

# An Update on the OOI Data Labs Project

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Janice McDonnell, Sage Lichtenwalner,  
Dr. Anna Pfeiffer-Herbert, Denise  
Bristol, and Dr. Dax Soule



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## THE OOI OCEAN DATA LABS PROJECT

The National Science Foundation's Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI) is advancing our ability to understand the natural world by collecting large quantities of data to address complex oceanographic processes. This expanded access to data also provides professors in the geosciences with new opportunities to engage undergraduate students in authentic data experiences using real-world data sets to teach geoscience processes.

However, students struggle to work with data based on their limited experience and exposure to different data types and sources. Also, supporting students in engaging with the data can be challenging for professors too, as there is a lack of adequate tools to easily digest and manipulate large data sets for in-class learning experiences.

Therefore, the OOI Ocean Data Labs Project (formerly called Data Explorations), with funding from NSF, is developing, testing, refining, and disseminating easy to use, interactive Data Explorations and Data Lab Notebooks that will allow undergraduates to use authentic data in accessible ways while being easy for professors to integrate into their

teaching



[datalab.marine.rutgers.edu](http://datalab.marine.rutgers.edu)

# 'To do' list for today

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1. Background: Data Labs
2. 2023 project goals & objectives
3. Timeline



# OOI Data Labs Project



## Key Goals

- Build a **Community of Practice (CoP)** of professors, interested in using OOI data with their undergraduate students:
- Make OOI data more **accessible** to educators and students





# OOI Data Labs

*A Summary of our project milestones*

Comprehensive  
Database

Fall  
2018



**590 scientists**

2 undergraduates built a database of professors from around the country teaching Oceanography courses.

Development  
Workshops

Spring  
2019



**56 professors**

Attended 4 week long workshops:

- Princeton, NJ.
- New Brunswick, NJ.
- Monterey, CA.
- Bellingham, WA.

Implementation  
Workshops

Summer  
2019



**60 professors**

Attended Earth Science Teachers Rendezvous Nashville, TN July 2019

Ocean Science Meeting San Diego, CA February 2020.

Webinar  
Series

Fall  
2019-2020



**19 professors**

8 webinars featuring data labs developed by workshop participants.

Open Source OOI  
Data Lab Manual

Winter  
2020



**11 professors**

Designed workshop to develop an online lab manual for oceanography courses.

Fellowship  
Program

Winter  
2020



**10 fellows**

6 professors collected data and feedback from students on the efficacy of the Data Labs.

4 created new Python notebooks with OOI data.

REU  
Program

Summer  
2020



**9 professors**

Mentored students in a virtual REU using OOI data in an online REU program.

Cohort 1 & 2 Data  
Lab Manual Pilot

Fall  
2020 & 2021



**42 professors**

Piloted the OOI Data Lab Manual created by 11 professors from the community.

# Community of Practice ~182 members

70% (n=133) involved in one or more Data Lab initiatives

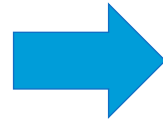
\*\* 60 Implementation workshop attendees (not pictured on map)



- Data Exploration pilot testers (27)
- Data Lab developers (56)
- 2020 Data Lab Fellows (11)
- Data Lab project team leaders

# OOI Data Lab Manual

- Community-generated from the idea to the authorship







# Building a Community of Practice

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Of the 116 we worked intensively with in workshops:

- 19 delivered OOI DL webinars, presenting the DL they had developed during workshop
- 11 became DL Fellows
- 11 are designing and building the DL Notebook
- 9 became peer presenters at mini workshops
- 10 presented on OOI at Ocean Sciences Meeting in San Diego, CA
- 13 volunteered to be an OOI Virtual REU mentor
- 20 participated as Lab Manual testers
- The community is growing!





*Conducted by Dr. Ellen Altermatt, SERC at Carleton College*

The purpose was to:

1. better understand current ***perceptions of and practices in using large, real-world oceanographic datasets*** in undergraduate classrooms,
2. assess ***levels of involvement*** in past and current OOI Ocean Data Labs initiatives,
3. examine the ***impact of participation*** in these initiatives on faculty teaching and perceptions of community belongingness, and
4. assess planned ***levels of future involvement*** and to understand how current resources might better meet community needs.

