

# GLOBAL DEEP SEA EXPLORATION GOALS

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



These targets are selected using a data-driven method that uses several criteria and global ocean data sources, including previous observation status, geomorphology, seafloor composition, and input from our partners and global experts. We are building an open-source platform that the global community of ocean explorers and researchers 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.

The Global Deep Sea Exploration Goals, in combination with ODL's work globally to proliferate low-cost, deep-sea data collection tools and build capacity in 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 representative visual characterization of this landscape.

# HOW TO PARTICIPATE

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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 Deep Sea Exploration Goal 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! 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 seafloor observation data that you can contribute? Contact us. We have several ways to protect data while still including it in the selection criteria.
- **Support:** This work is currently funded by Ocean Discovery League and our partners and contributors. If you'd like to contribute, please reach out.

## ABOUT OCEAN DISCOVERY LEAGUE

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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.

## LEARN MORE & CONTACT US

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