



## AusSeabed Newsletter No. 23 April 2021

Dear AusSeabed Community,

Since our newsletter has moved to a bi-monthly schedule, it may seem like less frequent news, but I can assure you that lots is still happening in the background! This may also be a reminder for some, that if you have any exciting news or events you wish to share in between this timeframe, please do not hesitate to let us know at any time, so we can add to our website and upcoming newsletter.

This past month, we have been busy working with Deloitte and the community to deliver an Economic Benefit Analysis on the value of Seabed Mapping for Australians. We still need your help! If you haven't already, can you please fill the survey that was sent to you via email. This information will help support the growth of seabed mapping in Australia!

The [UN Decade for Ocean Science](#) for Sustainable Development, which aims to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health, has officially commenced. Australia is gathering its momentum and as an active participant by bringing all ocean lovers and stakeholders together. If you were not able to join the first Australia stakeholder brief on 25<sup>th</sup> March, I recommend you watch the very interesting insights from the expert panellists on this [recording](#) and think about the role of seabed mapping in solving some of the tangible issues raised as well as other decadal challenges.

Next week, we will make available our latest [AusSeabed community showcase](#), which highlights the quarterly progress of AusSeabed. Amongst the highlights are updates on the soon to be released QA Tool (QAX) with accompanying user webinar and [new data on the portal](#).

We will also publish the minutes from our recent Steering Committee meeting, which focused on developing the AusSeabed 2021/22 work plan. Our Executive Board is meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April to firm up commitment to AusSeabed for the next financial year.

We hope to see you over the coming months at various events, including [GeoHab 2021](#), [AMSA2021](#) conference, and World Hydrography Day! Until then, have a nice Easter break.

Kim Picard

*AusSeabed Steering Committee Chair*

## Upcoming Steering Committee Elections

Our five general Steering Committee positions will be seeking nominations on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May. If you are interested in nominating your institution to sit on the AusSeabed Steering Committee, read our [Steering Committee Terms of Reference](#) and [Steering Committee Election SOP](#). Keep an eye out for the call for nominations and if you would like more information contact [ausseabed@ga.gov.au](mailto:ausseabed@ga.gov.au).

|           |                            |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| 10th May  | Nominations open           |
| 24th May  | Nominations close          |
| 31st May  | Voting opens               |
| 14th June | Voting closes              |
| 21st June | Appointment of new members |

## Work Plan 2021/22 update

The AusSeabed 2021/22 Work Plan has almost been completed! Over the next financial year, we will focus on:

- Continuing to coordinate national stakeholders to ensure data delivery
- Connecting contributing data hubs to AusSeabed infrastructure
- Developing new data standard and quality guidelines
- Integrating AusSeabed infrastructure, including the development of automated processing pipelines
- Demonstrate the value of seabed mapping through community outreach
- Publishing training and educational resources

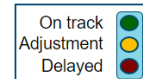
## March Quarterly Showcase

We continuously seek your feedback and the Quarterly Showcases are the perfect time to engage with us! Our quarterly showcases provide a chance for us to show the AusSeabed community what we have been working on in the last quarter and reflect on what was. Based on our progress we offer the community our goals for the next quarter against our project objectives.

A recording and slides will soon be [published on the website](#) for our March Quarterly Showcase. This showcase highlighted:

- Our new ARDC funded GMRT AusSeabed project
- The Deloitte Economic Business Analysis

- New data available on the portal
- Changes to our AWS Clearing House
- The development of Contributing Data Hubs
- A demo of the new QA Tool (QAX)
- A new automated AusSeabed reporting system
- Results from a user survey and workshops on our Portal UX design



