



AusSeabed Newsletter No. 16 July 2020

Hello all,

Welcome to the July newsletter! As the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved, it has been pleasing to see how professionally and quickly our industry has come together.

The electronic capture of content has been embraced by many organisations, as has a digital transformation for most avenues of remote ocean research. AusSeabed community will no doubt see an enhanced offering of content through the portal in the coming year.

“The ocean is this beautiful, unexplored place. Why on Earth everyone isn't down there, I don't know.” Graham Hawkes

Update from the chair

Dear AusSeabed Community,

June was a busy month, closing in on a wonderful year filled with successes. These were highlighted at our first instalment of the webinar series. Thank you to all who joined or helped us with the webinar, it went beyond expectation.

One of the great milestones accomplished this year is the rapid publication of the *Visioning the Coral Sea* survey data collected in June by the R.V. Falkor on the AusSeabed Marine Data Portal. The speed at which the data was processed and made publicly accessible is a testament of the ever-improving tools, workflows and collaboration at AusSeabed.

Finally, we successfully ran our first election to renew the Steering Committee membership. Thank you to the outgoing members, Paul, Rob, Neville and Johnathan, for their contributions and welcome to the incoming members, Gretchen, David and Iain. On July 1st, we hosted our 6th Steering Committee meeting during which we elected Dr. Tara Martin, CSIRO, as vice-chair, and myself as Chair for another year. I am truly delighted to guide us along for another great year.

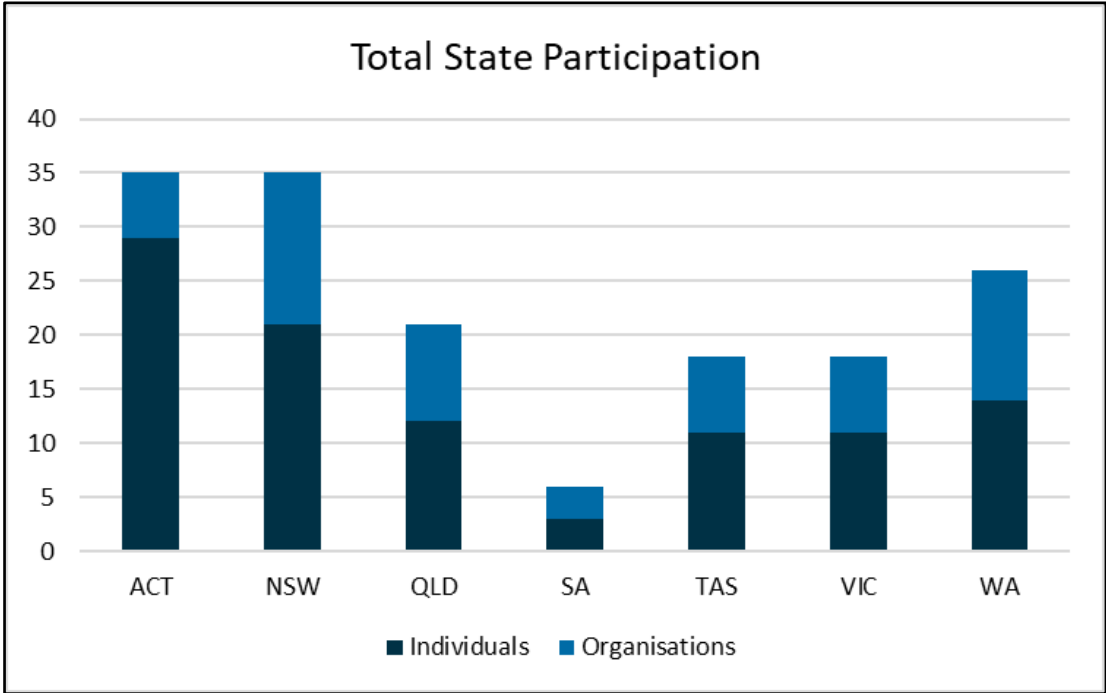
Don't miss our 2nd webinar on 30 July with a mix of exciting talks about 'mapping for management in the Anthropocene' and newly delivered AusSeabed Tools aimed to ease coordination of seabed mapping activities and ensure data quality while in the field or back in the office. Looking forward to seeing you!

