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mac-help@unols.org

Multibeam Advisory Committee (MAC) 2022 RVTEC Update

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Data Manager (UNH)

*Extended Continental Shelf,
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Vicki Ferrini

*Sr. Research Sci. and
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*GMRT, MGDS, Seabed2030,
GEBCO, Explorers Club*



Kevin Jerram

Mapping Specialist (UNH)

*CCOM research,
MAC field support*



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The Multibeam Advisory Committee (MAC)



- Established 2011 with funding from NSF to ensure the consistent collection of high-quality multibeam data across the U.S. Academic Research Fleet (USARF)

- *Standardize system performance testing*
- *Publish performance and share best practices*
- *On-board & remote support for ships*

- Technical Reports & Resources

- Sea Acceptance / Quality Assurance / Noise Testing
- Host Non-USARF reports
- Assessment tools, survey guidance

Website: mac.unols.org

Help desk: mac-help@unols.org

Wiki: github.com/oceanmapping/community/wiki

Ship Info	Sonar System
Atlantis (WHOI)	Kongsberg EM122 (12 kHz, 150°, 1x1° beam)
Blue Heron (UMN)	Reson SeaBat 812 (240 kHz, 150°)
Healy (USCG)	Kongsberg EM122 (12 kHz, 150°)
Hugh R. Sharp (UDEL)	Reson SeaBat 712 (200 kHz, 400kHz)
Kilo Moana (UH)	Kongsberg EM122 (12 kHz, 150°) Kongsberg EM710

Tech Reports

2022

- 2022 Healy EM122 QAT Report
2022, EM122, Healy, MAC, QAT
- 2022 Sikuliaq EM302 / EM710 Calibration Report
2022, EM302, EM710, MAC, QAT, Sikuliaq
- 2022 Nautilus QAT Report
2022, EM302, Nautilus, QAT

2021

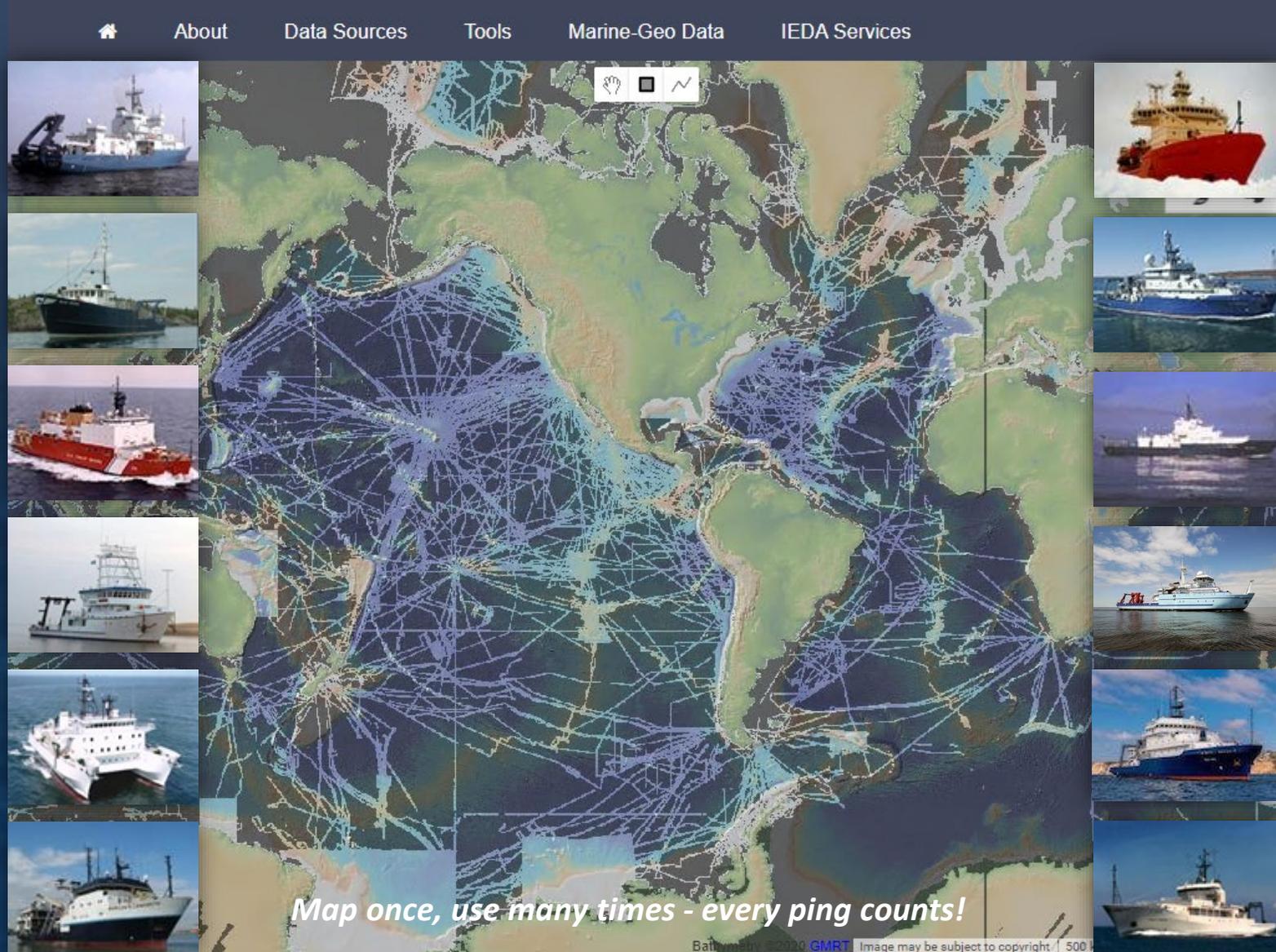
- 2021 Sikuliaq QAT EM302 and EM710
2021, EM302, EM710, MAC, QAT, Sikuliaq
- 2021 Sikuliaq EM302 and EM710 Calibration
2021, EM302, EM710, QAT, Sikuliaq
- 2021 Sally Ride EM124-SAT EM712-QAT
2021, EM124, EM712, QAT, Sally Ride, SAT
- 2021 Okeanos Explorer MKII SAT
2021, EM304, Non-MAC, Okeanos Explorer, SAT
- 2021 Nautilus QAT Report
2021, EM302, Nautilus, QAT
- 2021 Kilo Moana QAT - EM122 and EM710
2021, EM122, EM710, Kilo Moana, MAC, QAT
- 2021 Healy QAT
2021, EM122, Healy, MAC, QAT