## Program Increment Goals – Nov to March 2021

| Program Objectives  | PI Goals   | Status |
|---|--|--------|
| Improve coordination of activities relating to seabed mapping.  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engagement plan in place to progress Aus-US collaboration (GA, CSIRO, NOAA)</li> <li>2. National Prioritisation Framework workshop delivered</li> </ol>  |        |
| Expand the number of bathymetric products openly accessible through the AusSeabed platform.                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finalise CSIRO hub integration</li> <li>2. Two new contributing hubs underway (1. IMSA-PAWSEY; 2. TBD)</li> <li>3. Continue data publication of Falkor ongoing surveys in Aus</li> <li>4. GA fully transitioned to cloud-based processing (workstation)</li> <li>5. Operational Cloud Automated Processing Pipeline for key data levels</li> </ol> |        |
| Secure an enduring AusSeabed program to continue realising benefits to the community relying on seabed mapping. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collaborative agreement between EB signed</li> <li>2. Key agreements signed between AHO and others</li> <li>3. Communication and Engagement Strategy published</li> </ol>  |        |
| Deliver products and services focused on the needs of key stakeholders and end-users.                           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. QA tools (QAX) in testing with volunteered HIPP contractors</li> <li>2. Portal wireframe report delivered and socialised with key stakeholders</li> </ol>  |        |

## Program Increment Goals – March to June 2021

| Program Objectives  | PI Goals   |
|---|--|
| Improve coordination of activities relating to seabed mapping.  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>National Prioritisation Framework</b> development proposal completed</li> <li>2. <b>Australia-US collaboration</b> (GA, CSIRO, AHO, NOAA) agreement drafted</li> </ol>  |
| Expand the number of bathymetric products openly accessible through the AusSeabed platform.                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Solid foundations underway for the <b>ARDC GMRT AusSeabed</b></li> <li>2. Two new <b>contributing hubs</b> connected (1. IMSA-PAWSEY; 2. TBD)</li> <li>3. Prototype Data Hub for <b>all bathymetry data levels</b> delivered.</li> <li>4. <b>Continue data publication</b> of R.V. Falkor ongoing surveys in Australia</li> <li>5. Operational Cloud <b>Automated Processing Pipeline</b> for key data levels</li> </ol> |
| Secure an enduring AusSeabed program to continue realising benefits to the community relying on seabed mapping. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AusSeabed <b>2021/22 work plan</b> final draft</li> <li>2. <b>Collaborative Head Arrangement</b> between Executive Board members executed</li> <li>3. Key <b>Project Agreements</b> executed (EB members and ARDC partners)</li> </ol>   |
| Deliver products and services focused on the needs of key stakeholders and end-users.                           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>QA tools</b> (QAX) refinement plan underway based on feedbacks</li> <li>2. Development plans for <b>Portal v.2</b> underway</li> <li>3. AusSeabed <b>Satellite Derived Bathymetry (SDB) Guidelines</b> drafted</li> </ol>   |

## AusSeabed Fortnightly Showcases

We welcome our AusSeabed community to come and listen to what we get up to each fortnight! This one-hour time-slot is the opportunity for you to follow our progress, provide comments and raise concerns about our activities. You can join via Zoom using the below details:

**Time:** Every 2 weeks (next meet April 9<sup>th</sup>) 13:00-14:00 AEST/Canberra

**Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/94055901451?pwd=UkFid28yUFk0T0xnZGZlbnkYcWlYZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 940 5590 1451

**Passcode:** 285157

## Economic Business Analysis by Deloitte



We have commissioned Deloitte to provide an Economic Business Analysis on “The value of Australian seabed mapping data to the blue economy”. Providing a value on seabed mapping data will support new investments into seabed mapping activities in Australia.

