WHOI at a Glance

- Largest nonprofit ocean science research institution in the world
- Studying the ocean and related earth systems since 1930
- More than 300 world-class scientists and engineers
- Over 100 current students and 900 alumni of the MIT-WHOI Joint Program
- Home to three research vessels and the deep-diving submersible, *Alvin*
- Specialized centers focus on marine policy, marine mammals, marine robotics, and marine and environmental radioactivity

Science at the Institution is supported by a mix of grants from government agencies, industry partnerships, endowment income and private philanthropy.

Since 1930, WHOI has brought together the brightest minds in ocean science research and engineering to explore undiscovered areas, test new ideas, and develop innovative technologies to better understand and manage the ocean.

Connect with Us

www.whoi.edu/signup

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
266 Woods Hole Road
Woods Hole, MA 02543 USA
508-289-2252 | info@whoi.edu

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An Introduction

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

A recognized world leader in researching and exploring the global ocean

At Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), we are single-minded in our pursuit of knowledge for one reason—the health of the ocean is critical to the future of our planet.

The ocean is the planet's single, largest feature. Without it, life on Earth would not be possible.

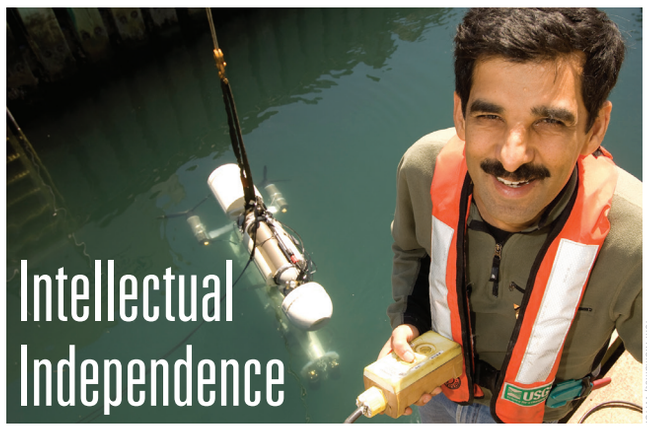
Chris German, WHOI

Why we care about the ocean

The ocean contains 80 percent of Earth's fresh water, and produces half of the oxygen from photosynthesis and an enormous portion of the world's food. It is the source of transformative new fuels, pharmaceuticals and materials. As a result of the Institution's work, the country has the basis for more informed marine policies, stronger national security, greater economic growth and innovation, and a more thorough understanding of the ocean and the planetary systems that sustain us.

Institution scientists and engineers have made significant discoveries in all areas of ocean science and major advances in marine technology including:

- The development of underwater instruments and vehicles—including the *Alvin* submarine—that have probed the ocean's depths, pioneered the measurement of ocean characteristics, and led to many important scientific discoveries and societal applications
- Studies that determined how to eliminate organisms that fouled ships' hulls, revolutionizing travel by sea by making ships more fuel efficient
- Major contributions to understanding ocean circulation and its role in climate
- Discovery of hydrothermal vents and hundreds of new species of ocean life



Tom Kleindinst, WHOI

Tom Kleindinst, WHOI

Today we work to understand the impacts of our changing climate, conduct the science that underpins conservation of ocean life, study how the global water cycle affects all parts of the planet, and develop cutting-edge technologies for work in the most remote regions of the ocean and continuous real-time observations of dynamic ocean processes. Across all disciplines, the Institution nurtures the ideas that transform ocean science.

Combining cutting-edge science and technology with sea-going expertise, WHOI investigators work with colleagues around the Institution and around the globe to unlock mysteries held within Earth's most unexplored region—the ocean.

Above: Courtesy of WHOI; Tom Kleindinst, WHOI; Cover: Chris Linder