

# AusSeabed Steering Committee

Meeting no.15: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 13:00-17:00 AEDT

## Attendees

Chair, Nigel Townsend, Australian Hydrographic Office	Vice Chair, David Crossman, ICC Technologies
Outgoing Director, Kim Picard, Geoscience Australia	Incoming Director, Natalie Lennard, Geoscience Australia
Theme Lead, Tim Ingleton, NSW Department of Planning and Environment	Standing member, Richard Cullen, Australian Hydrographic Office
Federal member, Cath Samson, Parks Australia	Federal member, Merinda Nash, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
State member, Tom Doyle, NSW Department of Planning and Environment	State member, Ralph Talbot-Smith, WA Department of Transport
State member, Mark Doubell, SA Research and Development Institute	International member, Kevin McKay, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research
Academic member, Iain Parnum, Curtin University	Academic member, Mary Young, Deakin University
Industry member, Martin Tunwell, Ocean Infinity	Industry member, Emily Twiggs, EOMAP
Industry member, Henry Johnson, Kongsberg Discovery	ECOP, Mardi McNeil, Geoscience Australia
ECOP, Alysha Johnson, University of Wollongong	Observer, Aero Leplastrier, Geoscience Australia

**Absent:** Stuart Edwards, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

## Actions

### Actions list

	Action	Responsible Party	Date for Completion	Comments/Status
SC.15.1	To raise funding with the Executive Board to look into other funding arrangements to continue achieving the AusSeabed program			
SC.15.2	Kim Picard to send Ocean Decade White Paper to SC members	Kim Picard	July	Completed, distributed with minutes
SC.15.3	Ralph Talbot-Smith to share Ocean Decade contact details.	Ralph Talbot-Smith	July/August	

SC.15.4	Alysha Johnson to look into how to collate and track instances of AusSeabed data use in academia.	Alysha Johnson	November	
SC.15.5	Kevin McKay to provide Seabed 2030 highlight for the AusSeabed.	Kevin McKay	July/August	
SC.15.6	Steering Committee to provide input/review on the progress report and highlight report.	All SC	August/September	
SC.15.7	Steering Committee to consider whether the highlight report is one thing too many for the program to deliver	All SC	November	
SC.15.8	Mary Young to put manuscript on google drive and define timeframes and due dates for the work.	Mary Young	July	Completed
SC.15.9	Aero Leplastrier to look into Geoscience Australia hosting issues.		August	
SC.15.10	Steering Committee to contribute to Manuscript paper where indicated or capable.		TBC	
SC.15.11	Henry, Martin and Richard to send feedback on Sub-Bottom Profile Guidelines to Mardi McNeil.		17 August 2023	
SC.15.12	AusSeabed KPI suggestions to be sent to Natalie Lennard.		10 August 2023	
SC.15.13	Steering Committee members to send communications, events and outreach opportunities to Alex Proctor.		November	
SC.15.14	New Theme Leads will talk to AusSeabed volunteers and advertise through the newsletter and social channels to determine new working groups.			
SC.15.15	Theme Leads to communicate with Steering Committee volunteers about Working Groups for August Newsletter.		25 August 2023	
SC.15.16	Alex Proctor to send out Doodle poll for November and March meetings.		July/August	Completed, distributed with minutes
SC14.1	Those who have not completed the SC Skills Matrix to complete and send to Alex Proctor along with updates to profiles.	All SC	March	
SC14.2	Those in the manuscript working group to send Mary some info on which sections of the manuscript they might like to develop.	All SC	April	Please action
SC13.2	C+E team to discuss how to follow up on the Academic Survey respondents	Emily Twiggs	March	Underway

# Meeting notes

*Meeting opened 0900*

## 1 Introduction

### Welcome

- The meeting opened by thanking the outgoing members for their work in the Steering Committee and welcoming the incoming members
- All attendees introduced themselves and Nigel raised that Richard Cullen will be taking on the Standing Member role for the Australian Hydrographic Office to allow Nigel to concentrate on his Chair responsibilities.

