



AusSeabed Newsletter No. 3

May 2019

April was another busy month for everyone, with a lot of 'nuts and bolts' work underway. We are also gearing up now for a few AusSeabed events, including the Data Hub standards workshop in Canberra in a couple of weeks, and AMSA in July, where we will hold the AusSeabed AGM.

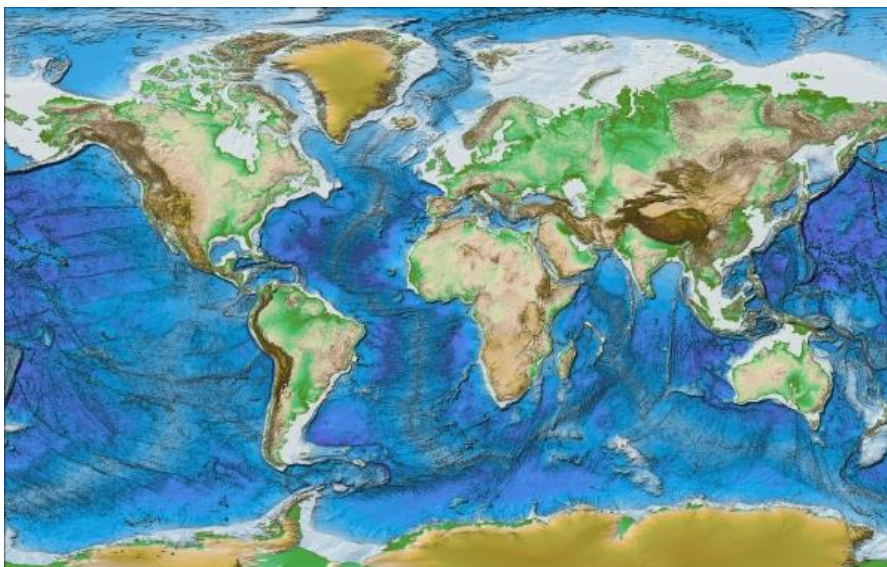
Updates

Strategic Plan

The AusSeabed Strategic Plan for 2019-2030 was released to the AusSeabed community for comment, with reviews due on Friday 26th April. We received some valuable feedback which we are now incorporating into the document. 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, or didn't quite manage to sneak your review in before the due date, please email AusSeabed@ga.gov.au.

New GEBCO grid

The latest General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) grid, GEBCO-2019, is now available to download. This is the first GEBCO grid produced via the Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 project. The grid is a continuous global terrain model for ocean and land, with a spatial resolution of 15 arc seconds. The data are available for download directly from [GEBCO](#). You can download the entire grid and the Source Identifier (SID) grid in netCDF format using a 'single-click' option. Further information about the grid is available from the [GEBCO website](#).



If the datasets are used in presentations or publications, the attribution should be stated as follows:

*GEBCO Compilation
Group (2019) GEBCO
2019 Grid
(doi:10/c33m)*

GEBCO are expecting a lot of interest in this new product, and therefore request that you limit the number of simultaneous requests that you make for the next few weeks. The Esri ASCII file downloads can be particularly slow.

New data!

The National Intertidal Digital Elevation Model (NIDEM) is a national dataset that maps the three-dimensional structure of Australia's intertidal zone—the area of coastline exposed and flooded by ocean tides. The intertidal zone supports many important but threatened ecological habitats including tidal flats, sandy beaches, and rocky shores and reefs. NIDEM provides a first-of-its-kind source of intertidal elevation data for Australia's entire coastline. It is anticipated that NIDEM will assist in mapping the habitats of threatened coastal species, identifying areas of coastal erosion, planning for extreme events such as storm surges and flooding, and improving models of how sea level rise will affect the Australian coastline.



Tidal flats of Roebuck Bay, on the coast of the Kimberley region of Western Australia, visualised in 3D using the NIDEM

NIDEM is available now to explore and download on Australia's [National Map](#) and will also very shortly be available for viewing on the [AusSeabed Marine Data Discovery Portal](#) with a link to download the data.

Program themes

Data Hub

We are very excited to welcome new international collaborators to the Data Hub working group: the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping (CCOM) at the University of New Hampshire and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Coast Survey. One scientist each from these organisations will be hosted at Geoscience Australia from mid-June to mid-July. Giuseppe Masetti (CCOM) and Tyanne Faulkes (NOAA) have done extensive work in developing open-source bathymetry QC tools as part of the [HydrOffice](#) research framework.

Giuseppe and Tyanne will run a workshop at GA during **the week of 17th June**, giving an overview of an open source quality assurance tool for multibeam data that they have developed ([QC Tools](#)) and then working toward leveraging this tool for the Data Hub. This workshop will go for ~ two days, and will be open to [all interested parties](#). The workshop will most likely start on the

Tuesday or Wednesday, but if you are interested in attending then keep the week free in your calendar, and we will send around more details and a final schedule as soon as possible. Attendance will be at your own cost (sorry). Please email AusSeabed@ga.gov.au to register your interest, or if you have any questions.

Giuseppe will also give a presentation at AMSA in July.

Outreach, Education, and Training (OET)

Presentations for the Seafloor Mapping Symposium held at the [AMSA conference](#) on Thursday 12 July are now finalised.

AusSeabed was presented to organisations including the University of Western Australia and the WA Mega Data Cluster and WA Data Science and Innovation Hub (WADSIH). AusSeabed will also be promoted to oil and gas industry players at the [APPEA Conference and Exhibition](#) held in Brisbane during the **week of 27 May**. If you are attending APPEA and interested in learning more about AusSeabed, please visit the Geoscience Australia booth.

AusSeabed is seeking expressions of interest from people willing to contribute to this program theme. Outreach, education, and training are critical components of the overall AusSeabed program—we would like to promote the importance of seabed mapping beyond our existing stakeholders, as well as fostering the development of the next generation of seabed mappers.

The program theme is headed up by Ralph Talbot-Smith (from the WA Department of Transport), however, there is a lot of work to be done, and currently very few people signed up to assist. If you would like to find out more about current OET projects and/or become a member of the OET program theme, then please get in touch with Ralph at Ralph.Talbot-Smith@transport.wa.gov.au.

Tools, Standards, and Guidelines

The Data Hub project team are hosting a Data Standards workshop at Geoscience Australia on the 22nd May (full day) and 23rd May (half day). Around 28 technical experts will attend the workshop, including representatives from government (state and federal), academia, and private organisations across the country. The workshop aims to establish and adopt the best practice for the data processing pipeline based on current standards and practices within the seabed mapping community. It is looking like a very intensive 1.5 days, but hopefully very productive!

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) will be held on 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 in SDB. It is shaping up 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. Representatives from the AusSeabed community will be participating and presenting; for details of presentations, see the [meeting agenda](#).

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



AMSA 2019 & National AusSeabed Workshop

The 2019 AMSA conference will be held in Fremantle on the **7-11th July** with the theme 'Marine Science for a Blue Economy'. As part of the conference, AusSeabed are hosting a full-day symposium on Thursday the 11th July: '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](#) and spread the word to attend both the conference, and the post-conference workshop. 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.

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 with influence in 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.