



July 2017

Inner Space Center News

Mark your calendars ocean explorers! The Inner Space Center (ISC) has **expanded its public tour schedule** for the remainder of summer of 2017.

Public tours will take place **every Tuesday at 11:00 am**.

Discover where the latest deep-sea explorations are taking place, see ancient shipwreck artifacts from previous expeditions, and listen to scientists as they make their next discoveries.

Upcoming public tour dates:

- July 25, 2017, 11:00 am
- August 1, 2017, 11:00 am
- August 8, 2017, 11:00 am
- August 15, 2017, 11:00 am
- August 22, 2017, 11:00 am
- August 29, 2017, 11:00 am

\$5/participant. Pre-registration is required. Reservations must be made **24 hours in advance**. No school or camp groups, please. To book, please visit: <http://innerspacecenter.org/booking/>.

Please contact tours@innerspacecenter.org with any questions.



Ship News and Updates

The ISC is entering its prime season for telepresence-enabled ocean exploration expeditions. As always, live feeds from active, ISC-connected

ocean exploration vessels can be viewed on the ISC's homepage (innerspacecenter.org), or <http://innerspacecenter.org/live-video/>.

The **NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*** has begun its next expedition: ***Laulima O Ka Moana, Exploring Deep Monument Waters Around Johnston Atoll***. This 27-day cruise is dedicated to collecting critical baseline information about unknown and poorly known deep-water areas of the **Johnston Atoll**

Unit of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM). The ship will spend the majority of the expedition conducting daytime remotely operated vehicle (ROV) dives and overnight mapping operations. ROV dives will survey seamounts and deep-sea coral and sponge habitats and will include high-resolution visual surveys and limited sampling. From **July 13 or 14 through July 29, 2017**, **real-time video** from these ROV dives will be **streaming online**. Dives typically take place from about 8 am to 5 pm HST (**2 pm to 11 pm EST**). Read more about this expedition on the *Okeanos Explorer* [website](#).



Imagery from the *Okeanos Explorer*'s 2015 Hohonu Moana expedition, which also explored the Johnson Atoll region. Image credit: NOAA.



Nearly 25 octopus were sited on a recent ROV dive in the CINMS; many, like the octopus seen here, were brooding eggs. Image credit: Ocean Exploration Trust.

From **July 7- July 29, 2017**, the **E/V *Nautilus*** will be exploring the **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS)** off the California coast of the United States. This is a biodiverse and geologically rich region for which detailed information on the distribution, abundance, and condition of deep-water resources is lacking. Using high resolution bathymetric mapping and ROV-based visual surveys and sampling, the 2017 expedition will expand upon 2016 E/V *Nautilus* exploration efforts in this region. Developing maps of the

seafloor and characterizing habitats and geological histories via ROV surveys will provide detailed information that will help natural resource managers and other stakeholders make informed decisions about the CINMS.

Save the date and explore with **Dr. Dwight Coleman**, Director of the ISC! He will be the chief scientist on the upcoming E/V *Nautilus* expedition in the **Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS)**, offshore the San Francisco Bay area. From **August 5-16, 2017**, the *Nautilus* will survey unexplored areas of the sanctuary. A combination of ocean conditions, currents, and undersea topography creates a

diverse marine community in this region. Through mapping activities and ROV-based visual surveys, deep-water species and communities will be characterized, which will help CBNMS to document the distribution and abundance of deep water corals, sponges, and fishes in the sanctuary, as well as contribute to the overall understanding of how these communities may be changing.

To find out more about the Nautilus 2017 field season, please visit their [website](#).



Top: Dr. Dwight Coleman, Director of the Inner Space Center. Bottom: Map showing the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, as well as other nearby sanctuaries. Map credit: NOAA.

2017 Ocean Science Exploration Camp

The ISC's Ocean Exploration summer camp was a success this year. Campers, aged 11-14, explored the geological features and history of coastal Rhode Island. They learned about and applied scientific techniques to sample sediments and survey beaches; visited numerous coastal RI habitats including Block Island and Beavertail State Park; and explored wetland habitats via kayaks. Information about the ISC's summer 2018 camp program will be available early winter.



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