### Minutes & Actions

- Minutes from SC Meeting #14 were endorsed out of session and will be available on the AusSeabed website.
- Outstanding actions were followed up with the group and an updated list is provided above.
  - Updates were provided against all actions.

*Action SC.14.1: Those who have not completed the SC Skills Matrix to complete and send to Alex Proctor along with updated profiles if required.*

*Action SC.13.2: Tim Ingleton to hand over responsibility for this action*

## 2 Annual Reports 2022/2023

### Annual Reports

Kim Picard provided an overview of the Annual Progress Report, the Annual Statistics Report and the Annual Highlights Report for 2022/23, highlighting content that will be included in the Annual Progress Report and asks for feedback to be sent to Natalie Lennard.

Discussion occurred around funding sources for AusSeabed and ongoing work needed to obtain other/new funding arrangements. Ralph Talbot Smith raised the recently launched Ocean Decade White paper could be used to help leverage funding. He also flagged that he has been invited into a roadshow that Ocean Decade is planning to run around Australia. Ralph will continue to engage with this them and look at inviting them to a future Steering Committee meeting.

*Action SC.15.1: To raise funding with the Executive Board to look into other funding arrangements to continue achieving the AusSeabed program*

*Action SC.15.2: Kim Picard to send Ocean Decade White Paper to SC members*

*Action SC.15.3: Ralph Talbot-Smith to share Ocean Decade contact details*

As the Annual Highlight Report will cover highlights from the last financial year, Steering Committee members are asked to flag anything they feel should be included. The Highlight report will cover products, coverage and awareness. Natalie Lennard or Alex Proctor will reach out to Steering Committee members regarding highlights. Timeline for publication is mid-August, or October at the latest.

Suggestions from the Steering Committee included:

- For 2023/2024 the Bathymetry Portal that solved a large contribution problem
- Finalised 5 year strategy
- First Nations statement
- Program goals page
- Modernisation project closing, outputs and view to the future
- Newsletter for quotes and good news items
- For 2023/2024 the national area of interest tool and how it has been used by Parks Australia
- Academic and environmental use of data sets
- Seabed 2030 and how they advocate AusSeabed as a model to the rest of the world

A discussion was had regarding whether we should be tracking how AusSeabed data is being used in the Academic space and more broadly in media. Kim Picard suggest Alysha Johnson and Alex Proctor could look into how this can be tracked.

*Action SC.15.4: Alysha Johnson to look into how to collate and track instances of AusSeabed data use in academia*

*Action SC.15.5: Kevin McKay to provide Seabed 2030 highlight for the AusSeabed*

*Action SC.15.6: Steering Committee to provide input/review on the progress report and highlight report, due August/September*

*Action SC.15.7: Steering Committee to consider whether the highlight report is one thing too many for the program to deliver*

## 3 Ongoing Projects

### 3.1 Manuscript

Mary Young distributed the updated Manuscript outline and has started assigning people against topics for the different sections. If people wish, or do not wish, to be involved please let Mary know. Tentative due date of the November Steering Committee meeting. Currently looking for a place to host the manuscript so it is easily accessible by all involved. Aero Leplastrier will talk to Neil Evans about the Geoscience policy to see if this can be hosted on the AusSeabed sharepoint. Mary will look at uploading the manuscript to a Google drive in the meantime so it can be worked on.

*Action SC.15.8: Mary Young to put manuscript on google drive and define timeframes and due dates for the work.*

*Action SC.15.9: Aero Leplastrier to look into Geoscience Australia hosting issues.*

*Action SC 15.10: Steering Committee to contribute to paper where indicated or capable.*

## 3.2 Sub-Bottom Profile Guidelines

Mardi McNeil gave a history of Sub-Bottom Profile guidelines, emphasising the need for best practice guides to enable further sub-bottom data collection. These guidelines will be published through the Geoscience Australia eCAT to obtain a DOI then be published through AusSeabed, the Ocean Best Practice repository and the NOAA Ocean Mapping Wiki.

