



## **AusSeabed Newsletter No. 17 August 2020**

Hello all,

Welcome to the August newsletter! Notice how the days are starting to get longer? Yes, we are over the winter solstice hump, so I suppose we can expect Christmas advertising to start any day now! And you might think there's not much to celebrate this year, but AusSeabed continue to progress and develop their platform with plenty of good news stories here to read.

“Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean”.

-- *Ryunosuke Satoro*

### **Update from the chair**

Dear AusSeabed Community,

August already! Last month we held our second webinar focussed on mapping for management in the Anthropocene. Building on the success of the first two instalments, we have lined up some great speakers, including our American colleague, Dr. Vicki Ferrini, who will introduce us to the [Global Multi-Resolution Topography Synthesis](#), a potential avenue for AusSeabed to deliver our data in an integrated manner. We'll also be hearing from our WA colleague, Chris Gentle, who will introduce us to [IMSA](#), providing an opportunity to grow AusSeabed data holdings and engage with industry.

We will count on you all to share your thoughts during the end-user needs workshop session, I look forward to seeing you in great numbers.

Last financial year's great achievements have now been captured in our 2019/20 Annual Report and the 2020/21 Work Plan will give you an update of what's coming up. Both of these documents are being published on the [AusSeabed website publications page](#) this month.

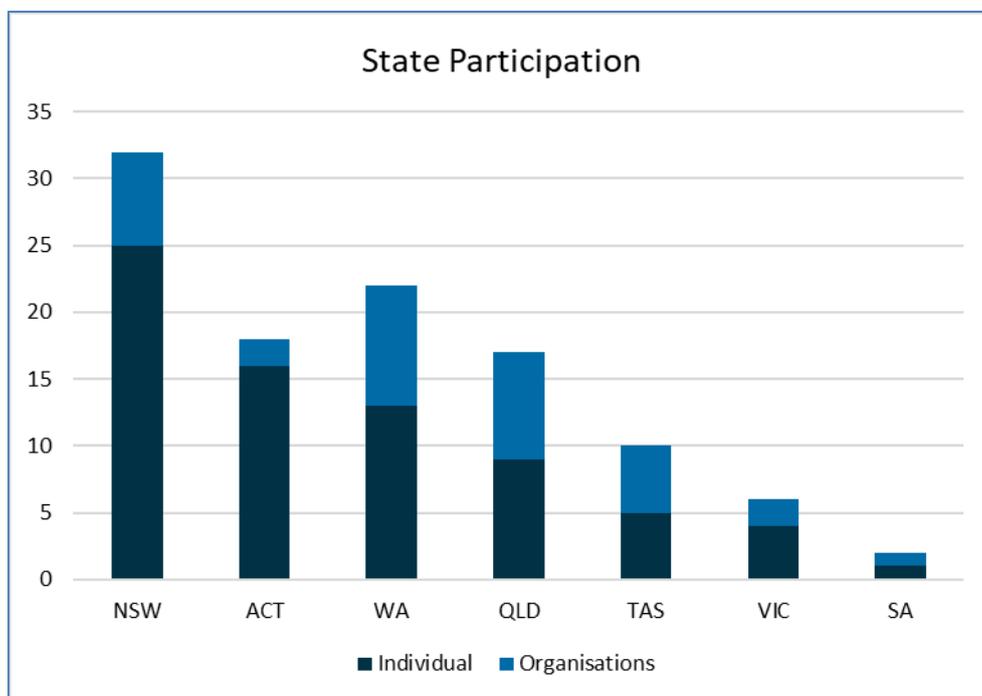
Finally, [Version 2 of our Australian Multibeam Guidelines](#) have been published in the latest release of the [NESP Field Manuals for Marine Sampling to Monitor Australian Waters](#).