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Mapping Systems in the U.S. Academic Fleet

- USARF vessels with MBES
 - 11 Research Vessels
 - 1 USCG Icebreaker
- 15 Kongsberg systems
 - EM710 / EM712
 - EM302
 - EM122 / EM124
- 2 Reson shallow systems
- RCRVs under construction
 - EM304/EM2040



Kongsberg Systems in the U.S. Academic Fleet

Ship	System(s)	Gondola	Arrays	Life Cycle	MAC Visits (Most Recent)
<i>Atlantis</i>	<u>EM124</u>	Y	2021	Early	SAT* (2021), QAT* (2022)
<i>Healy</i>	EM122	N	2010	Late	ANT, QAT* (2022)
<i>Kilo Moana</i>	EM122 / EM710	N	2012	Late	ANT, QAT* (2022)
<i>Marcus G. Langseth</i>	EM122	Y	2007 (TX) / 2010 (RX)	Late	ANT, QAT* (2020)
<i>Nathaniel B. Palmer</i>	EM122	N	2015	Mid	SAT, ANT, QAT (2015)
<i>Neil Armstrong</i>	EM122 / EM710	N	2016	Mid	SAT, QAT* (2020)
<i>Roger Revelle</i>	EM124 / EM712	Y	2020	Early	SAT*, QAT (2020)
<i>Sikuliaq</i>	EM302 / EM710	N	2014	Mid	SAT, QAT* (2022)
<i>Sally Ride</i>	<u>EM124</u> / EM712	N	2016	Mid	SAT (2021), QAT (2021)
<i>Thomas G. Thompson</i>	EM302	N	2018	Mid	SAT, QAT* (2021)

*Indicates remote support

Underline = recent install (2021)

Italic = pending replacement (2023+)