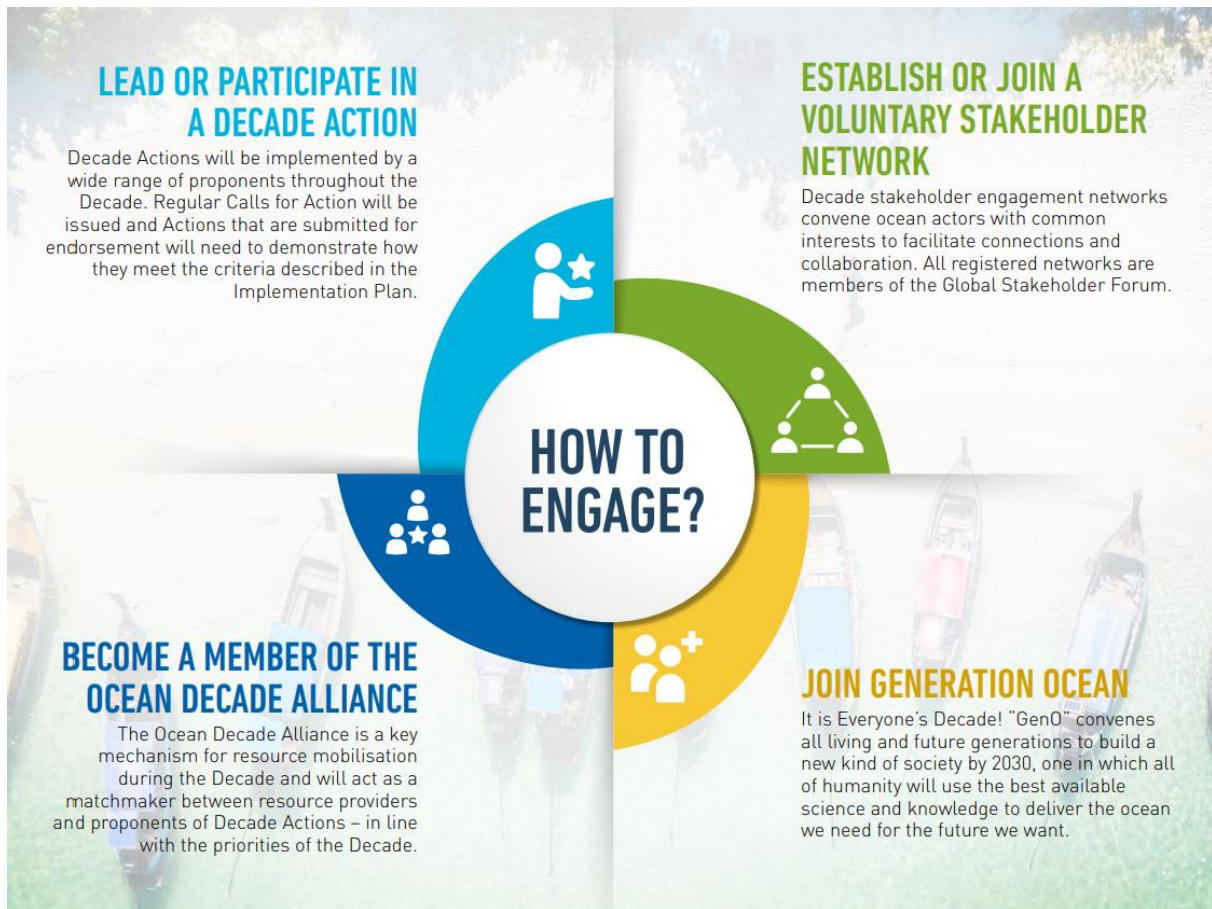
Surveys have been sent out to our stakeholders for their contribution to this analysis. Please check your inbox to ensure that you have not missed this opportunity to engage with us!

## The UN Decade for Ocean Science

Our chair, Kim Picard, has been actively engaging with [Ocean Decade Australia](#) activities. Last week was the first Australian stakeholder brief ([recording available here](#)). The brief introduces stakeholders to the structure of the UN Decade for Ocean Science, Sustainable Development Goals structure and the Ocean Decade Action Framework. Read the [brochure](#) to learn more about the UN Decade for Ocean Science.

The event highlighted why Australia should invest in Ocean Decade activities at a government, industry and individual level. The panellists hope the Decade will lead to a positive

mindset for climate change solutions, the incorporation of investments and philanthropy in realising SDG solutions and innovation through the promotion of partnerships.