Best wishes,

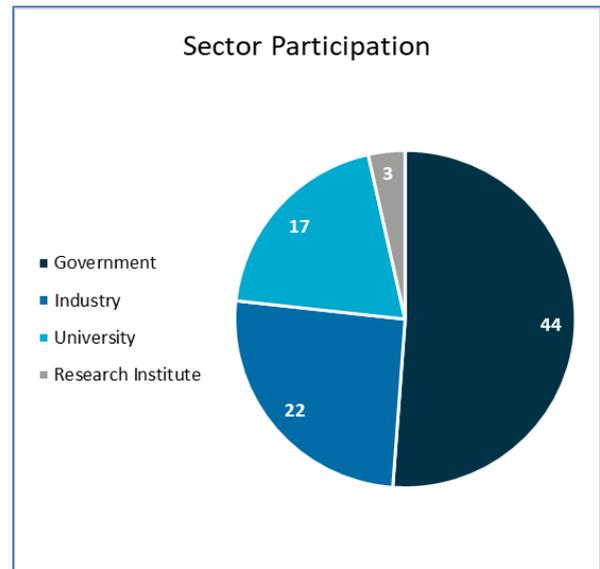
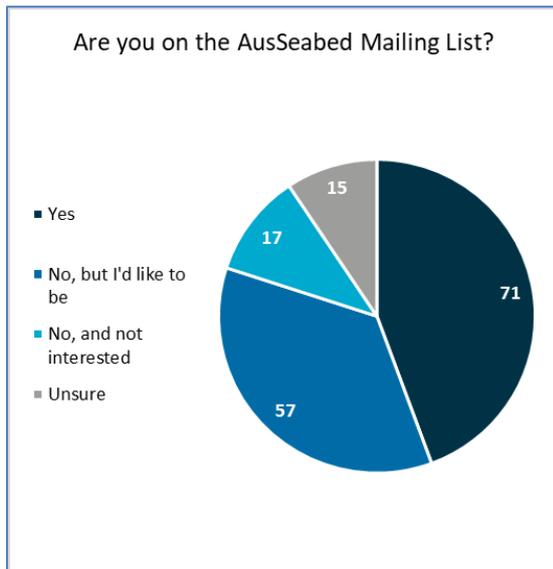
Kim Picard

## July Webinar Wrap-Up

The second webinar of our four-part series focussed on mapping for management in the Anthropocene. Congratulations is extended to all those involved as well as thanks to everyone that attended. Overall, we had:



- 160 registrants, 90 participating
- 20 registrant countries, 8 participating
- 92 registrant organisations, 46 participating



We will be publishing the July webinar recording, individual presentations and Q&A on the AusSeabed website this month.

## Upcoming Webinars



The AusSeabed webinar series continues this month with a focus on Data sharing and collaboration (with Outreach, education and engagement workshop activities).

Attendance is free, but registration is required due to a capped number of participants. We would like to invite anyone with an interest in seabed data (personal or professional) to consider registering and becoming more involved with the AusSeabed community.

The webinar series is held on the last Thursday of the month (27<sup>th</sup> August) and runs from 1100–1245 AEST.

[Click here](#) download an event schedule and flyer. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact [ausseabed@ga.gov.au](mailto:ausseabed@ga.gov.au).

## AUGUST WEBINAR UPDATE

NZ	AEST	AWST		<b>Thursday 27 August 2020</b> <b>Workshop theme:</b> Engagement <b>Talks:</b> Sharing and Collaborating
1300	1100	0900	<b>General Business</b>	<b>Welcome</b> <b>Work plan 2020/21 summary</b> Kam Austine (session chair)
				<b>Global Multi-Resolution Topography: A platform to deliver compilations on-the-fly</b> Vicky Ferrini, LDEO
				<b>Seabed2030 database</b> Evgenia Bazhenova, NIWA
1330	1130	0930	<b>Speed Talks</b>	<b>Engagement and Outreach</b> Ralph Talbot-Smith
			<b>Themed Workshop</b>	<b>Index of Marine Surveys for Assessment</b> Gordon Motherwell, WA DWER
				<b>MNF 10-year strategy</b> Barbara Musso, MNF
1430	1230	1030		<b>Questions and close</b>
1445	1245	1045		

## Registration links:

**August (27<sup>th</sup>):** Data sharing and collaboration (with Outreach, Education and engagement workshop activities)— [register here](#).

**September (24<sup>th</sup>):** Cross sector talks on the applications of seabed mapping (with program strategy activities)— [register here](#).

