



Ocean Exploration
and Research

OER Priorities and Activities for FY 2015- 2017

Third Meeting of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board
Narragansett, Rhode Island
October 1-2, 2015

Overview

- NOAA Priorities in the Pacific
- FY15 Update: *Hohonu Moana* Expedition
- FY16 FFO
- FY16-18: Exploration Priorities and Partnerships

NOAA Priorities in the Pacific

CAPSTONE: Cross NOAA Line Office Initiative

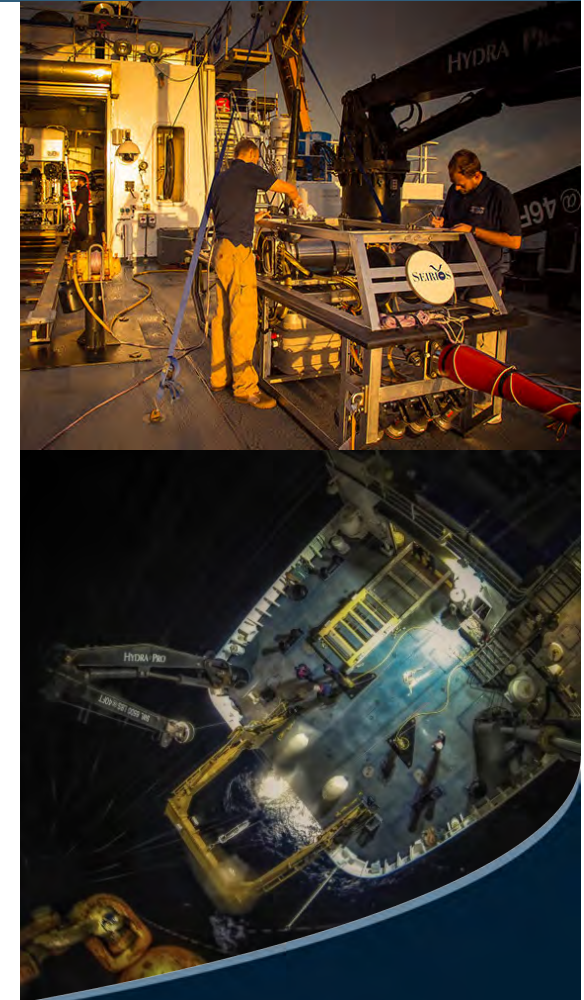
- CAPSTONE is systematically collecting baseline information to support NOAA and partner science and management needs within Monuments, Sanctuaries, and other protected places in the U.S. Pacific Islands.
- Broad internal support;
- Key science objectives:
 - collect data for priority monument and sanctuary science and management needs
 - identify and map vulnerable marine habitats
 - characterize seamounts in the Prime Crust Zone
 - investigate the geologic history of Pacific seamounts
 - investigate deep-sea biogeographic patterns
- Expeditions within the U.S. EEZ/ECS
- Responsive to *Ocean Exploration 2020* and *National Forum 2014* recommendations

FY15 Review: Hohonu Moana

FY 15: 126 Days in the Pacific

Pacific Campaign (CAPSTONE) Just completed the *Hohonu Moana* Expedition:

- Focused on two Monuments including the recently expanded PRIMNM, and supported one Sanctuary.
- Initial testing of physical sampling capabilities, focused on potential new species and records for the region and geologic characterization of seamounts
- First time conducting telepresence operations in the region. Two new ECCs brought online enabling participation in future EX, Nautilus operations.



