

MBARI's 2009 Annual Report highlights past, present, and future

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MBARI's 2009 Annual Report highlights not only the institution's accomplishments during 2009, but also some of the cutting-edge projects planned or in progress during 2010. The report was released this week and is available online as a PDF file.

Unlike many annual reports, MBARI's annual report is not a dry financial document. On the contrary, it is filled with colorful images and easy-to-read articles. These articles bring to life some of the most exciting research and engineering developments at the institute.

One article, for example, highlights discoveries made during MBARI's three-month-long research expedition in the turbulent waters off of the Pacific Northwest. During this expedition, researchers from MBARI and other institutions studied underwater volcanoes, methane hydrates, and animals of the oxygen-minimum zone.

Another article in the 2009 report describes how MBARI researchers used a robotic submarine, the autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) *D. Allan B.*, to map an erupting underwater volcano in the South Pacific. A third article reviews the diverse and challenging experiments that were performed using MBARI's MARS Ocean Observatory during its first year of operation.

For those interested in marine biology, the Annual Report highlights ongoing studies of marine life around Antarctic icebergs, as well as the biological effects of increasing carbon dioxide concentrations in the ocean.

For the first time, the 2009 Annual Report not only shows where we've been, but also where we're going. Several articles describe new, large-scale, interdisciplinary initiatives underway at MBARI. Two of these initiatives involve studies of ocean acidification and changes in marine biodiversity – some of the major challenges faced by the world ocean. Another initiative addresses the engineering challenge of providing continuous, long-term monitoring of the vast marine environment.

Whether you're interested in underwater volcanoes, marine biology, or the latest advances in underwater robotics, [MBARI's 2009 Annual Report](#) makes fascinating reading.

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