## Outreach, Education and Training

The appointed Outreach, Education and training team members include Ralph Talbot-Smith, Tim Ingleton, Gretchen Grammer, Dave Crossman, Rodney Hoath & Aero Leplastrier.

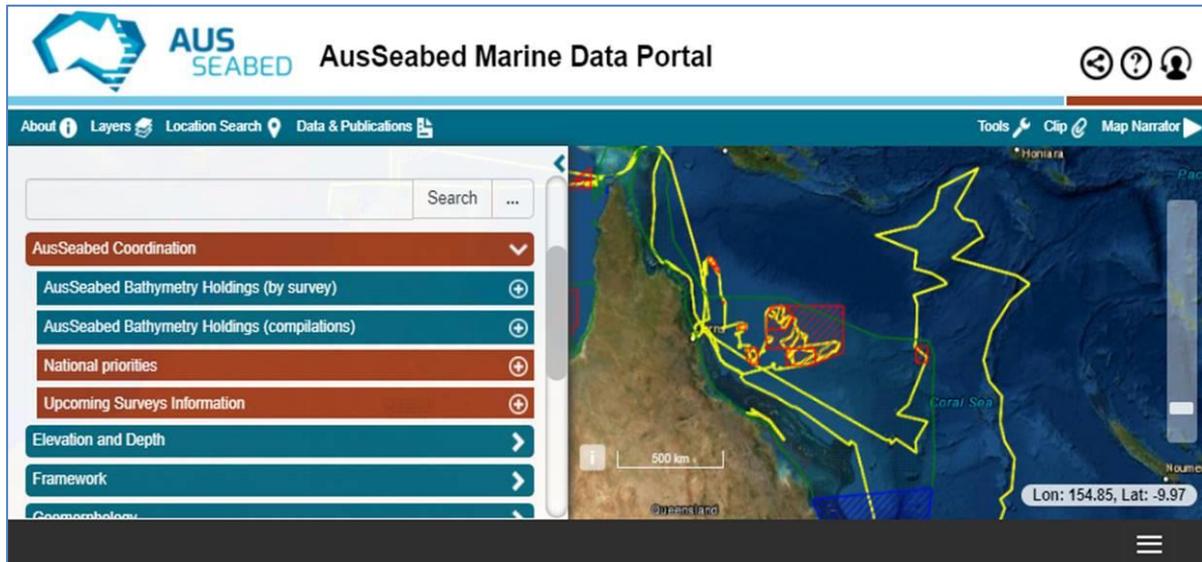
The team have been busy formulating a Communication Plan & Strategy for AusSeabed and are also preparing for the August 27 webinar. They will be asking for ideas and opinions about Outreach, Education & Training as AusSeabed goes forward.

## Survey Coordination Tool

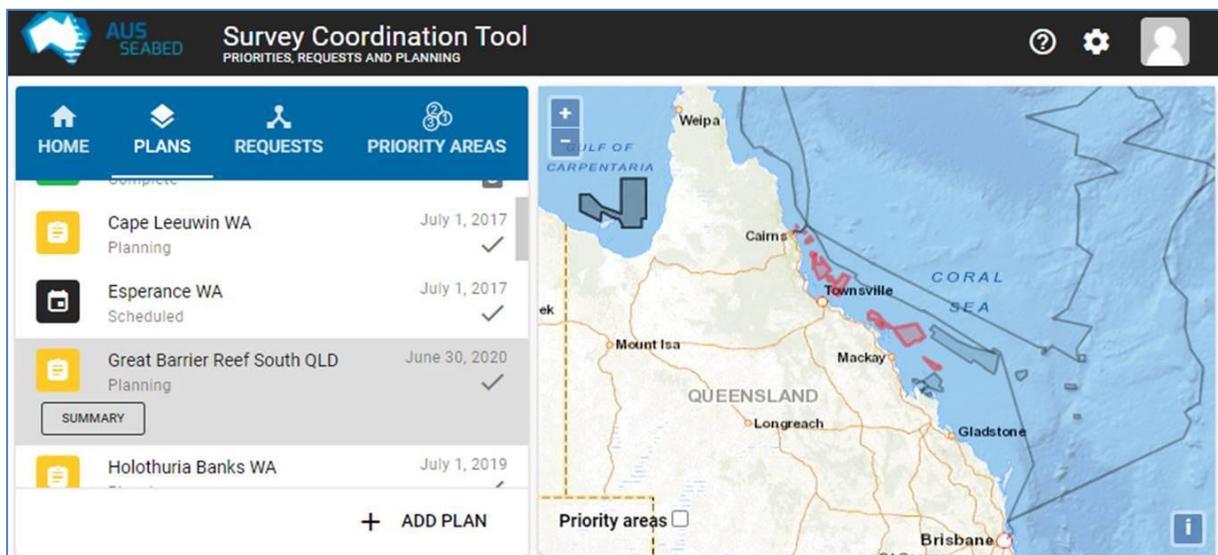
The AusSeabed Survey Coordination Tool (SCT) is scheduled to go live on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2020.