Best wishes,

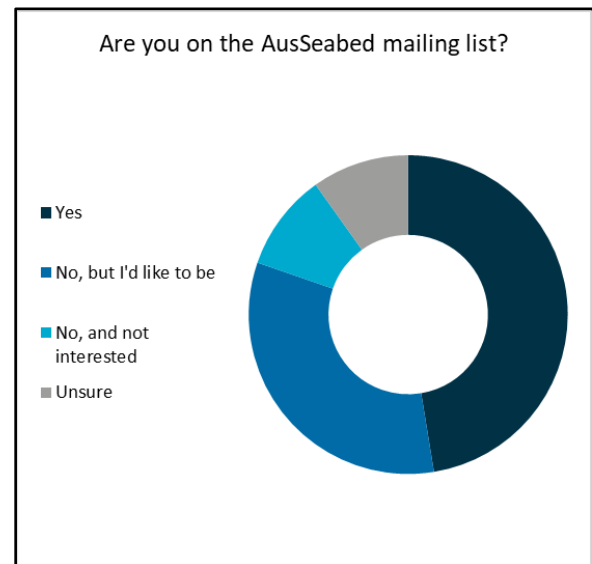
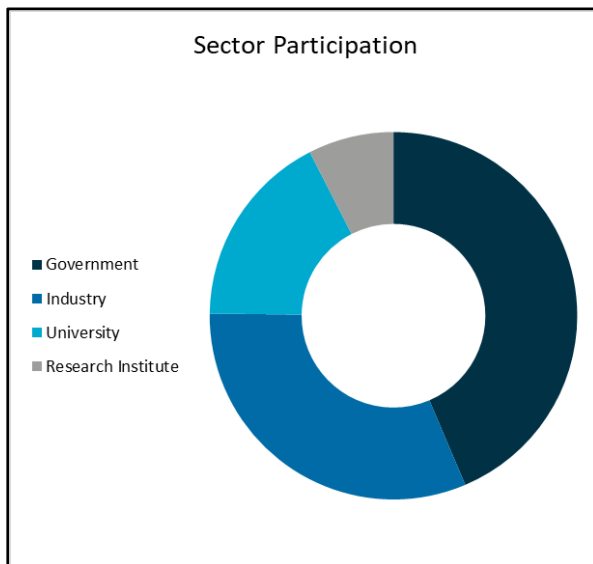
Kim Picard

June Webinar

Our first of four webinars, which focussed on national to international perspectives on seabed mapping, was a great success. Congratulations is extended to all those involved as well as thanks to everyone that attended. Overall, we had:



- 202 registrants, 130 participants
- 25 registering countries, 18 participating
- 134 registering organisations, 85 participating



We received a great response from the community and large portion of people were interested in continued involvement. We will be publishing the June webinar recording, individual presentations and Q&A on the [AusSeabed website](#) early this month.

Upcoming Webinars



The AusSeabed webinar series continues this month with a focus on “mapping for management in the Anthropocene” and introduction to new AusSeabed tools. Attendance is free, but registration is required due to a capped number of participants. We would like to invite anyone with an interest in seabed data (personal or professional) to consider registering and becoming more involved with the AusSeabed community.

The webinar series is held on the last Thursday of the month (30th July) and runs from 1100–1245 AEST. [Click here](#) download an event schedule and flyer. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact ausseabed@ga.gov.au.

JULY WEBINAR UPDATE

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| Thursday 30 July 2020, 1100 – 1245 AEST Workshop theme: Tools and Standards Talks: Mapping for management in the Anthropocene. |
| Welcome Work plan 2020/21 summary Steering Committee election Alan Jordan (session chair) |
| Coastal management: State-wide marine LiDAR for NSW Tim Ingleton, NSW DPIE |
| Mapping marine cultural heritage in the Pilbara Mick O’Leary, WA DoT |
| AusSeabed QA tool Matt Boyd, CSIRO & Lachlan Hurst, FrontierSI AusSeabed Coordination Tool Natalie Lennard, GA & Lachlan Hurst, FrontierSI |
| Mapping Coral Reefs from space Emily Twiggs, EOmap Australia |
| Mapping intertidal reefs in the Lord Howe Island Marine Park Caitlin Woods, UOW |
| Questions and close |

Registration links

July (30th): Mapping for management in the Anthropocene (with Tools and standards workshop activities)— [register here](#).

August (27th): Data sharing and collaboration (with Outreach, Education and engagement workshop activities)— [register here](#).

September (24th): Cross sector talks on the applications of seabed mapping (with program strategy activities)— [register here](#).

