



AusSeabed Newsletter No. 10 December 2019

Hello all,

The end of the year seems to have sneaked up very quickly. As we wind down towards the summer break, there have been lots of activities in the background. Read on to hear all about the things the AusSeabed team have been up to. But before we start, the whole team would like to wish you and yours a safe and happy Christmas, and relaxing New Year.

Updates and other news

Update from the chair

Wendy Stewart, Deputy Director Hydrographic Plans and Standards will be moving on to another section of the AHO in line with the Defence mobility procedures. This means that she will no longer be involved with the AusSeabed program and will be abdicating her role on the AusSeabed Steering Committee to Nigel Townsend, who has also been involved with AusSeabed over the previous years. We would like to thank Wendy for her commitment and involvement over the last two years which has seen the AHO collaboration with AusSeabed move from strength to strength. Wendy has driven the AHO's involvement with the development of the Survey Planning and Request tool, contributed to making the NOAA, CCOM, AusSeabed partnership possible to develop the QA Tools prototype, and helped AusSeabed deliver a number of workshops and engagement activities. Needless to say, the progress AusSeabed has made to date would not have been possible without the involvement of the AHO, through Wendy's work. We would like to wish Wendy all the best in her new role on behalf of the community, and to welcome her successor Nigel in to his new position on the AusSeabed Steering Committee as the AHO representative.

On the theme of well-wishing we would like to extend our upmost gratitude to the rest of the community and our congratulations on another year of resounding success. The developments outlined in the annual report are a credit to the community's consistent efforts and collaboration. It is amazing that so much momentum has been generated by individuals across all sectors already managing full-time work commitments. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to the steering committee and program theme leaders for helping to deliver the work program.

With 2020 just around the corner I'd like to pass on my warmest wishes to everyone for the festive season—enjoy the time off, stay safe, and rest up because if 2019 was anything to go by, we can expect 2020 to blow us out of the water.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year,

Kim

AusSeabed governance meetings

The inaugural meeting of the AusSeabed Executive Board will take place at GA on Friday the 13th of December. The key roles of the Board will be to provide high-level governance to the program and actively contribute to its success. The initial membership includes representatives from GA, CSIRO, AIMS, the Australian Hydrographic Office and the Australian Antarctic Division as agreed by the steering committee.

The next Steering Committee meeting, will take place on Tuesday the 17th December at FrontierSI in Melbourne. We will report the outcomes of both meetings in the next newsletter and minutes will be made available on the [AusSeabed website](#) in January.

Program themes

Data Hub

We mentioned in the [November newsletter](#) that we would receive a decision on the outcome of the ARDC proposal submitted last month by early December. This timeline has now been delayed until mid-December. Stay tuned! For information, contact Kim.picard@ga.gov.au

Over the past two months, GA has been working on a automated cloud-processing pipeline prototype for multibeam data, one of the first of its kind. We are excited to let you know that we succeeded and are now focused on refining it. This means that we are one-step closer to releasing a suite of consistent AusSeabed datasets in a much more efficient manner.

Outreach, Education, and Training (OET)

Ralph Talbot-Smith gave a presentation to Fremantle Sailing Club – Cruising section on Thursday 21st November to a large audience.

There was a large call for trainee Hydrographic Surveyors from the WA DoT work experience program as a result of November's newsletter. AusSeabed is exploring other opportunities to expand the exposure of students to the industry.

New data available

Do you need high-resolution data for the whole length of the NSW coast? You can now access the 5m DEM Bathy/Elevation LiDAR products captured by NSW Planning Industry and Environment Department on the [ELVIS](#) or [AODN](#) website. The 5TB of new data is available in point cloud and DEM. In due time, it will be brought into the AusSeabed compilation.

Memorandum on Ocean Mapping by USA government

Two weeks ago, President Trump issued a [Presidential Memo](#) outlining the importance of mapping the seabed of US' EEZ and their intent to develop a strategy for this over the next 180 days. The full memo is about 2-pages, but here are couple of extracts that Australia should clearly relate to:

- *The U.S. EEZ contains a vast array of underutilized, and likely many undiscovered, natural resources, including critical minerals, marine-derived pharmaceuticals, energy, and areas of significant ecological and conservation value. However, only about 40 percent of the U.S. EEZ has been mapped and significantly less of the area has natural resources and ocean systems that have been characterized, including identification and evaluation, by executive departments and agencies (agencies).*
- *The Nation is poised to harness cutting-edge science, new technologies, and partnerships to unlock the potential of our oceans through increased ocean mapping.*
- *Mapping, exploring, and characterizing the U.S. EEZ is necessary for a systematic and efficient approach to understanding our resources. Mapping will reveal the terrain of the ocean floor and identify areas of particular interest; exploration and characterization will identify and evaluate natural and cultural resources within these areas. This knowledge will inform conservation, management, and balanced use of the U.S. EEZ.*