The SCT is designed for the seabed mapping community to communicate their plans to survey as well as outline areas they have prioritised for survey. It also hosts the online form for submitting survey requests to the Australian Hydrographic Office (AHO) for consideration by the HydroScheme Industry Partnership Programme.

Information entered into the tool appears on the [AusSeabed Marine Data Portal](#) and flows directly into the AHO's internal processes.



If you would like further information on the SCT, or to register as a user, please contact us on [ausseabed@ga.gov.au](mailto:ausseabed@ga.gov.au).



## Highlights and Other News

### Seabed 2030 – SaWPaC

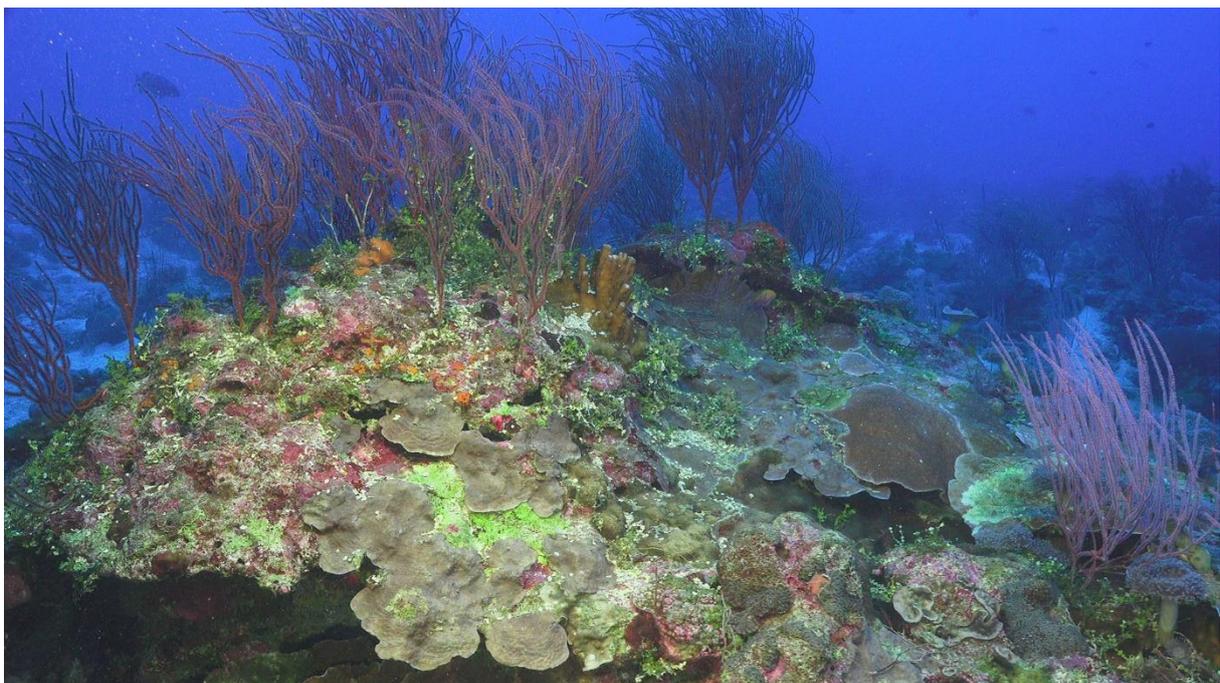
The South and West Pacific Ocean Regional Data Center acts as the regional focus for data compilation and co-ordination activities.