Green = visited in last two years

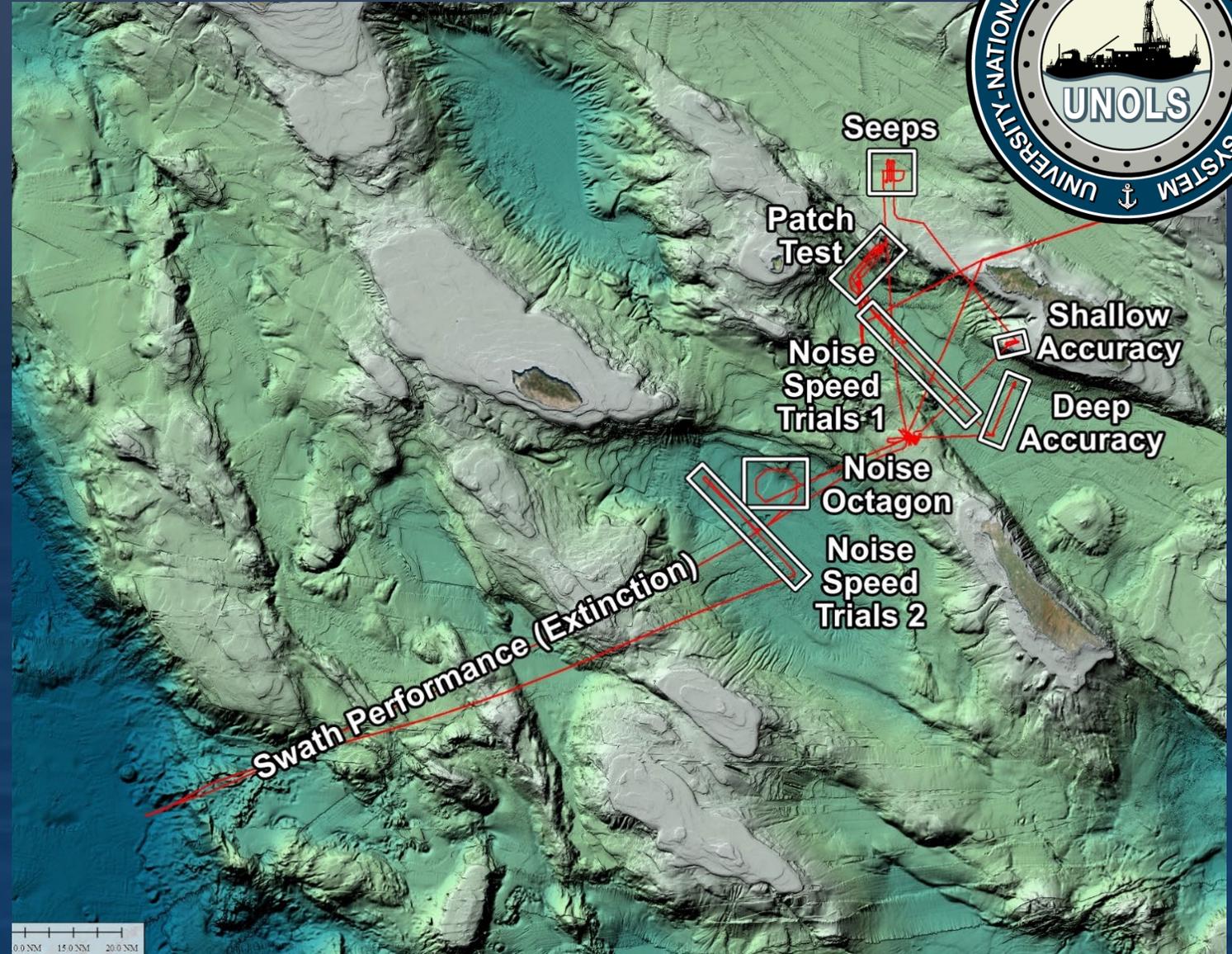


System Performance Testing



SAT and QAT procedures include:

1. Geometry & Configuration
2. Calibration ('patch test')
3. RX noise testing
4. Swath accuracy
5. Swath coverage (extinction)
6. Impedance testing
7. Water column evaluation
8. BS normalization
9. Reporting



SAT / QAT Checklist

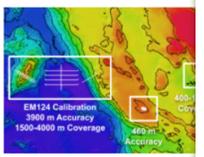
Standardized procedures in order of priority

Collaborative planning → data collection → follow-up

Multibeam Advisory Committee
Mapping System SAT/QAT Checklist

Roger Revelle EM124 / EM712
San Diego, October 2020

General
Shared documents for RR 2020 SAT plan
Revelle IMTEC survey docs
MAC geometry review
MAC assessment tools in development



Notes for next planning call

- Vessel offset review and SIS/Sea
- Updated reference surface survey
 - Added reference lines for
 - Added 460 m site
- Coverage line and transits may be different line
- Expectation for PHINS calibration
- Marine forecast and early predict
- MAC: provide updated noise test
- MAC: provide crossline settings
- MAC: provide data trimming procedure
 - Tested with the latest SIS

SAT/QAT Procedures

- System geometry review**
 - Vessel survey review
 - Multibeam
 - Mu
 - TX
 - TX
 - Pe
 - Pe
 - Positional
 - GN
 - Pa
 - Mo
 - Mo
 - Pa
- Configuration review (each change) in file
 - Multibeam
 - TX
 - TX
 - Pe
 - Pe
 - Positional
 - GN
 - Pa
 - Mo
 - Mo
 - Pa

MAC: Review survey/con

MAC: Finalize/share settings additional accuracy sites
Update 2020/10/08: Call crosslines over existing n folder: <https://drive.google.com/>

Detailed SAT and QAT reports for Reports for similar testing aboard

Pre-SAT/QAT Planning

- Vessel survey planning**
 - MAC guidelines for <http://mac.unols.org>
- Initial system geometry**
 - MAC and vessel performance interpretation of resolution configurations, main sensor reference fr
 - This is a fundamental error; this process it guidelines noted ab
 - The initial review of ambiguities with the
- Develop test plan**
 - MAC and vessel performance desired ports of call
 - MAC develops more
 - MAC and vessel performance SAT/QAT operation

RR: Provide vessel survey and position/altitude system

RR: Use previously shared Overview:

 - EM712
 - Calibration (
 - Shallow Acc
 - Deep Accu
 - Swath cover
 - EM124
 - Calibration (
 - Shallow Acc
 - Deep Accu
 - Swath cover

to confirm res PHINS attitude
Access to Kai the accuracy
If time allows, accuracy site

9. Seapath: antennas = RR-41 and RR-47

Vessel survey review (2020/10/12)

- Initial offset review sheet with notes/questions from survey report (contact if you don't have access) https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pypu0M40NFozQ8zmyUZtcGTRpM_Rbkh/view?usp=sharing
- Need to clarify in report / review sheet above:
 - Antenna offsets for Seapath, PHINS, and any real time correction services
 - Surveyed points
 - Phase centers
- Report should be updated with following:
 - Pictures/diagrams of all surveyed points
 - Clarification of 'measured points' on Seapath MRU and PHINS IMU and sources for calculations of 'centers' for each
 - Seapath MRU ref point is on bottom face of MRU housing
 - Is MRU installed with +X axis toward the bow?
 - Master ref plate angles are used for PHINS angles but not Seapath MRU angles; what was surveyed on MRU to produce angles?
 - Clarification of array survey points: are results the center of the frames (i.e., after leveling), or on the center of the array face? Kongsberg requires center of array face for configuration
 - Add labels for view direction and transducers for clarity in gonddia diagram
 - Report all angles in decimal degrees; keep descriptions of rotations
 - Waterline estimate or Z values of draft marks in final reference frame for direct calculation of waterline underway and implementation in SIS