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/11/trump-plan-push-seafloor-mapping-wins-warm-reception>



REGISTER NOW

NSW-ACT AusSeabed community members (Tim Ingleton, Alan Jordan, Kam Austine, Scott Nichol and Wendy Stewart) submitted a proposal for an AusSeabed symposium for the 2020 Australian Marine Science Association, which has now been accepted. Congratulations and thank you to the proposal team! A proposal for a workshop has also been submitted, and early bird registrations for AMSA are now open.

Tools, Standards, and Guidelines (TSG)

Nothing to report.

Other updates

NSW DPIE research scientist Dr Michael Kinsela made mention of AusSeabed in presentations at the NSW Coastal Conference in Terrigal, and the Engineers Australia's Coastal Ocean Port Engineering Panel, both in October, as well as at the International Waves and Coastal Hazards workshop at Melbourne University in November.

The latest SOOS newsletter includes an article on the Seabed2030

program:<http://www.soos.aq/news/current-news/405-seabed-2030-mapping-the-world-ocean-floor>

AusSeabed member Assoc. Prof. Daniel Ierodiaconou was involved in the writing of a white paper “15 priorities for Australian wind-waves research” working with the Australian Forum for Operational Oceanography Surface Waves Working Group. This has involved the Australian marine research, industry and stakeholder community undertaking an extensive collaborative process to identify the highest national priorities for wind-waves research. Guess what is number 1? Enhanced and updated nearshore and coastal bathymetry! You can find a link to the white paper [here](#).

The white paper was also condensed in a journal article that can be found here in the with full reference below:

Greenslade, D., M. Hemer, A. Babanin, R. Lowe, I. Turner, H. Power, I. Young, D. Ierodiaconou, G. Hibbert, G. Williams, S. Aijaz, J. Albuquerque, S. Allen, M. Banner, P. Branson, S. Buchan, A. Burton, J. Bye, N. Cartwright, A. Chabchoub, F. Colberg, S. Contardo, f. dufois, C. Earl-Spurr, G. Elliott, D. Farr, J. Flynn, I. Goodwin, J. Gunson, J. Hansen, D. Hanslow, M. Harley, Y. Hetzel, R. Hoeke, N. Jones, M. Kinsela, Q. Liu, O. Makarynsky, H. Marcollo, S. Mazaheri, J. McConochie, G. Millar, T. Moltmann, N. Moodie, J. Morim, R. Morison, J. Orszaghova, C. Pattiaratchi, A. Pomeroy, R. Proctor, D. Provis, R. Reef, D. Rijnsdorp, M. Rutherford, E. Schulz, J. Shayer, K. Splinter, C. Steinberg, D. Strauss, G. Stuart, G. Symonds, K. Tarbath, P. Taylor, D. Taylor, J. Taylor, D. Thotagamuwa, A. Toffoli, A. Valizadeh, J. van Hazel, G. Vieira da Silva, M. Wandres, C. Whittaker, D. Williams, G. Winter, J. Xu, M. Zed, A. Zhong, and S. Zieger, 0: 15 priorities for wind-waves research: An Australian perspective. Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc., 0, <https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-18-0262.1>

Meeting reports

SW Pacific Region – Evening Seminar

The Australasian Hydrographic Society South West Pacific Region held an evening seminar on Thursday, 5 December 2019 from 5:30pm - 8:30pm at the Moana Anglican Services and Teaching (MAST) Centre, 7-11 Desvoeux Road, Suva. John Maschke presented an AusSeabed update amongst other themes including Nautical Charting – Surveying at Sea, Coastal Zone Management, Offshore Resource Surveys and Management, Law of the Sea, Marine Cartography, Environmental Studies, etc. For more information maschkejw@gmail.com

Upcoming meetings

American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting (San Francisco, 10-15 December)

The AGU session: [Beyond Hydrography](#): Seafloor Mapping as Critical Data for Understanding our Oceans was launched with a special introduction from Timothy Gallaudet (Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Deputy NOAA Administrator Rear Admiral, Ph.D., USN Ret). A Seabed 2030 booth will also be up in the exhibit hall (booth 218). This is the third AGU seabed mapping session and the conveners are looking forward to welcoming you at the oral and poster session, and sidebooth meeting.

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 letter to AusSeabedNews@ga.gov.au.

Merry Christmas!