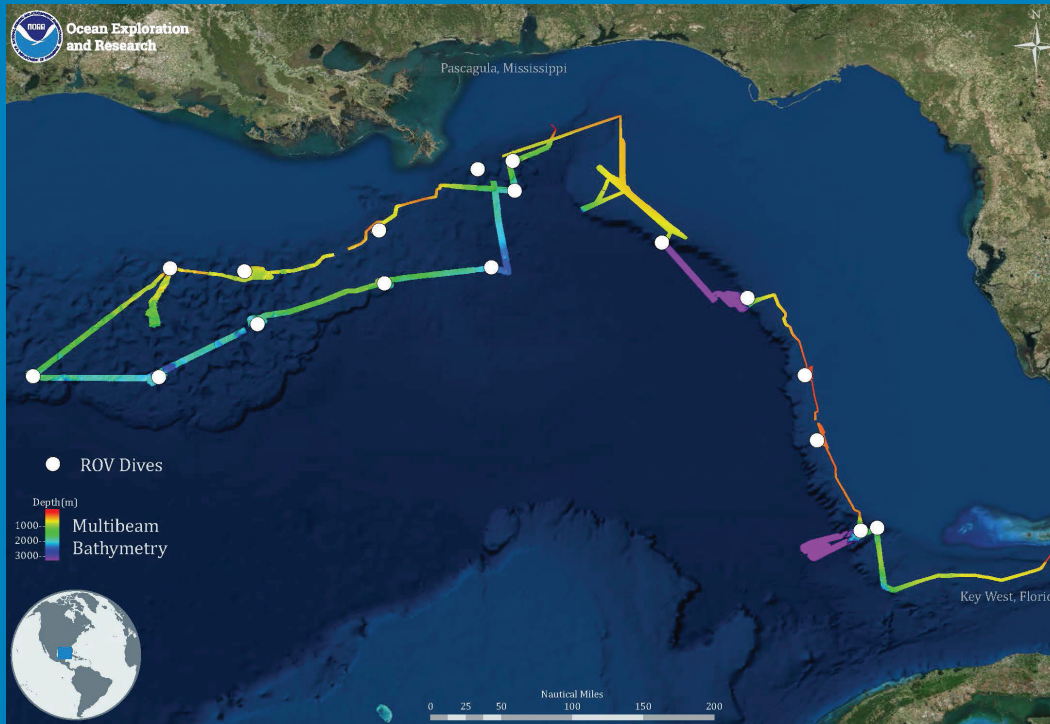


Gulf of Mexico 2018

NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*, April 11 – May 3, 2018

oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/okeanos/explorations/ex1803/welcome.html



Overview map showing seafloor bathymetry and ROV dives completed during the **Gulf of Mexico 2018** expedition. This expedition was the final of three expeditions intended to increase our understanding of the deep-sea environment in the Gulf of Mexico.



Unusual behavior of a potentially new species of squid seen at about 850 meters (2,789 feet) during Dive 04 of the expedition. The behavior seen in this picture was described as “probably the most bizarre squid I’ve ever seen” by cephalopod expert, Mike Vecchione from NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service.



Explored two archeological sites to support Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and NOAA maritime heritage programs, resulting in 3D models of both sites, including the first ever collection of images of the wreck of the tugboat *New Hope*.



Conducted 16 live telepresence interactions with various groups engaging more than 400 individuals including the Exploratorium, National Aquarium, Boston College, Hawaii Pacific University, London Natural History Museum, among many more.



21,100+ square kilometers of seafloor mapped in U.S. EEZ



15 remotely operated vehicle dives at a depth range of 305 to 3,010 meters



67 biological and 12 geological samples collected



corals and sponge communities were documented during 12 ROV dives



13 undescribed species or new records observed



300,700+ live video views