# Evaluation & Impacts

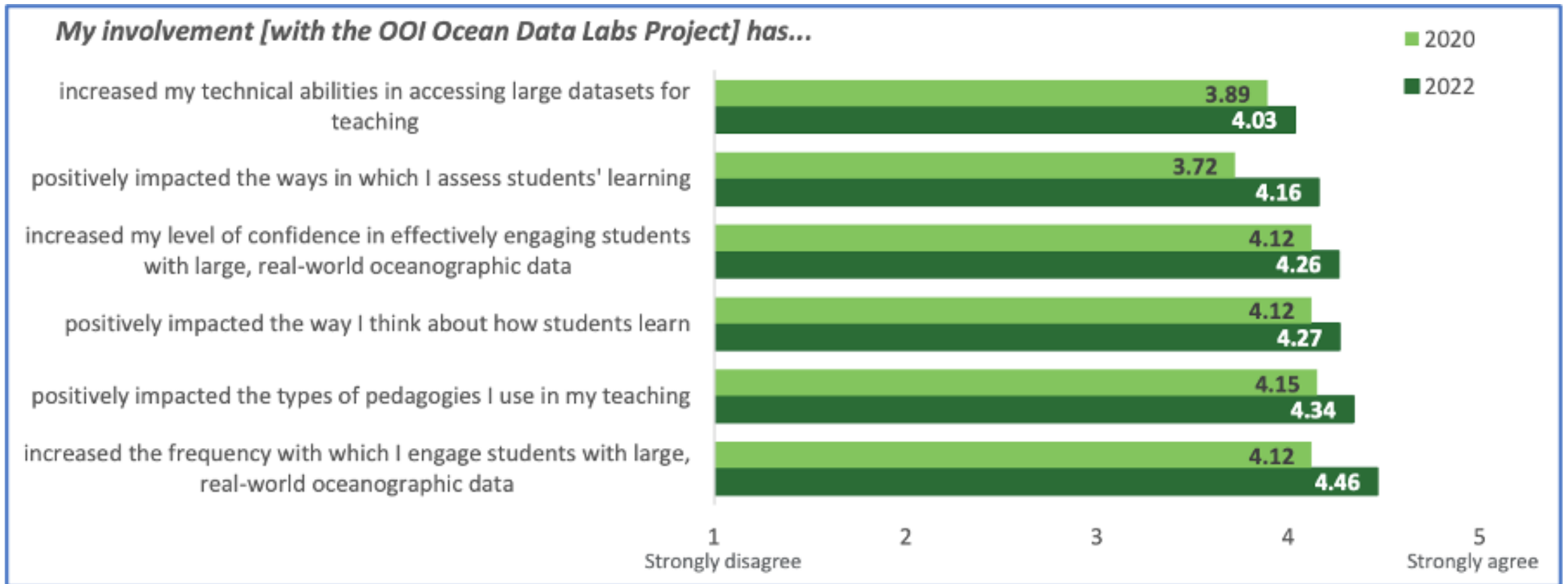
# Survey Facts

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- Sent to updated database of 590 professors
- Completed by 145 individuals (22.8% response rate).
- Analysis focused on n=133
  - 130 who indicated that they had taught an undergraduate-level oceanography course (or a related course with substantial oceanographic content) in the past two years.
  - An additional 3 respondents indicated that, although they had not recently taught this type of course, they planned to do so in the next two years.



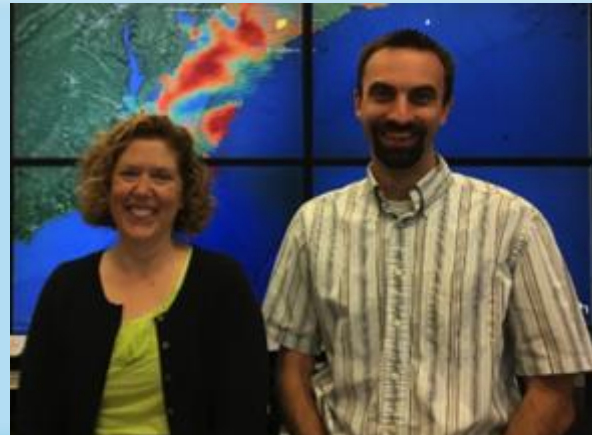
Mean ratings for the degree to which participants' involvement with the OOI Data Labs Project has influenced their teaching. (1- strongly disagree 5= strongly agree)