Notes from 2020/10/08 planning call

All: update these notes with any other thoughts/concerns/clarifications

- Initial RX Noise BIST testing should be prioritized as soon as ship reaches 500+ m, ideally 1000+ m
 - Machinery lineup is all new; initial testing is to confirm no limitations on data quality for calibration and accuracy testing; provide time for troubleshooting ahead of SAT items
 - More detailed speed and heading noise tests can be conducted as sea state / other operations allow (ideally, calm for noise vs speed, 3-5+ ft swell for heading test)
- Order of EM124 and EM712 calibrations is flexible, depending on weather windows, etc.
- Follow-up needed:
 - Is it correct to assume Seapath is the primary position, attitude, and attitude velocity feed to EM124/EM712, with PHINS strictly as a backup? If PHINS is working (received by SIS without errors) and logging in the kml files, then the calibration data will provide angular offsets for both Seapath and PHINS motion sensors in SIS. However, the cal and accuracy data will not be 100% representative for the PHINS performance because attitude velocity is still from the Seapath. If the PHINS is used in the future as the sole/primary feed, a calibration should be run

Post-SAT / Pre-SVC Review (Discussion)

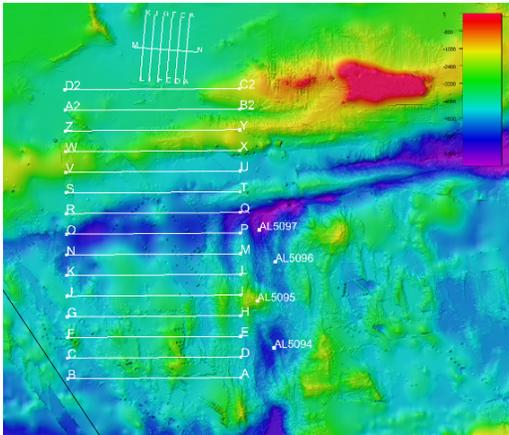
These topics help to ensure an up-to-date understanding of the mapping system and adequate/complete plan for testing, taking into consideration any changes since the SAT or last QAT.

- What has changed since the last MAC visit or review?
 - Any sensors replaced, removed, and/or reinstalled?
 - Any damage or repairs?
 - Any upgrades to hardware or software?
- Is there any new documentation?
 - Updated survey of vessel
 - Updated guidance or service
 - Any performance notes from
- Is there any recent data that can be used?
 - Ideally, these data would be used for profiling; data covering a wide range of depths as an early indicator
 - Any recent 'problem' data as appropriate
- DONE! RX noise testing (data collected 20 July 2022)**
For Kongsberg systems, RX Noise and RX Spectrum Build-In Self-Test (BIST) testing assesses the vessel, machinery, and flow noise characteristics as perceived by each multibeam echosounder; data acquisition generally follows the [MAC approach for routine noise testing](#).
 - Tested in 2021 (worthwhile to redo and compare to 2021 results)**
 - Noise vs. speed** testing is performed over a wide range of speeds in calm seas; with typical engine configurations online, the vessel starts drifting and increases speed in 1-2 kt increments up to maximum speed (~1-2 hours, depending on number of speed steps and time to settle at each speed)
 - This test should be repeated underway to ensure there have been no major changes to the vessel's noise environment since the SAT
 - See 'Noise vs. Speed' section under RX Noise Logging**
 - Untested:**
 - Noise vs. heading** testing is performed at eight headings (separated by 45°) relative to the prevailing swell; these tests are conducted at typical speed and engine configuration for normal mapping operations (~2 hours, depending on sea state and time to settle at each heading)
 - This test requires deep water (>1000 m) and a slightly elevated sea state (3-5 ft or greater) to generate swell impact noise and bubble sweep, while remaining within the range of sea states where mapping ops would be expected/accepted
 - See 'Noise vs. Azimuth' section under RX Noise Logging**
- PROPOSED: Overnight mapping / test survey in poorly mapped areas**

Recommended/Prioritized Post-SAT / Pre-SVC Review

- EM124 updates**
 - Kongsberg has released several issues; **the EM124 should be updated**
 - Download links and <https://github.com/Kongsberg/EM124>
 - Known issues with recent software
 - <https://github.com/Kongsberg/EM124>
 - Related: Update to Sound <https://www.hydroflow.com/>
- Dockside testing and review**
 - Prior to departure, the MAC should review:
 - Seapath and EM124
 - line plan review with
 - pre-cruise system t
- Antenna calibration**
[GNSS antenna baseline calibration](#)
 - Seapath antenna calibration
 - Antenna calibration at least two hours prior to departure
 - antenna baseline, and average baseline re
- DONE! Swath coverage testing**
Swath coverage data are collected. Additional time should be planned perpendicular to contours for establishing potential complications (e.g., noise follow the [MAC instructions for swath](#))

The 2021 SAT covered a limited d utility of this dataset for coverage the guidelines in the SAT report (r and verify proper automatic mode **runtime parameters**) is available



- There are large unmapped tracts nearby that would provide a useful demonstration survey and contribute to the global grids (blurry areas with wild single beam artifacts)
- This can arguably be considered a both test survey and/or 'routine mapping' - so please check that it would not run afoul of your permits in Cayman waters
 - Waypoint (B) remains just inside the Cayman EEZ; please double check on board
- The survey plan is meant for simplicity to pick up on any lines that are close to your dive sites
- Lines are 80 km long, or just over 5 hrs at 8 kts; it might be possible to run one pair of adjacent lines west and then east per night (speeding up to 10 kts if necessary)
- Line spacing is conservative (10000 m) for lots of overlap even in the shallowest parts; this also helps with refraction correction later down the pipeline (no processing expected on board)
- At least one XBT (or XCTD, XSV, or CTD - any real sound speed profile) should be collected throughout the survey each night, preferably near the middle of the survey area