The final report for the Regional Workshop for the South and West Pacific Centre of the Seabed 2030 project, held virtually on 23-24 June 2020, is now available [here](#).

Click the **StoryMap** link, under “2nd regional workshop tab”, for updated links to the agenda, a list of participants, presentations, and videos of the recorded sessions.

### R/V Falkor Expedition

Following the previous [Visioning the Coral Sea Marine Park expedition](#), a similar team of scientists led by Drs. Brendan Brooke, [Geoscience Australia](#), and Robin Beaman, [James Cook University](#), explore the remote canyons, platform reefs and seamounts of the Coral Sea and Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks. The goals of [Seamounts, Canyons & Reefs of the Coral Sea](#) are to understand the biodiversity supported by these large-scale features and the role they may play as refuges for coral as well as other animal communities in a warming ocean.



For further information, visit [link](#)

## **NESP - Version 2 Field Manuals for Marine Sampling to Monitor Australian Waters**

Last month saw Version 2 of the Field Manuals for Marine Sampling to Monitor Australian Waters published on NESP's [new online portal](#). The field manuals aim to ensure that data collected by marine sampling platforms at different times and places across Australia are directly comparable.

Within that release, Geoscience Australia led the development of the second version of the [Australian Multibeam Guidelines](#). The primary objective of these guidelines is to establish standardised approaches to the acquisition and processing of multibeam data. Use of these guidelines will improve consistency in the collection and description of the data, enhancing its quality and utility for uptake. By merging the original NESP multibeam manual with national guidelines developed by AusSeabed, version 2 of the guidelines eliminates duplication, reduces future maintenance and highlights the growing reach of the AusSeabed program.

## **NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the US Consortium for Ocean Leadership Consortium Workshop**

A series of workshops have been held over the past month to identify Ocean Exploration Priorities for the United States in the Pacific.

AusSeabed Chair Kim Picard was invited to participate, along with representatives from across the seabed mapping sector, with the aim to progress the development of an implementation plan following the release of the [US National Strategy for Mapping, Exploring, and Characterizing the United States Exclusive Economic Zone](#).

It also provided a great opportunity to build the profile of the AusSeabed program and facilitate links to the international Seabed 2030 project to map the world's oceans by 2030.

Presentations and outcomes as they become available can be accessed [here](#).

## **PGSC 5 Meeting Summary**

The 5th Council Meeting of the Pacific Geospatial & Surveying Council was held during the week of the 11-14th of August. Over 70 representatives from the Pacific nations met online to review progress, explore emerging issues, attend to Council Governance

and develop a regional position to raise at the 10th Session of the UNGGIM Committee of Experts to be held later in the year. AusSeabed was invited to present as part of the Panel Series: Emerging Opportunities in Geospatial and surveying practice in the Pacific. The AusSeabed presentation focused on the community building work that had been done, the data acquisition to data delivery chain of services and tools, and the potential benefits for Australia and the Pacific through open source development. The talk generated some discussion on the importance of standards to inform widespread data collection and a couple of participants indicated their interest to be involved with the AusSeabed program in the future.

### **Australia-USA Joint Commission Meeting Summary**

Geoscience Australia and CSIRO were invited at the U.S.-Australia Joint Commission Meeting on Science and Frontier Technologies Dialogue to discuss our ocean mapping work and the importance of seafloor mapping for driving sustainable growth in the blue economy. The joint statement from the event highlighted this and both countries are committed to advancing ocean mapping through bilateral engagement and recognised “the importance of mapping and exploration to support growth of the sustainable blue economy and stimulate economic recovery.”

## **Governance Update**

### **Steering Committee General Member**

Cath Samson will be replacing Evan Hallein as the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) representative on the Steering Committee. We thank Evan for his short but fruitful participation and wish him best luck in his new adventure.

### **Executive Board Meeting**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Board meeting took place on the 27th July 2020. The EB endorsed the 2020/21 work plan, acknowledged and congratulated the AusSeabed team for last year’s achievements (highlighted in the annual report to be published this week), and continued discussion regarding the establishment of a collaborative agreement and ongoing investment toward the 10 Year Impact Pathway.

## **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)