



AusSeabed Newsletter No. 7 September 2019

August thankfully flew by, a typically quieter time of the AusSeabed calendar with some of the collaborators taking the opportunity to break the paper shackles and take some time off.

However, things have still been ticking over, so read on, as you enjoy the respite offered by spring!

Updates and other news

Program themes

Data Hub

Nothing to report.

Outreach, Education, and Training (OET)

Following on from the AusSeabed Annual Workshop in July, OET program theme leader Ralph Talbot-Smith has set up a new Outreach Planner to coordinate activities undertaken by the OET outreach champions in each state. This is a wonderful step forward in tracking the spatial and organisational reach of AusSeabed. Please contact Ralph if you would like any more details about the Outreach Planner, or if you have an outreach event in mind.

Ralph also met with International Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) contacts in Perth who are involved with voyages along the WA south coast, and referred them to CSIRO hydrographer Matt Boyd for expert advice on multibeam mapping. Ralph also organised presentations at the Fremantle Yacht Club and the upcoming WA State Natural Resource Management (NRM) and Coastal conference.

In other news, the Royal Australian Navy Hydrographic School from HMAS Penguin visited Geoscience Australia to learn about the applications of seabed mapping data and to get some theoretical instruction on the principles behind backscatter acquisition and processing. The group even managed to head down to the GA vaults to look at rare and precious minerals! This is the



Some freshwater "mapping" in Silfra, the lake system between the North Atlantic and American continental plates, Iceland. The water was a toasty 2°C. Photo: Aero Lepplatrier

third year that HMAS Penguin have visited GA as part of their hydrographic program and the partnership looks set to continue for many more.

Tools, Standards, and Guidelines (TSG)

Nothing to report.

Save the Date! AMSA 2020 at Macquarie University, Sydney (5-9 July)

The joint Australian Marine Science Association (AMSA)/ New Zealand Marine Sciences Society (NZMSS) conference will be held in Sydney next year, at **Macquarie University** on the **5th to the 9th July**. The conference theme is 'Marine Science in the Anthropocene'. Tim Ingleton (NSW OEH), Kam Austine (EGS Survey), Alan Jordan (NSW DPI), and Wendy Stewart (AHO), are leading the development of a symposium for seabed mapping. If you are interested in this or have any ideas to contribute, please get in touch with Tim at tim.ingleton@environment.nsw.gov.au. The call for symposia closes on **30 September 2019**.

RV Investigator heads to the Coral Sea

The RV *Investigator* departed Cairns in early August on voyage IN2019_V04 'Hotspot Dynamics in the Coral Sea'. On board was AusSeabed contributor Dr Robin Beaman, undertaking detailed sea floor mapping in the Coral and Solomon seas. The survey area covers part of the recently declared Coral Sea Marine Park, including ancient seafloor volcanos. For more information see [here](#) or [here](#) (including a quite spectacular photo of a seabird catching a flying fish!).



CSIRO's flagship research boat, the RV Investigator, has arrived in Cairns en route to surveying the seafloor of the Coral Sea. Chief Scientist Associate Professor Jo Whittaker and Principle Scientist Dr Rob Beaman with the RV Investigator at the Cairns Cruise Liner terminal. PICTURE: STEWART MCLEAN.

Upcoming meetings

37th International Conference on Coastal Engineering (Sydney, 13-18 September 2020)

This meeting is still a long way off, but abstract submissions close **15th September 2019(!)** The International Conference on Coastal Engineering (ICCE) aims to promote academic and technical exchange on coastal related studies, covering a range of topics including coastal waves, nearshore currents, coastal structures, sediment transport, coastal morphology, beach nourishment, natural hazards, and coastal management. The meeting is associated with the Coasts, Oceans, Ports, and Rivers Institute (COPRI), which in turn falls within the American Society of Civil Engineers, America's oldest national engineering society. Collaborating with engineering industries is one area where AusSeabed have made some inroads, but this meeting would be a fantastic place to develop stronger ties. For more information see the [ICCE 2020 website](#).

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

The [OceanObs'19 Decadal meeting](#) will take place **16-20 September 2019** in Honolulu, Hawaii, where members of the global seabed mapping community will join forces with experts from the OceanObs community and other marine environmental disciplines. Seabed mapping experts attending the meeting aim 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.

The seabed mapping community—including several members of the AusSeabed community and international players—are working together to maximise the impact and outcomes of the seabed mapping community during the conference. This includes participation in break-out sessions, booth set-up for GEBCO-Nippon Foundation Seabed 2030 project also highlighting national and regional contacts, poster sessions, etc. If interested (or indeed keen on a holiday in Hawaii), please [register](#) and/or have a look at the newly released [program](#). For more information contact Kim at AusSeabed@ga.gov.au.

Forum for Operational Oceanography (Melbourne)

The 3rd Forum for Operational Oceanography will be held on the **15-16 October**, at the **Pullman Albert Park, Melbourne**. The meeting will have the following two major themes:

- Opportunities for operational oceanography to drive the development of Australian marine industries
- Risks to Australian marine industries and the role of operational oceanography in helping to manage them

Abstract submission for FOO 2019 has already closed, but even if you did not submit an abstract it would be wonderful to have an AusSeabed presence at the meeting, given the importance of accurate and precise seabed information in oceanographic models. You can see the full program (with talks) [here](#), and the FOO 2019 website [here](#).

Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Week 2019: GEO Blue Planet Side Event (Tuesday 5th November)

The 2019 Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Week will be held in Canberra in November. GEO is an intergovernmental partnership of 105 member governments, 127 participating organisations, and thousands of individuals and businesses aiming to improve the availability, access, and use of Earth observations for a more sustainable planet. In November, ministers from GEO member governments, business leaders, heads of international non-profit organisations, and technical experts will meet in Canberra for GEO Week 2019, the GEO Ministerial Summit, and GEO side events.

As part of GEO week, GEO Blue Planet have arranged a side event ‘The Role of the Group on Earth Observations in the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)’ – to be held on Tuesday 5th November. This session is well timed to occur shortly after [OceanObs19](#), and provides an opportunity for the GEO community to identify actions to support decision-making regarding ocean management.

For more information please contact Kim Picard and/or see [here](#).

GEBCO annual meeting and symposia (New Hampshire, 5-9 November)

This meeting is a week of meetings that is open to all and includes meetings of the GEBCO Guiding Committee and sub-committees (SCRUM, TSCUM, and SCUFN). It also includes a symposium—‘Map the Gaps—that will be held mid-week. Further information and registration details can be found [here](#).

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

Abstract submissions for AGU 2019 have now closed. The seafloor mapping session ‘Beyond Hydrography: Seafloor Mapping as Critical Data for Understanding Our Oceans’ received 34 abstract submissions. These are now being reviewed, and assignment to poster or talk will be determined once the AGU organising committee provides the convener with the final ratio in early September. See website [here](#) for further information on the 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.