As an individual you can take on small actions, one at a time, to make a difference including:

- Asking where your fish comes from
- Asking where and how your clothes are made
- Asking where your money is being invested
- Insist on evidence-based conversations about social issues

## Schmidt Ocean Institute's RV *Falkor* New Year voyage maps over 40,000 square km

The Schmidt Ocean Institute's year-long series of RV *Falkor* expeditions within Australia's waters continued with another successful expedition to the northern Tasman Sea and Coral Sea Marine Park. The 'Pinging in the New Year' voyage



<https://schmidtocean.org/cruise/pinging-the-new-year/>, collected some of the first data for start of the UN Ocean Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030) <https://www.oceandecade.org/> while flying the flag of the GEBCO-Seabed 2030 Project <https://seabed2030.org/>. By the end of January, the *Falkor* had mapped 40,445 sq km across the Recorder and Fraser seamounts, around Cato Reef and on the Chesterfield Plateau.

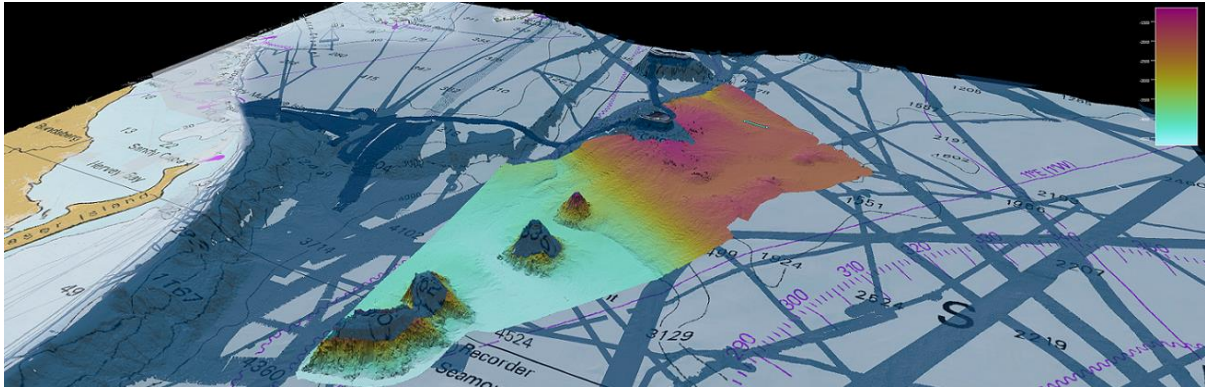


Image 1 – A screen capture of the ~40,000 sq km mapped by the RV *Falkor* during the ‘Pinging in the New Year’ voyage to the Tasman and Coral seas.

### Schmidt Ocean Institute’s RV *Falkor* voyage to the remote Coral Sea Marine Park

In February, the RV *Falkor* departed Brisbane for the ‘Seafloor to Seabirds in the Coral Sea’ voyage <https://schmidtocean.org/cruise/seafloor-to-seabirds/> to the eastern Coral Sea Marine Park on the remote Kenn Plateau and Coriolis Ridge. As of 25 February, the *Falkor* had mapped about 24,000 sq km, revealing the ancient basaltic and continental crusts that shape the seafloor here as a result of the breakup of Gondwana. Priority mapped areas included IUCN Special Purpose zones in the Coral Sea Marine Park, for assisting management by Parks Australia. The SOI-produced video ‘Beneath the Waves’ explains further why we are mapping [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcxE1pQM2\\_c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcxE1pQM2_c)

