research scientists and are selected based on several criteria, including previous observation status, geomorphology, seafloor composition, and input from our partners and global experts. We are building an open-source platform that all ocean explorers and researchers worldwide can use to plan research and expeditions and communicate progress toward these goals to the research community and the general public.

Visual imaging is one of the most critical, non-invasive methods to study the ocean. It allows researchers to provide situational context to collected samples, observe marine life behaviors and interactions, conduct more accurate biodiversity and abundance surveys, and simultaneously gather biologic and geologic data and assessments. Visually characterizing the deep sea is a critical component, along with seabed mapping and biological sampling, to explore this ecosystem.

These goals, in combination with ODL's work globally to proliferate low-cost, deep-sea data collection tools and build capacity in historically underrepresented and under-resourced communities, will exponentially increase deep-sea observations worldwide over the next fifteen years. More importantly, it will fill in the gaps and create the first globally equitable visual characterization of this landscape.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

We invite the entire ocean exploration community to join this effort. There are several ways you can participate in and support this initiative.

- **Explore:** Add locations to your upcoming dive plans and research to help us visualize each of these 10,000 points. Each location has a 10 km buffer area, allowing for flexibility of specific dive locations to consider a point visually explored.
- **Champion:** Support our efforts within the ocean exploration community. We are available to speak at meetings and conferences and can provide resources to include in discussions you may host.
- **Contribute Data:** Do you have previous dive data that you can contribute? Contact us. We have several ways to protect data while still including it in the selection criteria.
- **Support:** Ocean Discovery League and our partners and contributors currently fund this work. If you'd like to contribute, please reach out.

ABOUT OCEAN DISCOVERY LEAGUE

Founded in 2021 by deep-sea explorer Dr. Katy Croff Bell, Ocean Discovery League's mission is to accelerate deep-ocean exploration by developing accessible systems to broaden the community of those who explore and understand the deep sea. ODL is developing a strategic approach to expand the area of the seafloor that is explored, mapped, and characterized while reducing expenses by creating lower-cost, easier-to-use tools and technology.

THEORY OF CHANGE

Ocean Discovery League's theory of change is that IF we make deep ocean exploration tools and training more affordable and accessible and expand the community of global deep ocean explorers, THEN we will dramatically accelerate a strategic and representative characterization of the deep seafloor.

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