

# Exploring Geology on the World-Wide Web – Marine Geology and Oceanography

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## INTRODUCTION

In recognition of the importance of the marine environment, the United Nations declared 1998 the International Year of the Ocean. This designation provided individual organizations and governments with an important opportunity to raise public awareness and understanding of the ocean and related issues. Some of the web sites listed below were specifically designed as products of this international effort, while many others were inspired to improve their content. As a result, you can now find information on a variety of related topics, including the topography or shape of the ocean floors, the distribution and type of bottom sediments, the composition and structure of the underlying rocks, and the geologic processes that have been at work throughout the seafloor's history.

Plate tectonics, seismology, volcanology, and geophysics were covered in previous columns and are treated only briefly here. Coral reefs and sedimentology are also covered only briefly, as they are subjects I will cover in future columns. Previous topics of this column and their corresponding hypertext links are available from the web page listed below. All of the URL addresses in the current article will be available on the publication date of the *next* issue of the journal. Please visit:

<http://www.geo.utexas.edu/bexton/jge/jge.htm>

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### International Oceanographic Foundation

<http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/iof/>

Contains a nice overview of the diverse aspects, challenges, and opportunities that comprise a career in marine science.

### American Society of Limnology and Oceanography

<http://aslo.org>

Promotes the interests of limnology, oceanography, and related sciences.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### UNESCO – International Year of the Ocean

<http://ioc.unesco.org/iyo/>

The official United Nations Year of the Ocean web site. The Classroom section contains literally hundreds of activities subdivided in a number of themes. A great place to start surfing.

### NOAA – International Year of the Ocean

<http://www.yoto98.noaa.gov/>

Another great Year of the Ocean site from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration.

### Oceans Australia

<http://oceans.ninemsn.com.au/>

Year of the Ocean website from Australia. Nice design elements.

### USGS – Western Region Coastal and Marine Geology

<http://walrus.wr.usgs.gov/>

A very nice site that by its own definition can "accommodate visitors with a wide range of educational backgrounds, from kids in elementary school to adults with little or no background in geology to professionals in geology and other earth sciences."

### Ocean Drilling Program (ODP)

<http://www-odp.tamu.edu/>

The Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) conducts basic research into the history of the ocean basins and the nature of the crust beneath the ocean floor.

### Joint Oceanographic Institutions – Education

<http://www.joi-odp.org/JOI/Education/Education.html>

Slides and a downloadable manual (in PDF format) present scientific concepts used during an oceanographic research expedition to explore the geologic, climatologic, and oceanographic history of the Indian Ocean basin and nearby Himalayan Mountains.

### TOPEX/Poseidon Satellite Home Page

<http://topex-www.jpl.nasa.gov/>

Learn more about the TOPEX/Poseidon satellite, which measures global sea level.

### NOAA – Marine Geology & Geophysics Division

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/mggd.html>

Information on extensive bathymetric, marine sediment, and trackline geophysical databases in both coastal and open ocean areas.

### Smithsonian Institution – Ocean Planet Exhibition

<http://seawifs.gsfc.nasa.gov/oceanplanet.html>

This electronic online companion exhibition contains all of the text and most of the panel designs and images found in the Ocean Planet traveling exhibition. Lots of great introductory material.

### University of Washington – School of Oceanography

<http://www.ocean.washington.edu/outreach/>

Educational Outreach website, containing links to an interactive marine geological cruise, the REVEL Program, and the Exploraquarium.