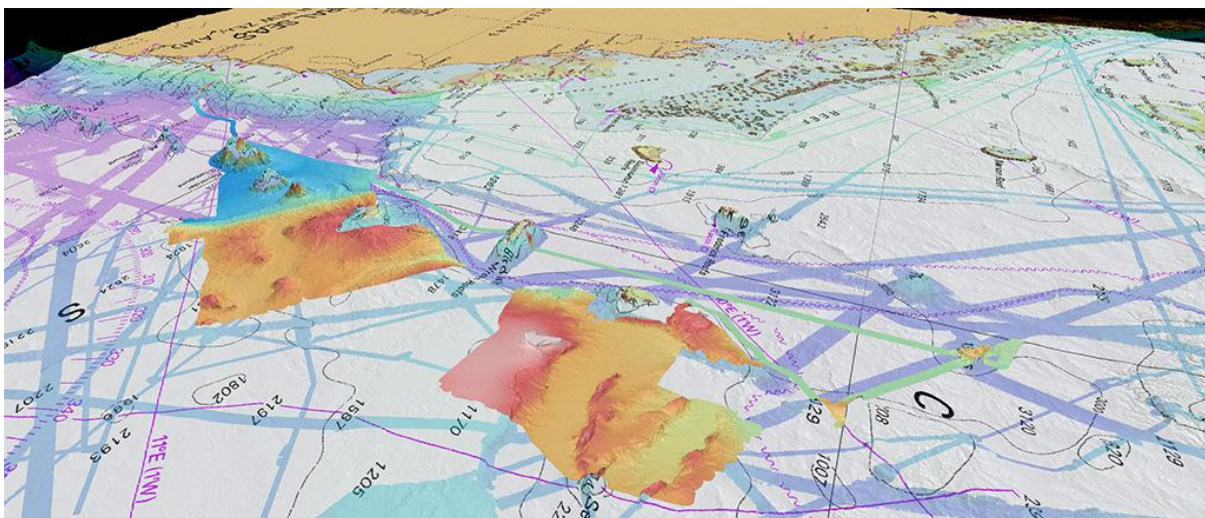


Image 2 – A screen capture of RV *Falkor*’s mapped areas for both the ‘Pinging in the New Year’ and ‘Seafloor to Seabirds in the Coral Sea’ voyages.

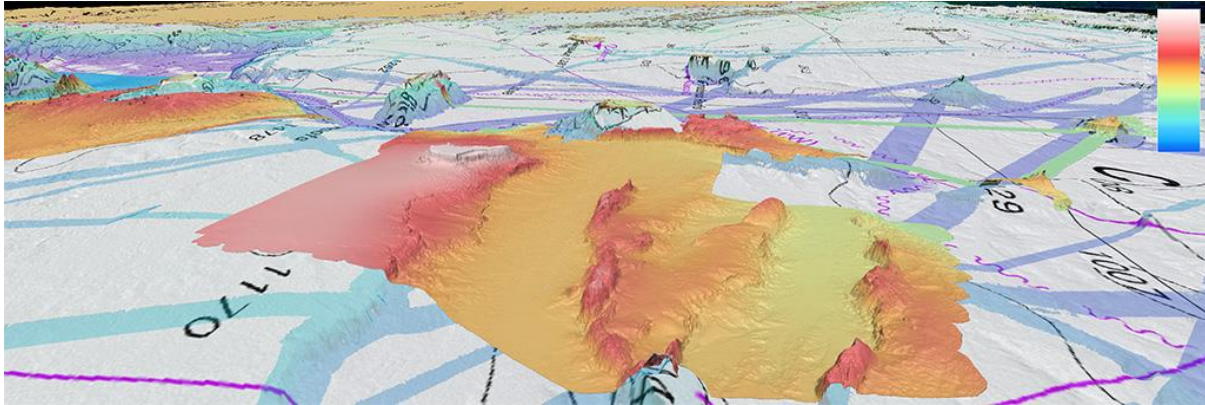


Image 3 – A screen capture of the (currently) ~24,000 sq km mapped by the RV *Falkor* during the 'Seafloor to Seabirds in the Coral Sea' voyage.

