

Topic: Outreach

Sealevel From Space: NASA/JPL's Ocean Surface Topography Web Site What's In It For You?

<http://sealevel.jpl.nasa.gov>

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The new Ocean Surface Topography web site at JPL is designed to be a useful tool to ocean altimeter scientists and others in the ocean science research community, and also to appeal to educators, students, and the general public as a gateway into understanding the value and relevance of NASA's ocean altimetry missions. Providing a wide spectrum of information on the TOPEX/POSEIDON and Jason-1 missions (and soon, the proposed Ocean Surface Topography Mission – OSTM), the site presents a detailed overview of the science and technology of ocean altimetry.

Sealevel From Space. The site includes extensive Science and Technology sections with science objectives, and scientific and operational applications highlighted. The Features section currently contains several Jason-1 science plans, all of which are available on the site. Other features include publications, data sources, science investigators and science highlights, data applications, mission information, and educational activities.

What's in it for you? The site is an excellent opportunity to feature your science results or milestones. Tracking site usage, over 290,000 unique visitors viewed the site from January through April of this year, with over 2,400 average viewer sessions logged per day. Site usage spikes when significant milestones are announced in the media or through the Sealevel listserve. Links on our site from the NASA Oceans page, and the Earth Observatory site also result in broader dissemination of your research efforts. We have recently posted a searchable database of published literature for TOPEX/Poseidon-related science, engineering, applications, and education research from 1990 to present. Over 1,450 articles are included from over 335 journals and publications.

What else? Information and graphics. A new monthly and annual TOPEX/Poseidon dataset of images and animations of the entire time series of SSH and SST data is new to the site. In addition, an extensive gallery of posters, images, and animations on the site can be a useful tool for presentations.

How can you help? We encourage project science teams and individuals to inform us when research or operational milestones are published or are relevant in the current media (for example, "El Nino, or El No Show?" recently in the news). We highlight these stories on our site, and typically on the JPL Home Page, as well. Is our literature database complete? If your work is not there, we want to include it. Suggestions for other features that would be useful to you, or other improvements to the site can be added. We have a common goal – broad dissemination, understanding, and utility of the important work of NASA's ocean altimeter satellites. Team with us in making the OST web site – Sealevel From Space – practical and useful to the science team as well as to the general public and to educators.