Highlights and Other News

Visioning the Coral Sea Marine Park survey



Last month, the Visioning the Coral Sea Marine Park bathymetric data was made publicly accessible through the AusSeabed portal.

The R/V *Falkor* arrived in Australia earlier this year, and despite COVID-19 restrictions, the *Visioning the Coral Sea Marine Park* survey took place from 29th April – 12th June with the scientists all working remotely. Pairing with the Falkor marine technician team and chief scientist Dr Robin Beaman of James Cook University, it was a wonderful opportunity for Geoscience Australia and AusSeabed to process and publish the newly collected seabed mapping data. This work is a milestone for AusSeabed, in which it is paving the way for future AusSeabed Data delivery and collaboration.

The survey collected over 35,000 km of multibeam data that was provided to the AusSeabed Data Hub for distribution. The data was able to go from the ship to our live web service within two weeks of the Falkor coming into port.

For more information, check out our article on the Schmidt Ocean Institute website – [Rapid Data Publication: From Ship to Home](#) – a feature in the [New York Times](#) or [this amazing 3D fly through](#).



Science News for KIDS – have a read through CSIRO’s Double Helix blog!

Consistent with our desire to develop science skills in school-age students, Hannah Evans writes a blog on remote ocean research onboard the R/V Falkor.

For more details visit link below.

<https://blog.doublehelix.csiro.au/remote-ocean-research-during-covid-19/>

Seabed 2030

Have a read of this article by “The Guardian” on earth’s final frontier – the global race to map the entire ocean floor.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jun/30/earths-final-frontier-the-global-race-to-map-the-entire-ocean-floor>

The Nippon Foundation – GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project launches study on the value of seabed mapping. Take part in the Seabed 2030 survey to contribute your views on the environmental, social and economic benefits of the Seabed 2030 project's aim of 100% of the seafloor mapped by 2030.

To find out more about the context of this survey:

https://seabed2030.gebco.net/news/seabed_2030_survey.html

HIPP First Surveys

Please read article on commencement of the first survey under the HydroScheme Industry Partnership Program (HIPP)

<http://www.hydro.gov.au/aboutus/media/news.htm>

Governance Update

Steering Committee General Member Election

On behalf of the community, we would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the outgoing representatives who have made considerable contributions to the efficacy of this program:

- Academic: James Cook University (Dr. Robin Beaman) and the University of Tasmania (Dr. Neville Barrett)
- Industry: Guardian Geomatics (Paul Kennedy)
- Commonwealth Government: Australian Antarctic Division (Johnathan Kool)

The following organisations are the incumbent 2020 AusSeabed Steering Committee general representatives:

- Academic: Curtin University (**Dr. Iain Parnum**)
- State Government: the South Australian Research and Development Institute and New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (**Dr. Gretchen Grammer and Dr. Tim Ingleton**)
- Industry: IIC Technologies Australasia (**David Crossman**)
- Commonwealth Government: The Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (**Evan Hallein**)

We are also welcoming Mary Young who will replace Daniel Ierodionou as the Deakin University representative. Many thanks to Daniel for his contribution to the committee over the last year and a half.

Steering Committee Meeting #6

The 6th Steering Committee meeting took place on July 1st. This mid-year meeting aimed to finalise the committee renewal business, progress the 2019/20 annual report, formalise commitments to the 2020/21 Work Plan, discuss the scope of the Australian Research Data Common (ARDC) proposal and develop a 10 Year Impact Pathway.

The 3rd Executive Board meeting was announced for 27th July and will focus on the 2020/21 Work Plan, developing the 10 Year Impact Pathway, program quarterly updates.

Steering Committee Internal Position Election

Internal positions for the Steering Committee – Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary – were voted upon during meeting #6. Kim Picard (Geoscience Australia) has accepted another year as Chair, Dr. Tara Martin (CSIRO Marine National Facility) will be stepping up as Vice-Chair and secretary will remain with the Chair organisation for another year.

Program Theme leader positions were also discussed, resulting in:

- Data Hub remaining with Geoscience Australia,
- Education, Outreach and Training remaining with Ralph Talbot-Smith (WA Department of Transport), and
- Nigel Townsend (Australian Hydrographic Office) proposing to lead the Tools, Guidelines and Standards.

Share your work with the AusSeabed community

Finally, a reminder as always that anyone with an interest in AusSeabed can sign up to the newsletter mailing list on our website, where you can also check out past issues. And please send any items for the next newsletter to AusSeabedNews@ga.gov.au