## Upcoming Events

### First Public Offering of an S-5B Hydrographic Surveyors Course in Australasia (April 2022)

IIC Technologies and Deakin University are very pleased to announce they will run IIC Academy's S-5 Category B Hydrographic Surveyors program starting online in September 2021.

This course is designed for those with the desire to start or build a career in Hydrography. The course is recognized by the [FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence for Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers](#) (IBSC) and this is the first time that an S-5B accredited course has been offered to the public in Australasia.

This S-5B program will be delivered as a combination of remote learning and onsite practicals, ensuring students the knowledge and experience they need. Further, the IIC Academy S-5B program is the only S-5B to be endorsed to maximise distance learning, allowing greater flexibility and reduced costs for the student. To achieve the desire to be "by the community and for the community" IIC are working with Deakin University to partner in the delivery of the practical and assessment portions of the programme at their facilities in Warrnambool, Victoria, commencing April 2022.

If you want more information or wish to register please contact [david.crossman@iictechnologies.com](mailto:david.crossman@iictechnologies.com) or follow [the link](#).



## **GeoHab (May 2021)**

The ongoing pandemic precludes in-person scientific conferences in 2021. In order to maintain the cooperative spirit of GeoHab, and specifically to show case the work of students who are having a particularly challenging academic and conference experience due to the impacts of the pandemic, GeoHab has adopted the concept of “nodal” conferences for May of 2021 within adjacent time zones around the world. The world is covered in three GeoHab Nodal Conferences (GNCs): The Americas, Europe and Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

This approach will allow gatherings, or “nodes”, which will be virtually linked via video conferencing within each of the three GNCs. The nodes will be at the individual, small group, or large group level depending on travel advisories and restrictions in place in May. This will allow a degree of flexibility based on the unknown state of the pandemic in May. The 2021 GeoHab website (<http://geohab.org/geohab-2021/>) will be on line in early February where nodal details and abstract submission information will be posted.

It is anticipated that, following three successful GNCs around the world, a worldwide GeoHab plenary session and AGM will also be held in May 2021. Further details to follow.

## **Australian Marine Sciences Association (AMSA) 2021**

- Monday 21 June 2021: Online Registration Closes
- Sunday, 27 June 2021: AMSA Conference 2021 Opens
- Friday, 2 July 2021: AMSA Conference 2021 Closes

[Click here for more information.](#)

While the AMSA conference organising committee are endeavouring to have a face-to-face conference, they will be providing options for people to pre-record or deliver talks on-line for those whose agencies have put an indefinite hold on interstate travel.



The conference will still host the Annual AusSeabed AGM and Workshop delivered as a combination of face-to-face and/or on-line as circumstances closer to June will dictate.

### **European Geoscience Union 2021 (online) 25–30 April 2021**

EGU announced that its General Assembly 2021, traditionally held each spring in Vienna, Austria, will instead take place entirely online due to the continuing risks posed by the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting restrictions on international travel. While we deeply regret another missed opportunity to meet with colleagues and friends in person next year, we're committed to graciously accepting circumstances that are beyond our control and continuing the Union's efforts to minimize the impacts of COVID-19 on Earth, planetary, and space science research.

For more information – [click here](#)

### **Australasian Hydrographic Society Conference 2021**

- We invite you to join us in Wellington at the 9th International Shallow Survey Conference. This conference is recognised world-wide by experts as an important forum for presenting new scientific and technological advancements associated with surveying in shallow waters.
- As a key component of the conference, survey challenges will be set with the aim of targeting specific research questions and/or areas of interest.
- Located in the heart of Wellington on the waterfront, the conference takes place at New Zealand's National Museum & Art Gallery Te Papa Tongarewa 23-27 May 2022.

To learn more visit [www.shallowsurvey.org](http://www.shallowsurvey.org) or email [shallowsurvey@confer.co.nz](mailto:shallowsurvey@confer.co.nz).

## **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](mailto:AusSeabedNews@ga.gov.au)