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# Oceanography

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# Upcoming *Oceanography* Special Issues

June 2017

**Autonomous and Lagrangian  
Platforms and Sensors**

September 2017

**Sedimentary Processes Building a  
Tropical Delta Yesterday, Today, and  
Tomorrow: The Mekong System**

December 2017

**Celebrating 30 Years of Ocean Science  
and Technology at the Monterey Bay  
Aquarium Research Institute**

In addition to the special issues articles, *Oceanography* solicits and publishes:

- Peer-reviewed articles that chronicle all aspects of ocean science and its applications
- News and information, meeting reports, hands-on laboratory exercises, career profiles, and book reviews
- Editor-reviewed articles that address public policy and education and how they are affected by science and technology
- Breaking Waves articles that describe novel approaches to multidisciplinary problems in ocean science

<https://tos.org/oceanography>

## The Federal[scient]ist Papers

As readers know, *Oceanography* is published by The Oceanography Society, a private nonprofit organization. But in light of the ongoing vigorous discussion and debate about the size and scope of the federal government, and particularly about the appropriate funding levels for US science agencies, this may be a good time to acknowledge the essential support that federal agencies have provided for special issues of *Oceanography* over the past two decades. Since 1996, the Office of Naval Research, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the United States Arctic Research Commission have sponsored most issues of *Oceanography*. Most frequently, special issues have reviewed the science that resulted from a particular program that an agency supported, some of which were multinational. Other special issues have had invited papers on specific ocean-related topics that were cross-program and cross-agency. US agencies also generously sponsored publication of both issues devoted to women in oceanography and the March 2016 special issue on graduate education in the ocean sciences.

These special issues of *Oceanography* have been useful outlets for disseminating information about government-supported ocean science research outcomes both within and outside our community. Our science articles are peer reviewed, are written in more accessible language than a technical journal, and are freely and openly available on the web, creating the potential for expanding the magazine's audience. As an example, recent articles in *The Washington Post* and *The Guardian* specifically mentioned articles from the NASA-sponsored December special issue section on Ocean-Ice Interaction. The online versions of the newspaper articles linked to the *Oceanography* articles. Thanks to social media, the articles generated an enormous spike in hits to the *Oceanography* website.

Whatever the future may hold, I hope that *Oceanography* will remain able to disseminate information about the valuable oceanographic research conducted by federal agency scientists as well as scientists at academic institutions who are funded by federal agencies. Given that TOS membership represents 66 countries, it would be appropriate to balance US coverage with more articles that describe research funded by government agencies outside the United States.

I encourage submission of review articles about your government-funded research program that articulates why your research is important and provides an accessible overview of your results and how they affect the future of our planet (see author guidelines at <https://tos.org/oceanography/guidelines>). When published, everyone can then aid in dissemination by promoting the articles and special issues on social media. As a famous American said, "It takes a village."

*Ellen S. Kappel*  
Ellen S. Kappel, Editor