Exploration is human exploration. All discovery is human discovery. What lessons can our discoveries teach us for our future? Our exploration must engage with living cultures, societies, and groups for whom the past, as well as the oceans today, have relevance and meaning.
Exploration, mapping, and characterization must be inclusive in regard to participation from scientists and non-scientists, participation from scientists across a variety of disciplines, and participation by individuals who reflect human diversity.
“Culture” is more than shipwrecks and aircraft. It also is places of cultural significance, such as the Bowie Seamount, known to the Haida as *SGaan Kinghlas* and considered spiritually important to members of that living Culture. Ongoing missions must respect and work with living communities and perspectives.
We can and will identify key ocean routes where evidence may be found on the seabed, such as drift patterns for Polynesian colonization, European and American sailing trade routes, established routes for regular transpacific steam voyages, sites of major sea battles, and the routes of significant seabed cables of the past.
USS Indianapolis CA 35
5500 Meters

Majority of Plane Debris

5" Gun Directors

B Bow

Bridge

8" Guns

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In 2018, BOEM partnered with NOAA’s Office of Ocean Exploration and Research during a NOAA Ship Okeanos Explorer expedition to document the Blake Ridge Shipwreck discovered in 2015 by Duke University scientists off the North Carolina coast. A multi-disciplinary team of archaeologists, biologists, geologists, and geophysicists from Federal and State agencies, academia, and private firms collaborated in real-time via telepresence from over a dozen shore-based locations to document the remains of this 200-year old shipwreck in over 7,000 feet of water. Using cutting-edge methods that utilized new software and hardware systems, BOEM generated 2D and 3D maps of the wreck. This poster is made from over 4,000 images from NOAA’s remotely operated vehicle Deep Discoverer; these images were processed into one hyper-accurate image.
All exploration is human exploration. All discovery is human discovery. What can our discoveries tell us about humans?

The Pacific reflects thousands of years of interaction.

Our earliest history lies under water from the beaches to the 100m level.

Exploration and characterization must engage with living human cultures, societies and groups.

Not all cultural heritage underwater relates to shipwrecks.

Discoveries often happen by accident; we need to be prepared to act when we find cultural heritage.

Not every find should be openly shared or openly mapped.

Underwater Cultural Heritage often provides the “money shot” in addition to scientific, archaeological and historical discoveries.

Don’t leave “home” without us, and keep us on speed dial.