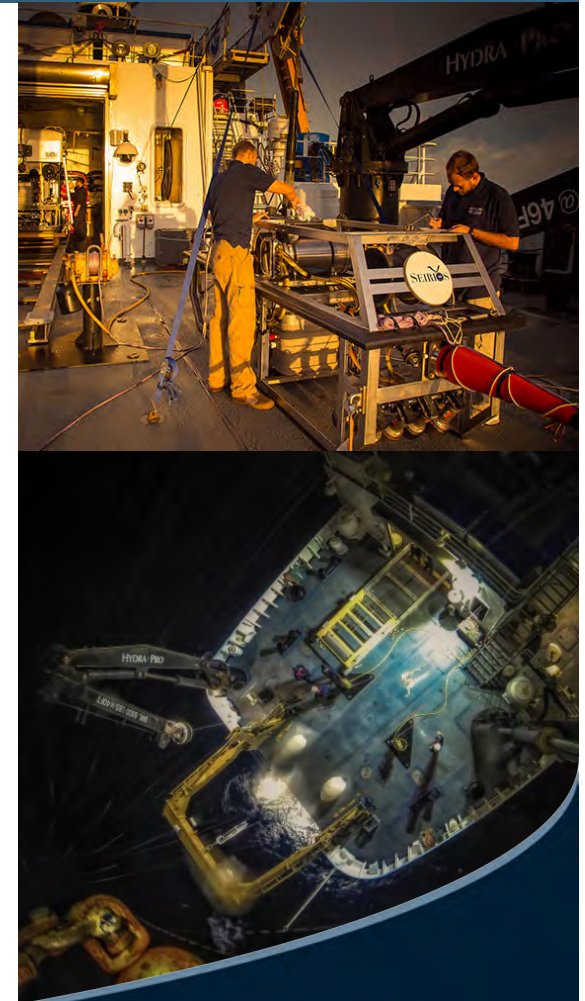
FY16-17 CAPSTONE Activities

FY 16: ~195 DAS in Central and Western Pacific

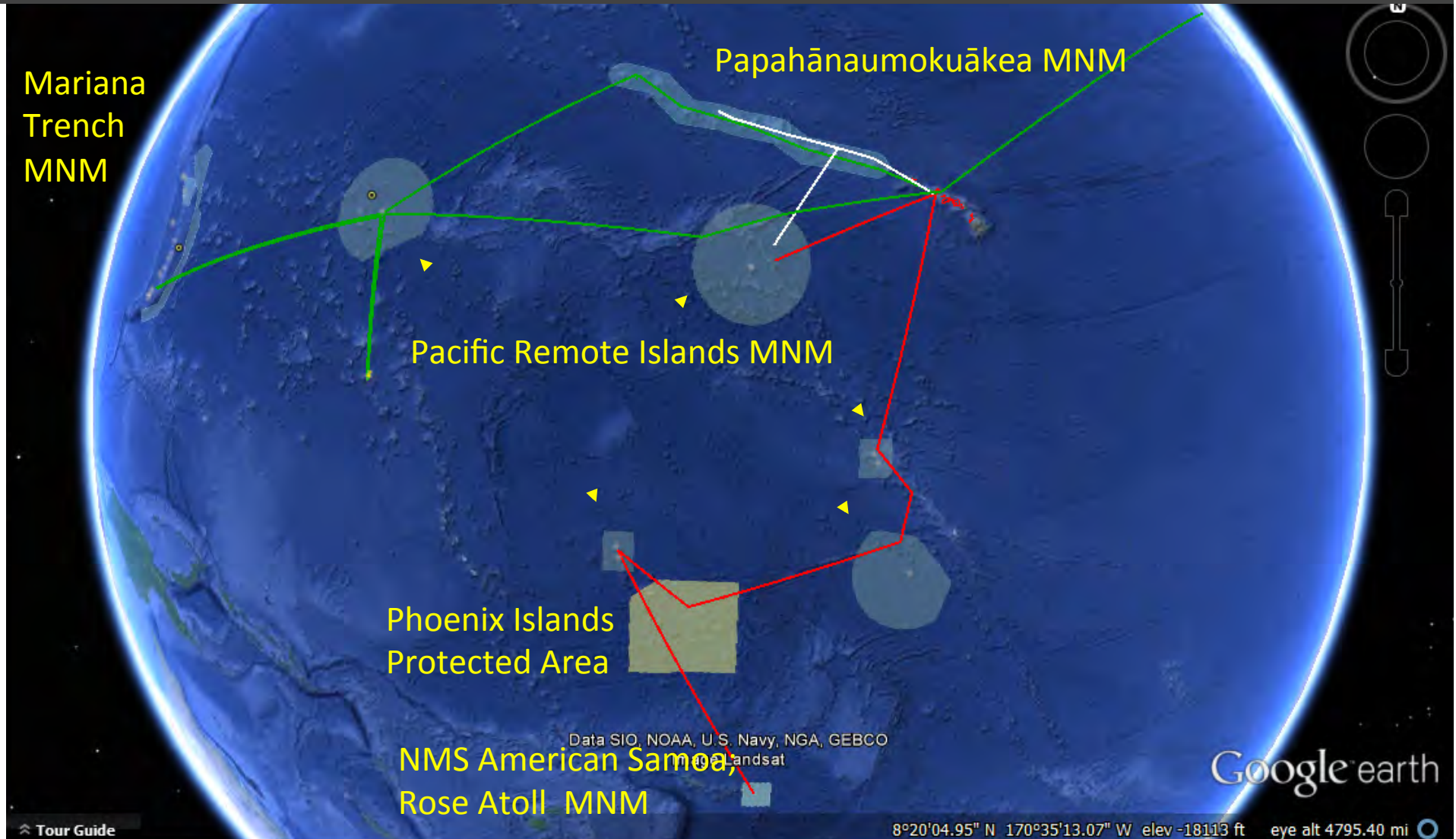
- Focus on 3 marine monuments including the recently expanded PRIMNM
- Within U.S. EEZ
- 75 DAS allocated by other NOAA programs

FY17: TBD but likely ~ 195 in Central Pacific

- Focus on 2 marine monuments, 1 marine sanctuary and the Phoenix Islands Protected Area
- NOS, NMFS priorities
- Expect approximately 75 DAS to be requested by other NOAA programs



FY15-17 Idealized Prospective NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* Ship Track



