



Principal Research Scientist in Marine Physics and Ocean Climate

Dr Eleanor Frajka-Williams

Eleanor is a physical oceanographer who uses ocean observations to investigate ocean dynamics and circulation in a changing climate.



Career Pathway

Originating from Southern California, Eleanor enjoyed the beach and SCUBA diving, but didn't realise "oceanography" as a science existed until much later. It was during her first degree in maths when she had an opportunity to participate in a two-week research expedition off of Oregon that she began to look in earnest for ways to use math in the marine environment. From there, she did a PhD in Oceanography at the University of Washington using autonomous underwater vehicles, then joined the NOC in 2009 as a researcher on the large-scale ocean circulation in the Atlantic. Combining her love of being on the water with maths and technical skills, Eleanor is an observational physical oceanographer —making measurements of the ocean using ship-based observations, autonomous vehicles and satellites.

Support for equality and diversity

Eleanor says "My field is traditionally male-dominated, but it is evolving, if slowly. I have benefited from mentorship from more senior oceanographers in the field, and greatly appreciate the supportive environment in my group and across the NOC."