



AusSeabed Newsletter No. 18 September 2020

Dear AusSeabed Community,

This month our attention has been closely focused on the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC) funding proposal calls. We have been working hard with several existing and new AusSeabed Collaborators to put forward submissions under two themes:

The ARDC Australian Data Partnerships Program and the ARDC Platforms 2020 Program. Both proposals outline well-defined development plans for digital infrastructure that constitute the next priority steps for the AusSeabed Data Hub. These packages, if funded, would see a great number of new datasets available through the Portal and the advancement of the federated Data Hub infrastructure, as well as the adoption and integration of the Global Multi-Resolution Topography Data System (GMRT) into the AusSeabed platform as a first step towards a grid-on-the-fly capability.

We will keep you updated on the progress of the applications as the process continues. This month's webinar will be the last of the series and is jam-packed full of talks from across the sectors on seabed mapping, including a talk from Alan Leonardi, the Director of the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration & Research on the US Ocean Mapping Strategy. Please check out the agenda and register below (if you haven't already).

I invite you all to visit the AusSeabed website regularly as we are very active in keeping it updated with fresh material and news, including our recently published [2019-20 Annual report](#).

See you at the webinar!

Kim Picard, AusSeabed Chair

August Webinar Wrap-Up

The August webinar was structured around data sharing and collaboration and gave the AusSeabed community the opportunity to hear about the Global Multi-Resolution Topography (GMRT) synthesis, the Seabed 2030 backend database, the Index of Marine Surveys for Assessment, the MNF 10-year strategy and help inform the AusSeabed Engagement and Outreach Strategy by participating in a targeted workshop.

Overall, we had 89 participants from 46 organisations heralding from 10 different countries.

If you have missed any of the previous webinars they are available for viewing on the [AusSeabed website](#).

September Webinar



September will see the conclusion of the 2020 AusSeabed webinar series with “*Cross-sector talks from Government, Industry, Stakeholders and End-users*”.

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.

See below for speaker schedule and registration link.

AusSeabed Webinar Series: <i>Cross-sector talks from Government, Industry, Stakeholders and End-users</i>	
Thursday 24 September 2020, 1100 – 1245 AEST	
1100-1110	Welcome, Webinar Summary and AusSeabed Update Aero Leplastrier, Geoscience Australia (Session Chair)
1110-1125	The US Ocean Mapping Strategy: Alan Leonardi, NOAA, USA
1125-1135	Ship anchorages and benthic habitat: Allison Broad, University of Wollongong
1135-1145	Submarine Cables and connecting Australia: Joanna El Koury, GHD Brisbane
1145-1155	Queen Charlotte Sound: Sally Watson, NIWA
1155-1200	Questions
1200-1210	A new 30 m bathymetry model for the Torres Strait: Rob Beaman, James Cook University
1210-1220	Elizabeth, Middleton and the cyclone: Andrew Carroll, GA
1220-1230	Applying attribute-based classification and typology to enrich intertidal and seabed mapping in Queensland: Maria Zann, QLD DES
1230-1240	AusSeabed 10 year strategy, other business and wrap up: Kim Picard
1240-1245	Questions and close

Registration link:

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

Outreach, Education and Training

Ralph Talbot-Smith has met with SSSI (The Surveying & Spatial Sciences Institute) about re-establishing the Hydrographic Surveyor – Work experience scheme throughout Australia. SSSI will advertise throughout Australia (Universities, TAFE's etc) and potentially organise Survey organisations throughout Australia to host in various states.

Dot WA will resume work experience programs for those survey students in Western Australia wishing to partake in a 2 weeks experience with all facets of Hydrographic Surveying.

There is increasing pressure in Western Australia to capture detailed Seabed mapping for the Shark Bay World Heritage Area and the Ngari Capes Marine Park (Cape Leeuwin – Cape Naturaliste) and the Recherche Archipelago (Esperance) Marine Park. WA has highlighted this need based on Shipping Safety and Environmental needs. A total area of approximately 22,009 km² has never been mapped in detail.

The AusSeabed Coordination tools may be an avenue to attract collaboration to achieve this valuable seabed mapping.

Tools, Guidelines and Standards

The AusSeabed Survey Coordination Tool was successfully launched on the 20th of August! 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, please contact us on ausseabed@ga.gov.au or to register as a new user, please go to coordination.ausseabed.gov.au and follow the registration process.

Highlights and Other News

R/V Falkor Expedition

Seamounts, Canyons & Reefs of the Coral Sea

Some of the fantastical creatures, colors, and scenes from their latest expedition may seem better suited for fairy tales than the deep sea! This highlight collection contains some of the most remarkable and exciting clips recorded ROV SuBastian during the #VisioningCoralSea exploration into areas never-before-seen by humans!

For further information on 4K video highlights, visit [link](#).

Hydro International article

Teledyne CARIS AI Software Contributes to Successful UTAS USV Mission. This demonstrates its software capabilities to support un-crewed surveys in the future and the crucial role it will play in The Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 project.

For more information, visit [link](#).

Standard Ocean Mapping Protocol Symposium

The Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping will hold a virtual Standard Ocean Mapping Protocol Symposium on **October 7-8th, 2020** 3 am – 8 am AEST.

The IWG-OCM wants your input! The June 2020 National Strategy for Mapping, Exploring, and Characterizing the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (at iocm.noaa.gov), calls for federal agencies to develop a Standard Ocean Mapping Protocol in order to facilitate mapping the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. This SOMP symposium gives non-federal stakeholders an opportunity to learn about the protocol and provide written or verbal comment on it. Academia, private sector, state/local government, and non-governmental organizations are invited to register to attend or speak at the symposium, and/or comment in writing.

Please access the registration and comment form [HERE](#) or at iocm.noaa.gov.

[Click HERE to REGISTER!](#)

Consortium for Ocean Leadership Workshop

The materials and recordings of the NOAA Ocean Exploration Priority workshop series are available online and can be accessed [here](#).

Governance Update

The [Annual Report](#) highlights the great progress AusSeabed made in 2019/20, which is a testament to the commitment of the community and the relevance of the program.

This year saw a considerable shift from program and community building to infrastructure development. Under the three program themes, we have developed a

prototype of the AusSeabed Processing Pipeline and Data Warehouse, upgraded the AusSeabed Marine Data Portal infrastructure, increased our bathymetry data holdings, delivered the AusSeabed Coordination Tool, further developed the Quality Assurance Tool, and published Version 2 of the Australian Multibeam Guidelines, all whilst engaging with successful interstate and international outreach.

The establishment of the AusSeabed Executive Board was the final piece of the governance puzzle initiated in 2018/19, now providing a framework to oversee the strategic direction of the program in line with national priorities and actively champion AusSeabed. With the first successful renewal of general membership positions on the Steering Committee also completed.

Both achievements represent important steps towards ensuring that the AusSeabed program is enduring and remains relevant and impactful to the nation.

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