



Sea Floor Graveyard - Marine Careers

So, what does it take to work on a project like the Ocean Observatories Initiative?

“Most of the people who work in this kind of oceanography do a little bit of everything. They studied marine science in college or graduate school, and then they learned whatever additional skills they needed afterwards. For example, OOI's data are available on our website, and we have staff members who have developed expertise in web design, database management, and information technology. Those staff members studied marine science in school, not information technology or computer science.”

- Jonathan Fram

People on the OOI project may work as:

- Mechanical engineers who design stuff and machinists who make stuff
- Electrical engineers and electronics technicians
- Marine technicians who are experts in deployment and recovery of oceanographic equipment
- Network administrators
- Software programmers
- Program managers
- Oceanography professors
- Data analysts
- Science communicators/writers
- Accountants

Some went to school for these specific jobs, but the majority went to college for marine science and then learned other skills on their own.

There are also several Oregon State University marine science students who work for OOI.

OOI also will contract work out. For example, Toledo Boatyard does a lot of maintenance on the buoys and large weldments because working on them requires similar skills and facilities as maintaining boats. OOI also charters fishing vessels to deploy and recover gliders and small profilers.

Before working in this field, many OOI employees did similar things for fun, such as fishing, surfing, Scouts, or SCUBA diving.

It's not just about "being a scientist". People with a huge range of skills are needed to keep OOI running! Find out more about marine careers by exploring <https://www.marinecareers.net>.