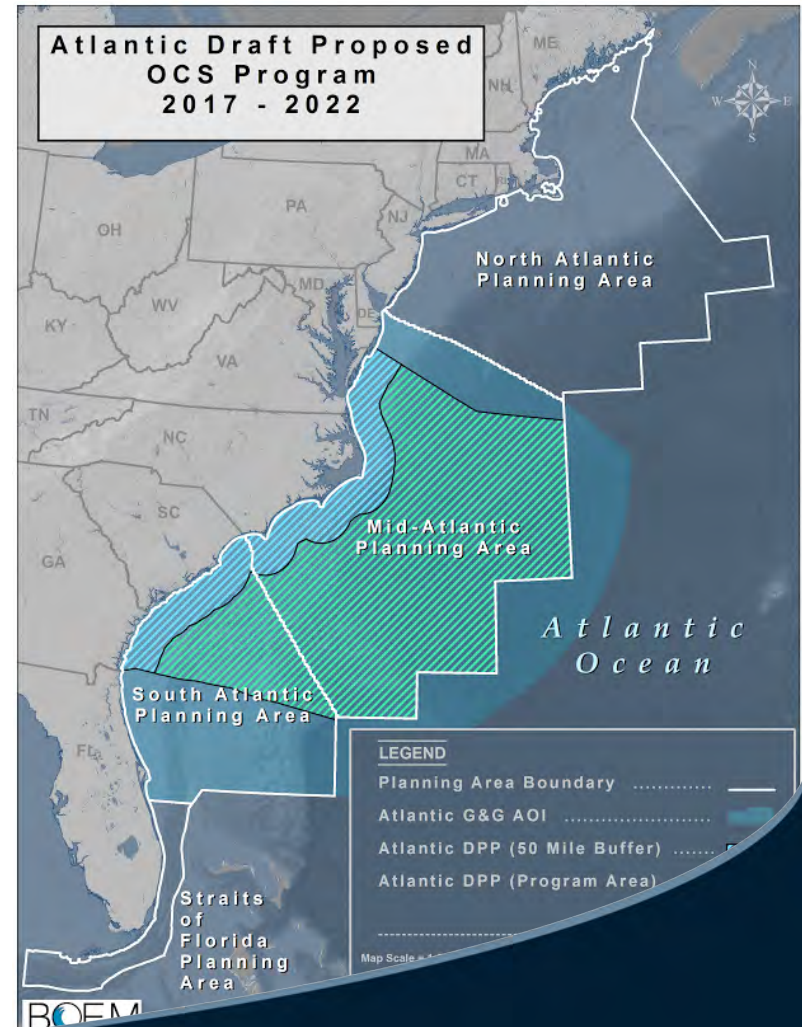
FY16 Federal Funding Opportunity

- FY16 OER Federal Funding Opportunity released
- Expect to award \$3 million in three areas:
 - ocean exploration
 - marine archeology
 - technology
- Atlantic and Gulf EEZs and ECS of particular interest
- <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/about/what-we-do/funding-opportunities.html>

Mid-/South Atlantic Campaign

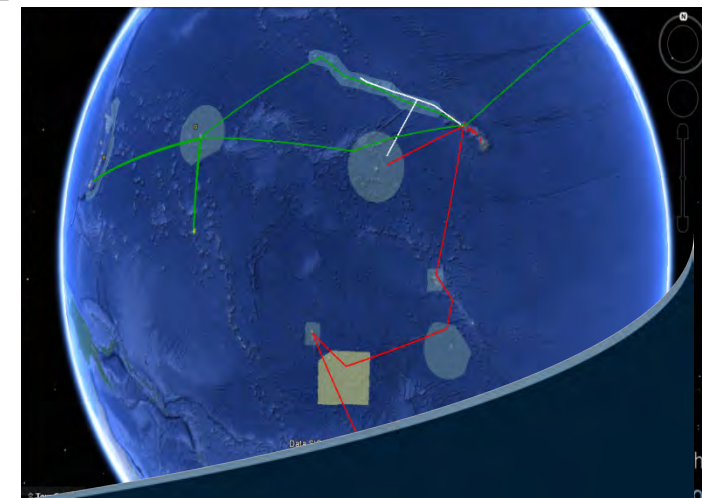
FY16 – and beyond

- Preliminary discussions are underway about a partnership in the Mid and South Atlantic
- Cross-NOAA Partnership
- Areas include NOS and NMFS priorities and BOEM regional focus area
- Will include the BOEM/USGS/NOAA work this in broader NOAA investment in this region FY16-FY20



OER Opportunities: FY18

- *Okeanos Explorer* returns to the Atlantic
- Opportunities to collaborate with the European Union in with operations in the U.S. EEZ and ECS (Ireland, France)
- Potential collaboration with Canada
- Expanded partnership with BOEM-USGS-NOS-NMFS
- Potential partnerships with NASA and ONR





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Questions?

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