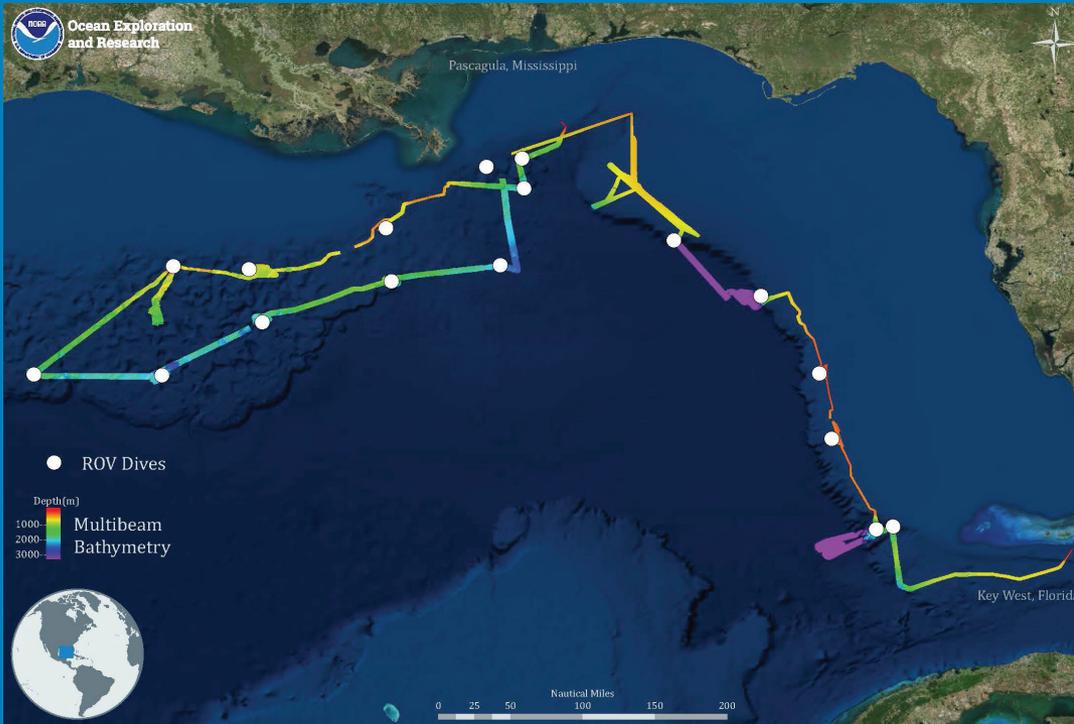


Gulf of Mexico 2017

NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer*, November 29 – December 21, 2017

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/okeanos/explorations/ex1711/welcome.html>



Fish experts on the global midwater team were excited by the appearance of this fish from the genus *Leptoichthys*. The observation placed this fish at a shallow depth of 900 meters, when typical observations place this fish squarely in the bathypelagic zone at ~2,000 meters.



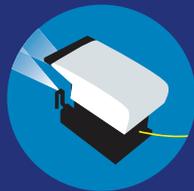
At least 20 previously-unknown chemosynthetic habitats were discovered. These included methane seeps (some with visible methane hydrate), asphalt seeps, and brine rivers.



Conducted six live telepresence interactions with various groups including the Aquarium of the Pacific, Shedd Aquarium, NOAA Gulf Regional Council, University of New Hampshire's Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, The Exploratorium, and members of the MIT Media Lab.



26,000+ square kilometers of seafloor mapped



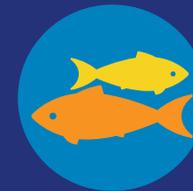
17 remotely operated vehicle dives at a depth range of 300 to 2,321 meters



105 biological and 9 geological samples collected



9+ high-density and high-diversity coral & sponge communities documented



100s of different species of animals, including several potential new species observed



280,000+ live video views