Vessel Offset Survey Reports

Recommendations for Reporting Vessel Geometry and Multibeam Echosounder System Offsets

Data quality depends on correct configuration
Vessel and sensor offsets must be clearly documented
Survey reports directly impact data quality for decades
Vessel / sensor offset survey reports **MUST** include:

1. **Origin** of survey reference frame
2. **Axes** of survey reference frame
3. **Sign conventions** of survey results
4. **Images** of surveyed points and sensors
5. **Sigma** / standard deviation or uncertainty
6. **Second review** before submission

Critical requirements for your surveyor!
Early discussion saves significant sea time!

1. Origin of the survey reference frame

2. Axes of the survey reference frame

3. Sign conventions of the survey reference frame

4. Images

5. Sigma / uncertainty of the survey results

6. Second review before submission

Example table of mapping sensor results

The ultimate purpose of the VSR is the confident and correct interpretation of the survey data for mapping system configuration. Building on criteria #1-6 presented above, this is best addressed with a simplified table of results for the relevant sensors using the chosen MBES manufacturer's reference frame and sign conventions. This table may be presented at the beginning or end of the report and only summarizes, rather than replaces, the more detailed survey data throughout.

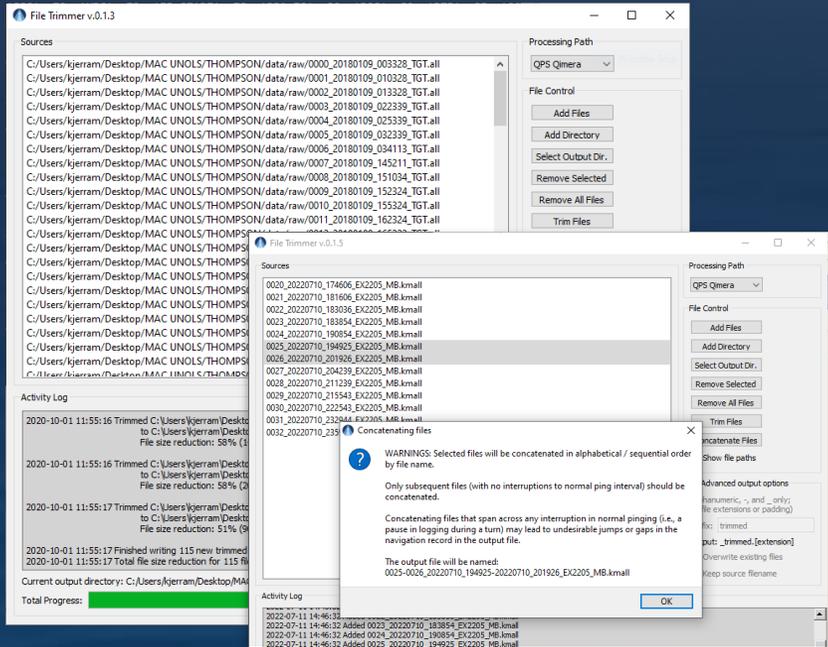
Table 1. Example mapping sensor offsets from a chosen origin using consistent axis and sign conventions. This table summarizes the more detailed survey results presented elsewhere in the report. While these final numbers may be used directly for configuration, the reader must still carefully consider how the offsets will be applied among the sensor software packages to avoid doubling or cancelling the offsets. The items in the left column are examples only, and the final offsets required for configuration may differ by system; this should be clarified by the client. For example, manufacturers of higher-frequency echosounders may require a transducer bracket 'reference point' instead of the center of each array face; the client and surveyor must identify these items in planning the survey. Installations on adjustable rams or drop keels should include separate results for each standard positions used for mapping (e.g., recessed and extended, plus any intermittent standard positions)

R/V VESSEL	X	Y	Z	ROLL	PITCH	HEADING	Notes
Sign convention	Positive forward	Positive to starboard	Positive down	Positive with starboard side down	Positive with forward side up	Positive with forward side to starboard	
Units	meters	meters	meters	degrees	degrees	degrees	
Origin (chosen feature)	0.000	0.000	0.000	N/A	N/A	N/A	
TX array (center of array face)							
RX array (center of array face)							
GNSS antenna 1 (phase center)							Phase center height is _____m above the survey point (source: _____)
GNSS antenna 2 (phase center)							
Motion sensor (survey target on sensor housing)							
Additional sensors							



