

A New Age of Ocean Exploration: Revealing Secrets of the Deep
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We are in a new age of ocean exploration which will accelerate the mapping and characterization of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone and other high priority areas. This exploration will lead to new knowledge about vulnerable marine ecosystems, marine archeology, and potential sources of energy, minerals, and pharmaceuticals. Discoveries in these areas will be enabled by the convergence of several key technologies: multibeam sonar and higher resolution mapping systems, remotely operated and autonomous underwater vehicles, and telepresence through fiber optic and satellite links between ship and shore. Examples of these technologies and their applications will be drawn from recent expeditions of the Exploration Vessel Nautilus, which is operated by the Ocean Exploration Trust. Opportunities for students to participate in internships aboard E/V Nautilus will also be discussed.