



AusSeabed Newsletter No. 1

March 2019

Welcome to the inaugural AusSeabed newsletter! We (the steering committee) plan to send around a newsletter each month, with information about current AusSeabed activities, as well as updates from the broader AusSeabed community. This first edition is a bit of a long one—we've outlined recent progress in defining the overall structure of AusSeabed, and then provided some details of work currently underway.

We hope that this newsletter will be an easy way for everyone to keep up to date with what is happening and provide a means for everyone in the AusSeabed community to connect with activities of the steering committee and various working groups. Each newsletter will also be available for download on the [AusSeabed website](#).

On that note, we will also welcome submissions for each monthly newsletter—think conference or presentation opportunities, recent achievements, exciting seabed mapping innovations, pictures from survey voyages, and any other news that you would like to share with the community J Please send your submissions to AusSeabedNews@gov.au

Updates

New data!

AusSeabed is now hosting an updated 50 m bathymetry grid that incorporates data from 160 new surveys carried out between 2012 and 2018. The data are hosted on the [AusSeabed Marine Data Discovery portal](#), alongside the 30 m Northern Australia grid, the 30 m Great Barrier Reef grid, and the 5 m NESP grid.

Strategic Plan

A draft of the AusSeabed Strategic Plan is being compiled by the steering committee. The intention is to send it to the broader AusSeabed community in March for comments and endorsement.

Program themes

As a result of discussions at the last steering committee meeting, the AusSeabed initiative has been divided into three ‘program themes’, each of which is being led by a member of the steering committee:

- AusSeabed Data Hub (Kim Picard, Geoscience Australia)
- Tools Standards, and Guidelines (Nathan Quadros, FrontierSI)
- Outreach, Education, and Training (Ralph Talbot-Smith, WA Department of Transport)

Each program theme is being supported by an open working group, which you are welcome to join by emailing AusSeabed (AusSeabed@ga.gov.au) or the theme leader. See below for updates from each of the themes.

Data Hub

Members of the Data Hub working group have drafted the AusSeabed Data Hub Roadmap, which describes how the data hub will be developed. This document was shared during the first working group meeting (1 Feb 2019), which included Wendy Stewart (AHO), Tara Martin (CSIRO), Johnathan Kool (AAD), Kim Picard, and Aero Leplastrier (GA). We are now maturing the draft to include inputs from the working group and plan to share with the broader community for comments by the end of March.

Tools, Guidelines, and Standards

The working group met on 8 Feb 2018 and reviewed the proposed activities for 2019/20 raised by the steering committee. The minutes of the meeting will be distributed shortly and the details of the workplan for this theme are being incorporated in the Strategic Plan.

Outreach, Education, and Training

The working group has been focused on planning the AMSA Seafloor Mapping symposium and AusSeabed annual workshop in July in Fremantle WA. An impressive twenty-five abstracts were submitted to the symposium—many thanks to all who submitted one. The conveners (Iain Parnum, Ralph Talbot-Smith, Aero Leplastrier) are now working with the conference organisers to assess the abstracts, and start preparing for a productive post-conference workshop. The group is also working in collaboration with the Royal Australian Navy Hydrographic School (HMAS Penguin) to develop a lecture that will introduce students to applications of seabed mapping beyond navigation, as well as related datasets that can be collected simultaneously with bathymetry (e.g. multibeam backscatter).

Upcoming meetings

Seabed 2030 regional committyy meeting—3rd to 6th March, Wellington NZ

The Inaugural South and West Pacific Regional Centre Mapping Committee Workshop for the Seabed 2030 Project will be held this week in Wellington, New Zealand. Seabed 2030 is a collaborative project between GEBCO and the Nippon Foundation, with the goal of mapping the

entirety of the ocean floor by the year 2030. The project is divided into four regional centres, each of which is responsible for identifying existing data and compiling these into regional maps. The South and West Pacific Centre covers the ocean from the west coast of South America to the east coast of Australia, as far north as Japan, Korea, and China.

Objectives for the meeting include the establishment of a regional mapping committee, discussion of data sharing methods, and identifying upcoming surveys. Many Australian representatives will be in attendance, including Robin Beaman, David Donohue, David Field, Vanessa Lucieer, John Maschke, Kim Picard, and Shereen Sharma. Further information about the meeting is available [here](#).

OceanObs'19—An Ocean of Opportunity – Honolulu, Hawaii

The [OceanObs'19 Decadal meeting](#) will take place **16–20 September 2019** in Honolulu, Hawaii. OceanObs'19 is an ideal forum for improving cross-disciplinary communications within the broad ocean observation community. As we enter the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the time is right to develop collaborations to leverage increased global efforts and best practices in order to advance understanding of the global ocean.

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.

A break-out session titled '[Seabed Mapping – the Missing Link in OceanObs](#)' has been proposed and is now awaiting endorsement from the organising committee. The team putting together the break-out session includes the following who will be familiar to many of you - Kim Picard (Geoscience Australia), Vicki Ferrini (Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Seabed 2030), Maria Judge (Geological Survey of Ireland), Nicole Raineault (Ocean Exploration Trust), Helen Snaith (British Oceanographic Data Centre, Seabed 2030).

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**.

The International Satellite-Derived Bathymetry Technology and User Forum (SBD Day)

The International Satellite-Derived Bathymetry Technology and User Forum is coming to the Sunshine Coast from **14–16 May 2019**.

The forum is informally known as SDB Day 2019, and hosted by EOMAP—the world's leading company in professional aquatic remote sensing applications. EOMAP provides habitat and seafloor mapping, water quality assessments, imagery, and Satellite-Derived Bathymetry (SDB).

The meeting will enable users and providers exchange information on current and future developments. It promises 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 submission deadline extended to **8 March 2019**.

For more information, please visit the conference website sdbday.org

SW Pacific Region – World Hydrography Day Seminar

The Australasian Hydrographic Society will be holding a seminar on Friday, 21 June 2019 from 09:00am - 5:00pm at the Moana Anglican Services and Teaching (MAST) Centre, St John the Baptist Theological College at 7-11 Des Voeux Road, Suva.

The seminar will provide presentations and discussion on hydrography and other related areas.

The theme for WHD 2019 is "*Hydrographic information driving marine knowledge*"

Further information is available [here](#).

Opportunities

A PhD scholarship entitled "*Sounds in the ocean: ocean soundscapes and ambient sea noise*" is available at the University of Sydney, with funding from the Defence Science and Technology Group (DST). The project is on the sounds of the ocean and how they go together to form the soundscape of the ocean that provides the acoustic environment for marine mammals and also limits sonar performance. It would be mainly experimental work with some modelling, with opportunities for some work at sea. Some background in physics would be needed.

The supervisor would be Adjunct Professor Doug Cato (University of Sydney) with auxiliary supervisors Associate Professor Rob McCauley of Curtin University and Dr Yong Zhang of DST. The scholarship is funded by the Defence Science and Technology Group (DST) and is for 3 ½ years at the rate of \$30k per year. The candidate must be an Australian citizen. There are more details at:

<https://sydney.edu.au/research/opportunities/opportunities/2320>

Please forward this on to any potential candidates. The closing date is **10 April**.

Other news

The AusSeabed team at Geoscience Australia has a new member! Georgy Falster will be available as another point of contact at GA for AusSeabed-related matters. Please feel free to bother her with any enquiries at AusSeabed@gov.au