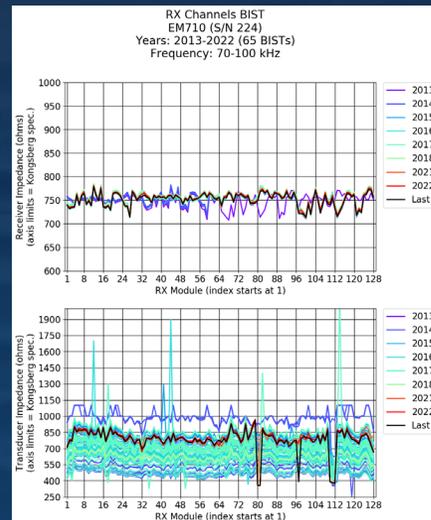
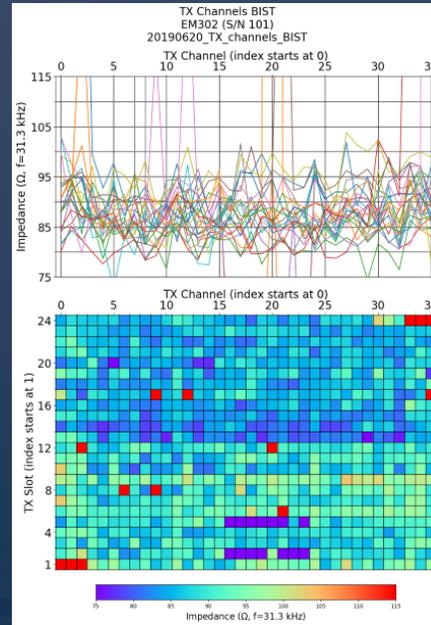
Assessment Tools

1. File Trimmer
2. BIST Plotter
3. Swath Coverage Plotter
4. Swath Accuracy Plotter

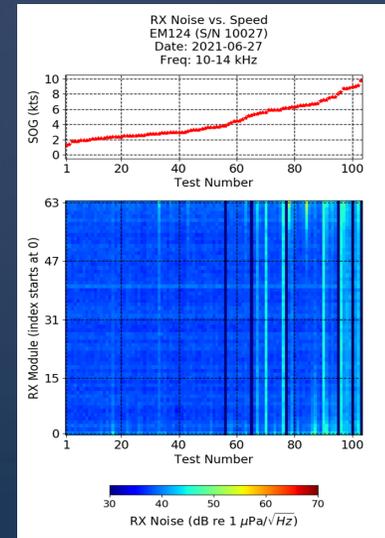


Reduce file size for translate to shore
Concatenate split files for special proc.

TX/RX Impedance History

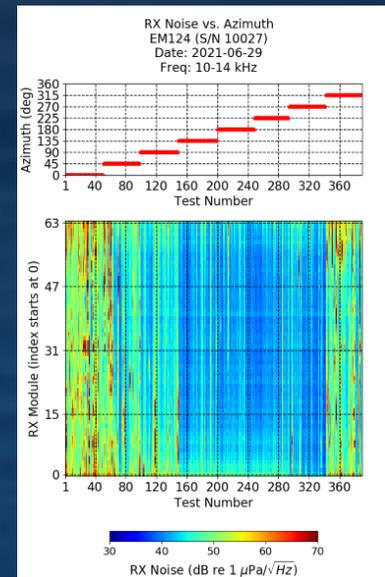


Vessel 1



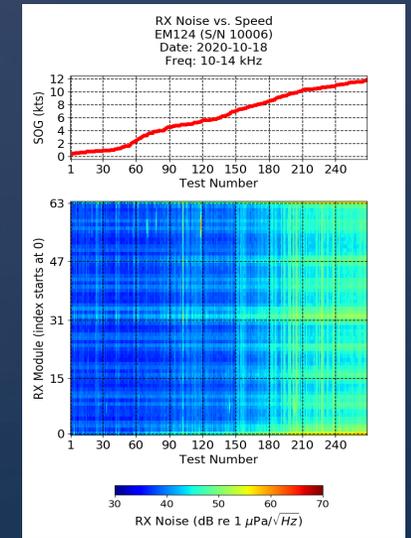
Noise vs. Speed

Vessel 1

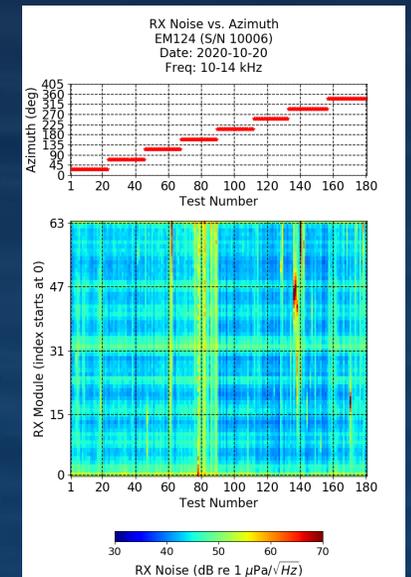


Noise vs. Azimuth (0° = into the swell)

