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News

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Letter from the Chair

Welcome to a new year!

2025 kicks off with the AusSeabed Steering Committee Early Career Ocean Professional (ECOP) election. Details around eligibility and how to apply are included below and have been emailed out to the AusSeabed Community.

I'd like to send a massive thank you to Alysha Johnson who has been an incredible and valuable contributor over the last 18 months. Alysha has provided unique insights and helped steer the direction of the ECOP role. We also congratulate her on her new position at LINZ! We are delighted that Alysha will still be a part of the seabed mapping community in her new role.



Richard Cullen, Steering Committee Chair

In other Steering Committee news, we'd like to farewell Iain Parnum who has been providing amazing representation of the academic sector on behalf of Curtin University since 2020. Iain is moving to WA's Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions in March, and remains involved in LiDAR data collect through the Department. We wish you all the best in the new role, and are very happy that Iain will also remain a part of our community and feeding into working groups.

If you are interested in presenting to the AusSeabed community at a showcase, or contributing to the newsletter, drop AusSeabed an [email](mailto:ausseabed@ga.gov.au) (<mailto:ausseabed@ga.gov.au>) with your name and topic for consideration.

**AUSSEABED
EARLY CAREER
OCEAN
PROFESSIONAL
ELECTION**



Calling for seabed mapping ECOPs

The AusSeabed Steering Committee is seeking nominations for the next early career ocean professional.

The ECOP position is open to people who

- are undertaking study, or who graduated less than 5 years ago
- are currently engaged in an AusSeabed-related field (through study or work) within an Australian organisation
- have the support of their organisation to participate and attend at least one face-to-face meeting

The ECOP role is for 18 months and gives the successful nominee a chance to build networks, gain insight into how committees run and learn how the Australian seafloor is mapped.

Nominations close 14th March 2025 and can be submitted to ausseabed@ga.gov.au (<mailto:ausseabed@ga.gov.au>).

For more information please visit [ausseabed.gov.au](https://www.ausseabed.gov.au/resources/news/latest-news/ausseabed-ecop-election) (<https://www.ausseabed.gov.au/resources/news/latest-news/ausseabed-ecop-election>).

Please share this among your networks and encourage any eligible candidates to apply!

AusBathyTopo layers added to DCCEEW mapping layers for use in assessment of Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act referrals

DCCEEW recently added the [AusBathyTopo 2023 250m](https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/04b83097-44eb-4f12-851b-9ba8f754bbf6) (<https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/04b83097-44eb-4f12-851b-9ba8f754bbf6>) published through the AusSeabed Marine Data Portal to one of their internal mapping tools used for [EPBC Act assessments](https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc) (<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/epbc>).

Consistent understanding of Australia's bathymetry provides essential contextual information for enhancing EPBC Act environmental assessments of offshore projects in Australia. By facilitating evidence-based decision making and improving the accessibility, coverage, and quality of seabed data, the [AusBathyTopo work at Geoscience Australia](https://pid.geoscience.gov.au/dataset/ga/148758) (<https://pid.geoscience.gov.au/dataset/ga/148758>) and the AusSeabed initiative support the sustainable development of offshore projects.

AusSeabed's focus on coordination, collaboration, and innovation ensures that all stakeholders have access to the most accurate and comprehensive seabed information available, ultimately helping to protect Australia's marine environment while enabling responsible offshore development.

Final Call: SCT submissions for Hydroscheme 2026 about to close



Share your fieldwork plans, data needs and collaboration opportunities!

Close of business 3rd March is the last day to submit a HIPP Request or Areas of Interest for consideration in this year's planning activities.

You can contribute your information and requests to SCT at any time, but if you want to be sure that your needs will be considered in HydroScheme 2026, please get them in by Monday.

The AusSeabed Survey Coordination Tool (SCT) is a vital resource for understanding data needs and priorities within Australia's marine estate. This platform allows members to share their fieldwork plans, identify Areas of Interest for potential collaboration, and request specific surveys to be considered for inclusion in the Australian Hydrographic Office's Hydroscheme Industry Partnership Program (HIPP) survey schedule, which represents the largest-ever systematic hydrographic survey program in Australia.

By submitting your surveying plans and areas of interest into the SCT, you can help the Australian marine community better understand where seabed data can provide the most cumulative benefit. Your input not only influences data collection activities by AusSeabed community members, including the HIPP program, but also helps us prioritise the processing and release of legacy data. If your Areas of Interest align with those of other community members, you may even discover new collaborators to share your workload.

Please sign-up or visit the tool [here](https://coordination.ausseabed.gov.au/login) (<https://coordination.ausseabed.gov.au/login>) to help facilitate next year's planning activities.

CSIRO MNF voyage schedules



The CSIRO Marine National Facility have released a preview of the 2025-26 and 2026-27 voyage schedules. Visit their [website](https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Voyages-schedules/Voyage-schedules) (<https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Voyages-schedules/Voyage-schedules>) to see what's on the horizon!

And don't forget you can apply for sea time grants to conduct research on the RV Investigator. Information about applying and advice to potential applicants is available on their [Apply for sea time webpage](https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Apply-for-sea-time) (<https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/MNF/Apply-for-sea-time>).

Publications

Name	Resolution	Metadata link	Portal link
AusBathyTopo (Australia) 250m 2024	250m	https://ecat.ga.gov.au/geonetwork/srv/eng/catalog.search#/metadata/150050 (https://ecat.ga.gov.au/geonetwork/srv/eng/catalog.search#/metadata/150050)	https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/e/8546-6ca992a3d59b (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/e/8546-6ca992a3d59b)
Southeast Tasmanian Coast to Sydney Transit Bathymetry 10m - 210m (CSIRO) n2023_e03 10m - 210m (CSIRO) IN2023_E03	10m	https://doi.org/10.25919/53hm-qf58 (https://doi.org/10.25919/53hm-qf58)	https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/8/a1ce-58194654feaf (https://portal.ga.gov.au/restore/8/a1ce-58194654feaf)

Job opportunity at Geoscience Australia



APS6 Bathymetric Geoscientist

In close collaboration with the National Seabed Mapping Section, the bathymetric geoscientist role will apply bathymetric and data management expertise to seabed mapping activities that inform sustainable management of the Australian Antarctic Territory and adjacent marine jurisdiction.

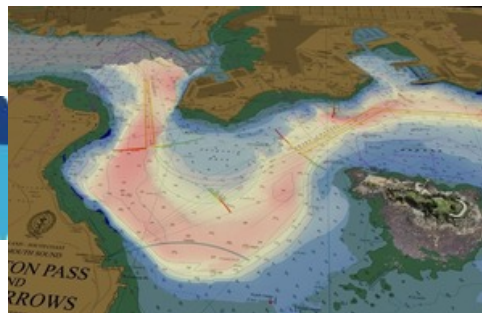
The successful applicant will process bathymetric seabed data acquired in Australian Antarctic Territorial Waters.

Applicants must have processing experience and be an Australian citizen when applying.

Closing date 16 March.

For more information and to apply visit the [Geoscience Australia website](https://candidate.aurion.cloud/ga/production/vacancies/2912757551294698~1/edit) (<https://candidate.aurion.cloud/ga/production/vacancies/2912757551294698~1/edit>)

Reading Corner



Fugro acquires EOMAP (<https://www.eomap.com/fugro-acquires-eomap>)
New report published (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-report-published-highlighting-the-value-of-seabed-mapping>)
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