# Project Team

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and # 2316075



Janice McDonnell, Sage Lichtenwalner  
Rutgers University



Dax Soule  
Queens College CUNY



Kristin O'Connell  
SERC



Anna Pfeiffer-Herbert  
Stockton University



Denise Bristol  
Hillsborough CC

# OOI Data Labs 2.0

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## Project Goals

- Continue to build and support the OOI educator community
  - MSI, 2YC and R2
  - Special focus on the Mid Atlantic
- Develop “next level” activities
  - Fill in gaps in the existing OOI Data Labs manual
  - Domain-specific and level-appropriate programming notebook-based activities

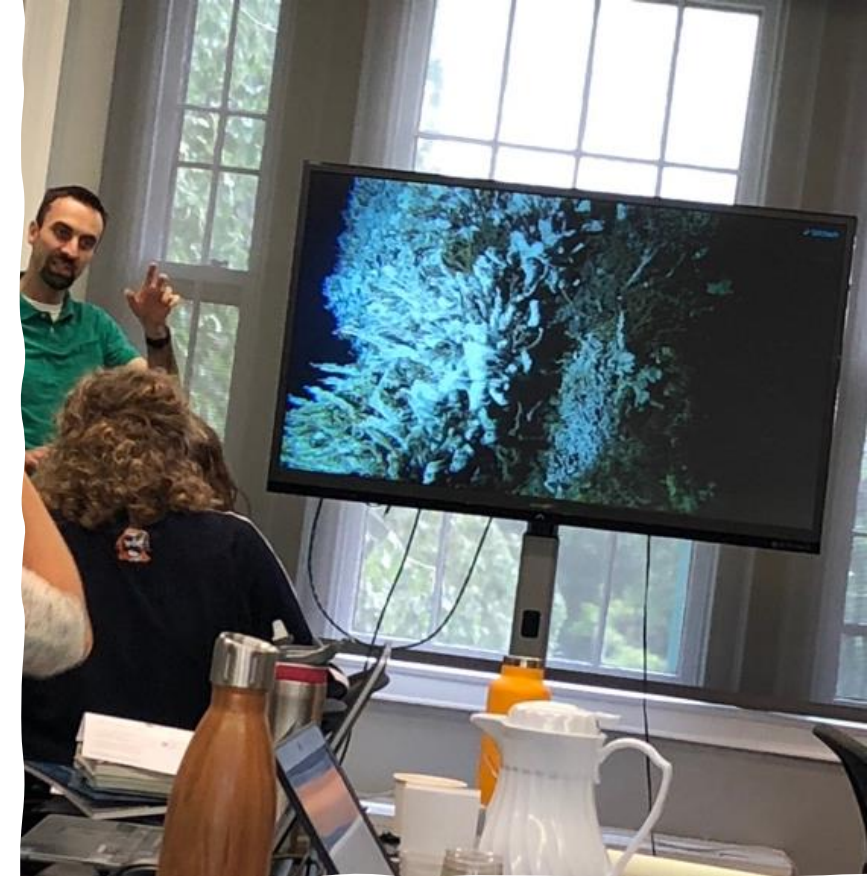


# OOI Data Labs 2.0

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## Tasks

- Engage a new community of faculty capitalizing on the Pioneer Array relocation
  - Refresh our database of potential faculty
  - "Regional" workshop focused on Pioneer
- Expand the collection of OOI education resources
  - Development Workshop
- Continue to support the community
  - Two 1-day introductory workshops (e.g. OSM24)
  - Sharing resources
- Evaluation
  - Needs Assessment to identify community needs
  - Reach Survey to measure long-term impact





# Timeline



Refresh and  
Build  
Database  
(now!)

Ocean Sciences  
Meeting  
(workshop and  
session)  
Feb 2024

Mini One Day  
workshops at  
strategic  
conferences and  
meetings (on-  
going)

Needs  
assessment and  
development  
workshop  
Spring 2024

Development  
workshop  
(python  
applications)  
Spring 2025



Thank you!  
[mcdonnel@marine.rutgers.edu](mailto:mcdonnel@marine.rutgers.edu)