**The Steering Committee endorsed the Sub-Bottom Profile Guidelines, pending final peer review.**

*1Action SC.15.11: Henry, Martin and Richard to send feedback on Sub-Bottom Profile Guidelines to Mardi McNeil by 17th August 2023.*

Tim Ingleton flagged that Rachel is also looking for feedback on sediment sampling guidelines.

## 3.3 June Workshop Report

Nigel Townsend provided an overview of the June World Hydro Day workshop. The report for this is being compiled by Emma Hickerson. The report will be sent out to all workshop participants over the next couple of weeks then to the Steering Committee for endorsement mid-September.

Follow on session on the National Seabed Mapping Plan will be held after the HRP in September.

Nigel is happy for the meeting 1 notes to be distributed to participants for comment.

# 4 2023/2024 Work Plan

Natalie Lennard provided a history and overview of the 2023/2024 Work Plan highlighting the areas it will focus on.

1. Preparation for Scaling
  - Increased infrastructure sustainability
  - Improve services to the community
2. Data Modernisation
  - Strengthen reputation via leadership in data process & management
  - Accelerate development pathways for a new product
3. 2030 AusBathyTopo Series
  - Improve decision-making in areas of high gov. interest
  - Efficiency-gain through 1-stop-shop & strategic alignment
4. National Seabed Mapping Plan
  - Single & consistent point of truth for coverage statistics
  - Improved coordination for acquisition and delivery to meet user-needs
5. Boosting International Engagement
  - Enhance product uptake and leverage international efforts
  - Demonstrate Australia's interest in collaborating with the Pacific
6. Backscatter Product Initiation
  - Initiate progress of 2<sup>nd</sup> most wanted product
  - Efficiency-gained by leveraging global effort

- Mark Doubell asked if the missing information on the full entrance of the gulf will be resolved
  - Natalie Lennard will follow up with Mark on this
- Cath Samson asked about how the order of the bathymetry grids will be determined
  - Kim Picard advised that there will be a discussion around prioritisation that looks at funding influences, offshore renewables and year to year flexibility. Parks Australia priorities are included separately
- Iain Parnum has been revisiting data with first workshop of the semester with hydro students. Interesting to see refresh of data from 2008/2009 with proposed windfarms off of Bunbury.
- Kim Picard emphasised that we may not be able to begin work in the renewable energy space this year given the lack of funding.
  - Nigel Townsend stated that the Executive Board should look into the lack of funding for AusSeabed and asked that an overview of the effects of funding being removed has had on AusSeabed be presented.
- Iain Parnum raised that a discussion is needed regarding pulling together data to prevent duplication that has been happening.
- Natalie Lennard raised that a National Seabed Mapping Plan, based off of the June Workshop outcomes, is aimed to be drafted by the end of the financial year.
- Kim Picard asked for 2023/2024 KPI suggestions for AusSeabed to be sent to Natalie Lennard for inclusion.

*Action SC.15.12: AusSeabed KPI suggestions to be sent to Natalie Lennard by 10th August 2023.*

**The Steering Committee agreed for the Work Plan to be presented at the Executive Board for endorsement then publication.**

## 5 2023/2024 Comms and Outreach Plan

Kim Picard gave an overview of the communications plan and calendar, noting that Alex Proctor is taking on communications from the Geoscience Australia side. Steering Committee members provided a number of events that could be included in the plan. **The updated plan is at Appendix B.** Please send any engagement opportunities, events or other communications suggestions to Alex Proctor for inclusion.

As suggested Alex Proctor will capture targeted outreach, last contacts and relationship owners into the stakeholder engagement database that has been started.

*Action SC.15.13: Steering Committee members to send communications, events and outreach opportunities to Alex Proctor.*

## 6 Role Establishment

### Vice Chair

After a description of the role by outgoing Vice Chair David Crossman, **Martin Tunwell** was elected to AusSeabed Steering Committee Vice Chair.