Vessel 2



Vessel 2



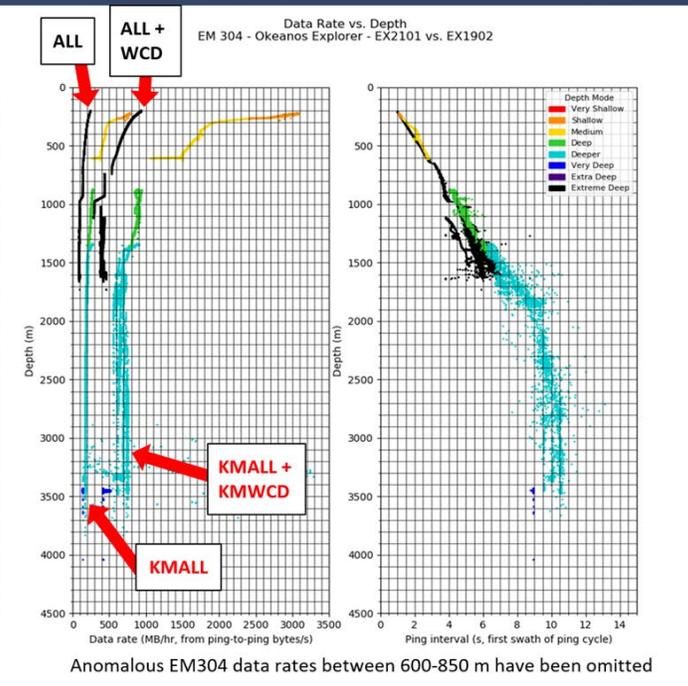
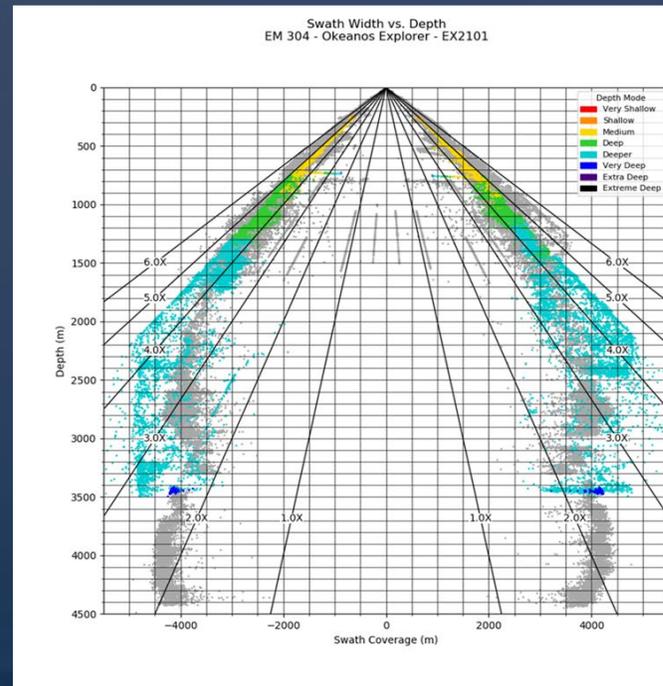
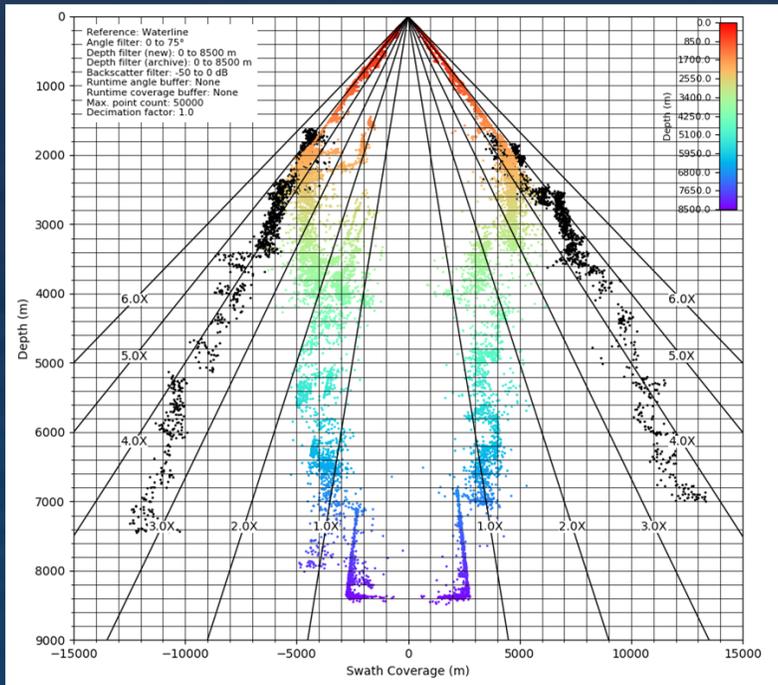
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mac.unols.org/resources

