

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration



CENTRE NATIONAL D'ÉTUDES SPATIALES



### What you should know about the ocean

#### Seven Essential Principles

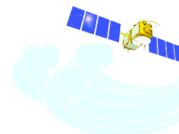
1. Earth has one big ocean with many features.
2. The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth.
3. The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate.
4. The ocean makes Earth habitable.
5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.
6. The ocean and humans are inextricably linked.
7. The ocean is largely unexplored.

### Understanding the science behind ocean circulation

Jason-1 is an Earth-orbiting satellite designed to make precise measurements of sea-surface height. Data and information from Jason-1 are being used for scientific research and operational applications ranging from climate studies, to ship routing, yacht race support, and basic science education. Jason-1 is a joint venture between NASA and France's Centre National d'Études Spatiales (CNES). Through education and public outreach, Jason-1 supports the development of an ocean-literate society. Ocean literacy is an understanding of the ocean's influence on you and your influence on the ocean.

An ocean-literate person:

- understands the Essential Principles, and fundamental concepts about how the ocean functions;
- can communicate about the ocean in a meaningful way;
- is able to make informed and responsible decisions regarding the ocean and its resources.



*Jason-1 5th Anniversary  
2001-2006*

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

**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, California

JPL 400-XXXX 11/06