### Theme Leads

#### *Outreach and Communications*

Tim Ingleton provided an overview of the role.

**Emily Twigg** will take on the Theme Lead role with support from **Ralph Talbot-Smith**.

#### *Data Hub*

This role will stay with **Geoscience Australia**

#### *Tool, Guidelines and Standards*

Nigel Townsend provided an overview of the role.

**Iain Parnum** will take on this Theme Lead role.

### Working Groups

Nigel Townsend states that due to the high level of interest in the AusSeabed space working groups should be expanded to allow more input from the community.

Steering Committee agreed to expand Working Groups to allow for more input and engagement.

Expansion of Working Groups will be based on the Work Plan, as well as community and professional development, interests and needs.

- Richard Cullen suggested contacting Neil Hewitt regarding professional development.
- Kim Picard suggested advertising for Working Groups through the next Newsletter.
- Ralph Talbot-Smith suggested seeking First Nations engagement through ranger programs.

Next newsletter will be delayed to 25<sup>th</sup> August to allow for Working Group advertising to be included.

*Action SC.15.14: New Theme Leads will talk to AusSeabed volunteers and advertise through the newsletter and social channels to determine new working groups.*

Steering Committee member volunteers for Working Groups at theme level are:

#### *Outreach and Communications:*

Emily Twigg, Ralph Talbot-Smith, Alysha Johnson, Tom Doyle, Mary Yung, Merinda Nash, Tim Ingleton, Alex Proctor

#### *Tools, Guidelines and Standards:*

Iain Parnum, Martin Tunwell, Nigel Townsend, Henry Johnson Richard Cullen

#### *Data Hub:*

Natalie Lennard, Merinda Nash, Aero Leplastrier, Richard Cullen, Nigel Townsend

*Action SC.15.15: Theme Leads to communicate with Steering Committee volunteers about Working Groups for 25<sup>th</sup> August Newsletter.*

## 7 Other business and next meetings

### Other business

Kim Picard is leaving AusSeabed and Australia. Opportunity was taken to thank Kim for all her efforts establishing and running the AusSeabed program over the last five years and to all the outgoing members for their support and engagement

Ralph Talbot-Smith to catch up with Nigel Townsend regarding data.

Suggestion from Aero Leplastrier for outgoing members to give handovers to incoming members.

### Next meetings

Host still to be determined for March 2024 meeting, possibly in Adelaide.

*Action SC.15.16: Alex Proctor to send out Doodle poll for November and March meetings.*

*Meeting closed 1642*



# Appendix 1: Agenda

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**Venue:** Online

**Time:** 13:00 – 17:00 AEST

**Coordinators:** Nigel Townsend, Kim Picard, Natalie Lennard, Alex Proctor

## Agenda

Time	#	Item	Action	Lead	Duration	Paper
1:00	1	Introduction and Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Action progress</li></ul>		NT AP	30 mins	Yes
1:30	2	Annual Reports 2022/23	Discuss	KP	20 mins	Yes
1:50	3	Ongoing projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manuscript outline &amp; contributors</li><li>• Sub-Bottom Profile guidelines</li><li>• June Workshop Report - Draft</li></ul>	Discuss Endorse Discuss	MY MM NT	15 mins 15 mins 15 mins	Yes Yes No
2:40	Break (20 mins)					
3:00	4	2023/24 Comms and Outreach Plan	Discuss	KP	30 mins	Yes
3:30	5	2023/24 Work Plan	Endorse	NL	50 mins	Yes
4:20	6	Role establishment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vice Chair (vote)</li><li>• Theme lead nominations</li><li>• Working groups</li></ul>	Vote Discuss	NT	30 mins	Yes
4:50	7	Other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Next meetings</li></ul>	Discuss	NT	10 mins	No
5:00	End of meeting					