# Creatures of the Deep & "Treasure Maps" of the Ocean Floor

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Redlands Forum, May 27, 2015

**Explornography [n.]** "The vicarious thrill of exploring when there is nothing left to explore" (John Tierney, New York Times, July 26, 1998)









#### NASA Perpetual Ocean Movie

Tens of thousands of ocean currents are captured in this scientific visualization created by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. The visualization uses data from a model of global ocean circulation to create a simple, visceral experience. The animation clearly shows how bigger currents like the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic Ocean and the Kuroshio in the Pacific carry warm waters across thousands of miles at speeds greater than four miles per hour (6 kilometers per hour); how coastal currents such as the Agulhas in the Southern Hemisphere transport equatorial waters towards the Poles; and how thousands of other ocean currents are confined to particular regions and form slow-moving, circular pools called eddies, the storm systems of ocean circulation.

The visualization shows ocean surface currents for the June 2005 to December 2007 period. It was produced using a solution from the Estimating the Circulation and Climate of the Ocean (ECCO) project. ECCO is a joint project between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, Calif. ECCO uses the MIT general circulation model to synthesize satellite data into complete descriptions of the time-evolving ocean circulation.

The following data are used by the ECCO project: sea surface height from NASA's Topex/Poseidon, Jason-1, and Ocean Surface Topography Mission (OSTM)/Jason-2 missions; gravity from the NASA/German Aerospace Center (DLR) Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) mission; surface wind stress from NASA's QuikScat mission; sea surface temperature from the NASA/JAXA Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer-EOS (AMSR-E); sea ice concentration and velocity data from passive microwave radiometers; and temperature and salinity profiles from floats of the international Argo ocean observation system, from shipborne casts, and from moorings.

The ECCO model-data syntheses are among the largest computations of their kind ever undertaken. They are made possible by high-end computing resources provided by NASA's Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Calif.









## Only 5-15% of global seafloor charted with ships - "we need ~125 more years!" \*



\*Sandwell et al., 2003, Eos article Graphic courtesy of Christina Massel, Steve Miller, Scripps Institution of Oceanography







Survey at 20-20S - 250 m Contours - 200 m Bathymetry Grid







## Fine Scale Mapping and Sampling



















Map by former Oregon State U. grad student Emily Larkin

#### National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa

Natural & human impacts

- Crown-of-thorns invasion, hurricanes, bleaching
- Illegal fishing, sewage outfall





Photos courtesy of NOAA National Marine Sanctuary System

#### National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa Research

- Prior to 2001...
  - Sanctuary largely unexplored below depths of ~30-60 m
  - no comprehensive documentation of the plants, animals, and submarine topography.
- Little is known of tropical "twilight zone"
  - shelf-edge (50-120 m deep) of coral reef habitats throughout the world
- Best combination of terrain analysis techniques?
- Extension of satellite-based scheme
  - What is a viable classification acoustically?



Map courtesy of NOAA Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment











\* NOT FOR NAVIGATION

### Pago Pago Harbor, American Samoa







#### Geographic Information System (GIS) Terrain Analysis and Classification



Emily Lundblad, Oregon State U. Thesis

#### **TREASURE MAP**



Emily Lundblad, Oregon State U. Thesis

#### Hawaii Undersea Research Lab Submersible Dives



























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## esrigram presents SHARK GIS

A story map 🖪 У 🖉 🍈 esri

#### SharkGIS

Human fascination with sharks dates back ages long before Jaws or Sharknado. What is it about these mysterious creatures of the deep that sparks so much interest across time and cultures? In honor of Shark Week, we're taking a closer look at sharks using media and maps to better understand the ocean's fiercest predator.

#### Story Maps: A New Medium

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#### A story map 🖪 У 🖉 🌐 esri SharkGIS

#### Ferocious Man-Eater?

Let's cut to the chase. The great white is probably the world's most notorious shark. While *Jaws* didn't do any favors for the white shark's reputation, nature filmmakers and shark advocates are trying to change public perception. In reality, *National Geographic* reports that humans are not the preferred prey of the great whites. Just try not to look like a seal the next time you go to the beach.

One Misunderstood Fish: The Great

Video: <u>Endless Ocean</u> Photo: Lwp Kommunikáció <u>via Flickr</u>

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## **Thank You**

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Newfoundland Basin

NORTH ATLANTIC

