



AusSeabed Newsletter No. 2

April 2019

March was a busy month for many of us, with groups out collecting new data, seabed mapping-related meetings, and good progress from all three program themes.

We have made some recent updates to the [AusSeabed website](#), where you can now go to check out past newsletters, and see latest news and upcoming events. We have also added a **newsletter sign-up form** for any of your colleagues who would like to join the distribution list.

Please send any submissions for the next edition to AusSeabedNews@ga.gov.au

Updates

Strategic Plan

The steering committee completed the AusSeabed Strategic Plan for 2019-2030 on Tuesday 2nd April. We have now released the Strategic Plan to the broader AusSeabed community for comment, with reviews due on **Friday 26th April**. Following incorporation of these reviews, the final Strategic Plan will be circulated for endorsement prior to the AusSeabed Annual General Meeting at the AMSA meeting in July 2019. If you have any questions about this, please email AusSeabed@ga.gov.au.

National Bathymetry Priorities Map

Two years ago, Geoscience Australia (GA) coordinated the development of a [national bathymetry priorities map](#) to identify the areas within the Australian marine jurisdiction with the greatest need for bathymetry data collection. GA is now conducting a review of this map in conjunction with Parks Australia, on behalf of AusSeabed.

GA kicked off this process in mid-January, and most states/entities have their submissions complete or at least underway. If you have not already provided a priority areas shapefile to your state/entity representative, then please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions about this, or need a reminder about how to select/format your priority area shapefiles, please email AusSeabed@ga.gov.au.

Multibeam coverage

This is another gentle reminder to send through your multibeam data holdings coverage polygons, if you have not done so already. These can be addressed to Aero Leplastrier via AusSeabed@ga.gov.au. You can also get in touch with Aero if you have any enquiries, or need a refresher on the instructions for compiling your coverage polygons. Many thanks for your engagement on both of these compilations—they will help AusSeabed to capture a more comprehensive picture of the state of seafloor mapping in Australia, which is a critical component of work going forward.

Program themes

Data Hub

Geoscience Australia have invited a group of experts to attend a short workshop on data standards, which will be held in Canberra on the **Wednesday 22nd to Thursday 23rd May**. The workshop will focus on discussing standards that will underpin the Data Hub processing pipeline and collection archive.

If there are any enquiries about this workshop then please contact Aero Leplastrier or Kim Picard via Ausseabed@ga.gov.au.

Outreach, Education, and Training

It has been a busy month for the OET team, with progress on projects including:

- Completion of review of all abstracts submitted to the AMSA 2019 Seafloor Mapping symposium; now finalising the program
- Presentation to the WA Harbour Masters meeting. Encouraged them to become actively involved in AusSeabed, and received a positive response
- Made contact with the Southern Ports Authority (comprising Albany, Bunbury, and Esperance) about AusSeabed
- Five surveying graduates completed work experience as Hydrographic Surveyors. All are now keen to go down this path. They are all also interested in internships. If you know of any internships available, please contact AusSeabed@ga.gov.au and we can advertise these.

Tools, Standards, and Guidelines

The Tools, Guidelines, and Standards (TGS) working group met in February to confirm the priority tools and guidelines activities for the upcoming year. The program aims to develop

community-ready resources that enhance the quality, consistency, and ease of seabed mapping. For each of the foundational activities a leader has been assigned for coordination, monitoring and reporting purposes. In March the activity leaders provided descriptions summarising each of their activities. These are now being collated with a view to sharing with the AusSeabed community in the coming month and integrating in the Work plans outlined in the appendices of the AusSeabed Strategic Plan.

Meeting reports

Seabed 2030 (4-6 March 2019, Wellington NZ)

On 3-6 March 2019, the South and West Pacific Centre for the [Seabed 2030](#) Project hosted its [first Regional Mapping Committee Meeting](#) in Wellington, New Zealand. The South and West Pacific Centre ([SaWPaC](#)) is responsible for an area covering c. 124,000,000 km² from the west coast of South America to the east coast of Australia and north to Japan, Korea and China. The centre is hosted at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research ([NIWA](#)) in New Zealand and is coordinated by a team from NIWA, GNS Science, and Land Information New Zealand ([LINZ](#)).

The objectives of this meeting included (1) the establishment of a Regional Mapping Committee with key regional expert in seafloor mapping; (2) Identify sources of bathymetric data; (3) Discuss data sharing and management; and coordinated upcoming mapping expeditions. Forty-six people from 13 countries within and around the Pacific Basin attended the meeting, including five Nippon Foundation–GEBCO Alumni. The first day of workshop consisted of presentations about the Seabed 2030 Project and its mission, and other regional initiatives that could benefit from and to the Project. Day two featured more technical-focused presentations e.g. on data portal and data sharing, the XPRIZE, and the potential that Satellite Derived Bathymetry could bring to the Project. Excellent discussions during breakout sessions resulted in **a list of action points** from setting up a strategy of communication, engaging with industry, developing specific outreach events, ensuring data security, the role of the Regional Mapping Committee, and the importance of understanding the value proposition for all stakeholders. The first action will be to formally establish a Regional Mapping Committee, which will need to reflect on these action points and propose solutions. All participants fully support Seabed 2030 and strongly encourage potential stakeholders to share information about available data, upcoming surveys, topical meetings, online resources etc., through the Regional Centre. The workshop was chaired by Geoffroy Lamarche (NIWA), Head of the South and West Pacific Centre (pacific@seabed2030.org). More information is available [from the meeting website](#).

IHO S-44 standard working group (11 March, Wollongong NSW)

Kim Picard (GA), Wendy Stewart (AHO), Hugh Parker (Fugro) and other AusSeabed collaborators participated to the 3rd meeting of the HSSC Project Team on Standards for Hydrographic Surveys (HSPT3), which aims to update the IHO S-44 standard. The new version discussed will be—amongst other points—sensor agnostic, and will start to address purposes other than safety of navigation; it is therefore very relevant to the AusSeabed community. The new S-44 v.6 however, is unlikely to be released until late 2020/early 2021. Stay tuned!

For more info, go to the IHO meeting page [here](#).

Upcoming meetings

The International Satellite-Derived Bathymetry Technology and User Forum (Sunshine Coast, Australia)

The International Satellite-Derived Bathymetry Technology and User Forum (SDB Day) is coming to the Sunshine Coast from **14–16 May 2019**.

The meeting, hosted by EOMAP Australia, will enable users and providers exchange information on current and future developments. It promises to be an exciting event, with attendees representing a good cross section of marine industry, government agencies, hydrographic offices, environmental consultancies, defence, and academia.

Abstract submissions have closed, but you can still [register to attend](#) the forum. Several representatives from the AusSeabed community will be presenting.

For more information, please visit the [conference website](#).



AMSA 2019 & National AusSeabed Workshop

****Early bird registration closes on the 30th April****

The 2019 AMSA conference will be held in Fremantle on the **7-11 July** with the theme 'Marine Science for a Blue Economy'. As part of the conference, AusSeabed are hosting a full-day symposium on 'Seafloor Mapping in Australia—Progress, Discoveries, Applications'.

The National AusSeabed Workshop will be held in Fremantle immediately following the AMSA conference (**Friday 12th July**). The workshop will include the AusSeabed AGM, as well as a

session to finalise the Strategic Plan and program theme roadmaps, and discussion of how Australia might best contribute to international initiatives such as Seabed 2030.

We invite you to register to attend both the conference, and the post-conference workshop. Early bird registration closes on the **30th of April** so head on over to the registration page to take advantage of the discount registration fees. For further information, see the conference website <http://amsa19.amsa.asn.au>.

OceanObs'19—An Ocean of Opportunity (Honolulu, Hawaii)

The [OceanObs'19 Decadal meeting](#) will take place **16-20 September 2019** in Honolulu, Hawaii. Members of the global seabed mapping community are teaming up with experts from a variety of marine environmental disciplines. The aim is to underscore the importance of bathymetry as a baseline dataset, and to show the key role pan-disciplinary collaboration plays in furthering understanding of Earth system processes.

A break-out session titled '[Seabed Mapping – the Missing Link in OceanObs](#)' has been proposed by a group including several AusSeabed community members, and is now awaiting endorsement from the organising committee. We will distribute the outcome of this proposal in the May newsletter

We invite you to [submit a poster](#) that will showcase how seabed mapping and OceanObs communities are bridging the gap from data collection to end-user needs, and highlight the benefits of collaboration with the broader ocean observing community. See the [details for submitting poster](#), and note they are due by **June 27**.

SW Pacific Region World Hydrography Day Seminar (Suva, Fiji)

The Australasian Hydrographic Society (AHS) SW Pacific Region will be holding a World Hydrography Day seminar in Suva, Fiji on **June 21**. The seminar is being held in conjunction with the Fiji Hydrographic Service. Seats are very limited and registration is essential. The organiser, John Maschke, is seeking papers for presentation at the seminar. Anyone interested in assisting with sponsorship would also be appreciated. The theme of the event is: 'Hydrographic information driving marine knowledge'.

The seminar's aim is to inform those in influence within Fiji, and the SW Pacific region generally, of the fundamental importance of hydrography to the development and sustainability of the marine environment in the SW Pacific.

Preliminary details of the event can be found on the [seminar web page](#), or John can be contacted directly on +61 424 094 546.

Opportunities

A PhD scholarship entitled “*Sounds in the ocean: ocean soundscapes and ambient sea noise*” is available at the University of Sydney, with funding from the Defence Science and Technology Group (DST). The project is on the sounds of the ocean and how they go together to form the soundscape of the ocean that provides the acoustic environment for marine mammals and also limits sonar performance. It would be mainly experimental work with some modelling, with opportunities for some work at sea. Some background in physics would be needed.

The supervisor would be Adjunct Professor Doug Cato (University of Sydney) with auxiliary supervisors Associate Professor Rob McCauley of Curtin University and Dr Yong Zhang of DST. The scholarship is funded by the Defence Science and Technology Group (DST) and is for 3 ½ years at the rate of \$30k per year. The candidate must be an Australian citizen. There are more details at: <https://sydney.edu.au/research/opportunities/opportunities/2320>

Please forward this on to any potential candidates. The closing date is **10 April**.