Assessment Tools

1. File Trimmer
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4. Swath Accuracy Plotter

EM304 MKII vs. EM124 over Puerto Rico Trench



Swath coverage and data rates vs. depth

Runtime / Installation Parameter tracking



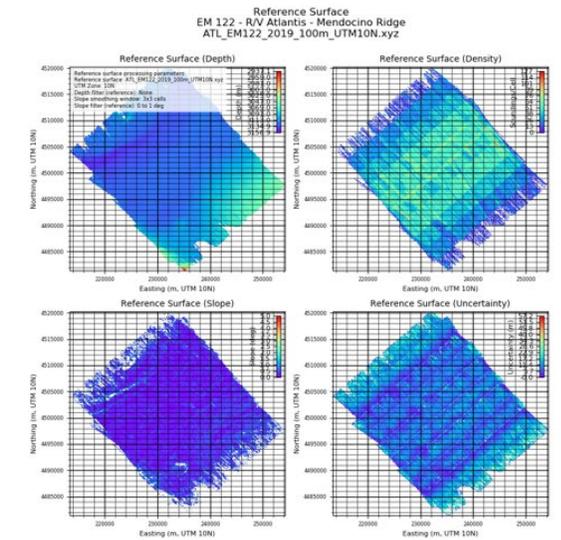
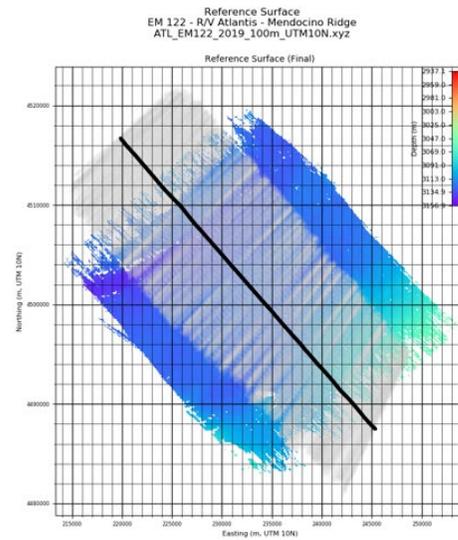
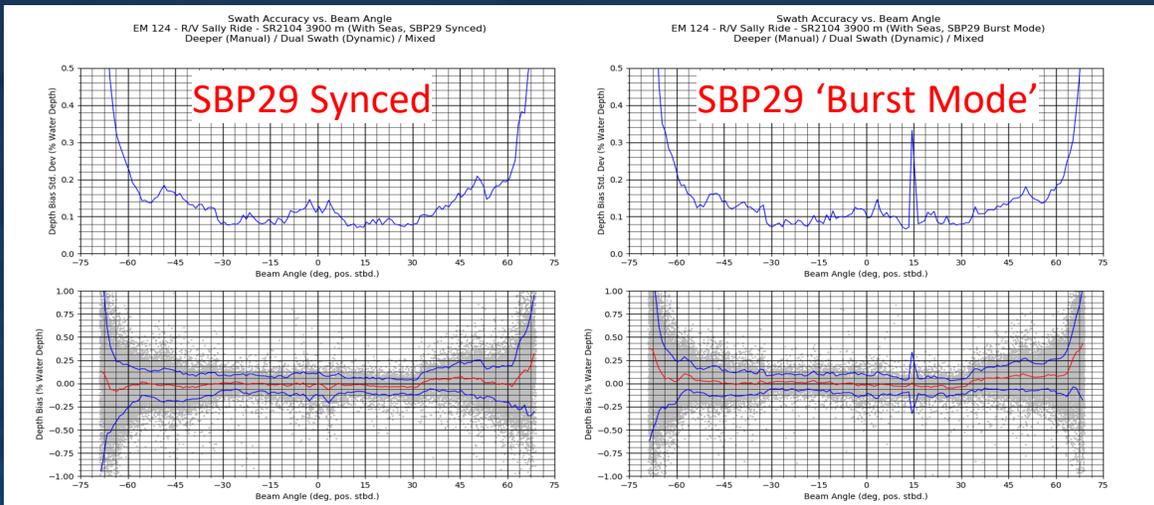
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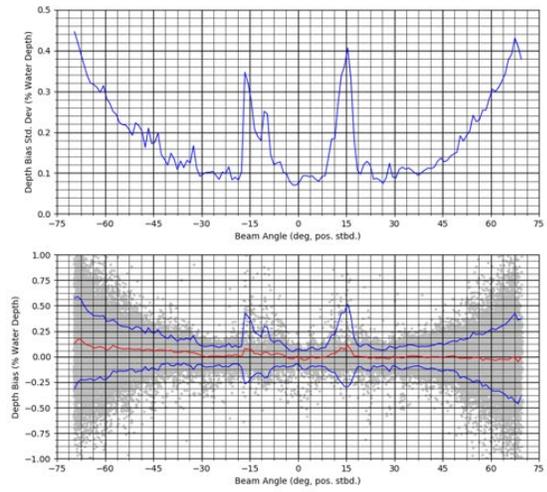
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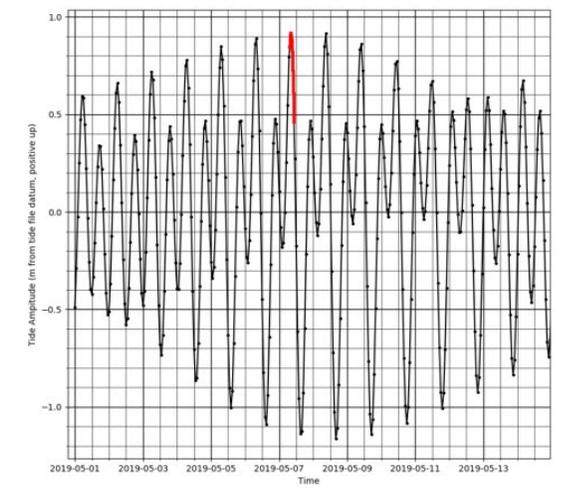
Swath accuracy vs. synchronization mode with other systems



Swath Accuracy vs. Beam Angle
EM 122 - R/V Atlantis - Mendocino Ridge
Deep / Dual Swath (Dynamic) / Mixed



Tide Applied to Accuracy Crosslines
EM 122 - R/V Atlantis - Mendocino Ridge
ATL_EM122_2019_predicted_tide.tid

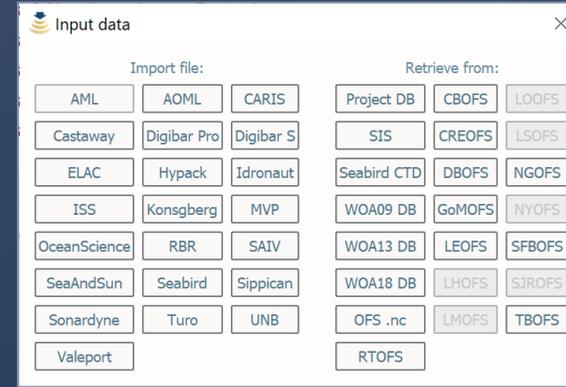


Swath accuracy testing with ref. surface and tide options

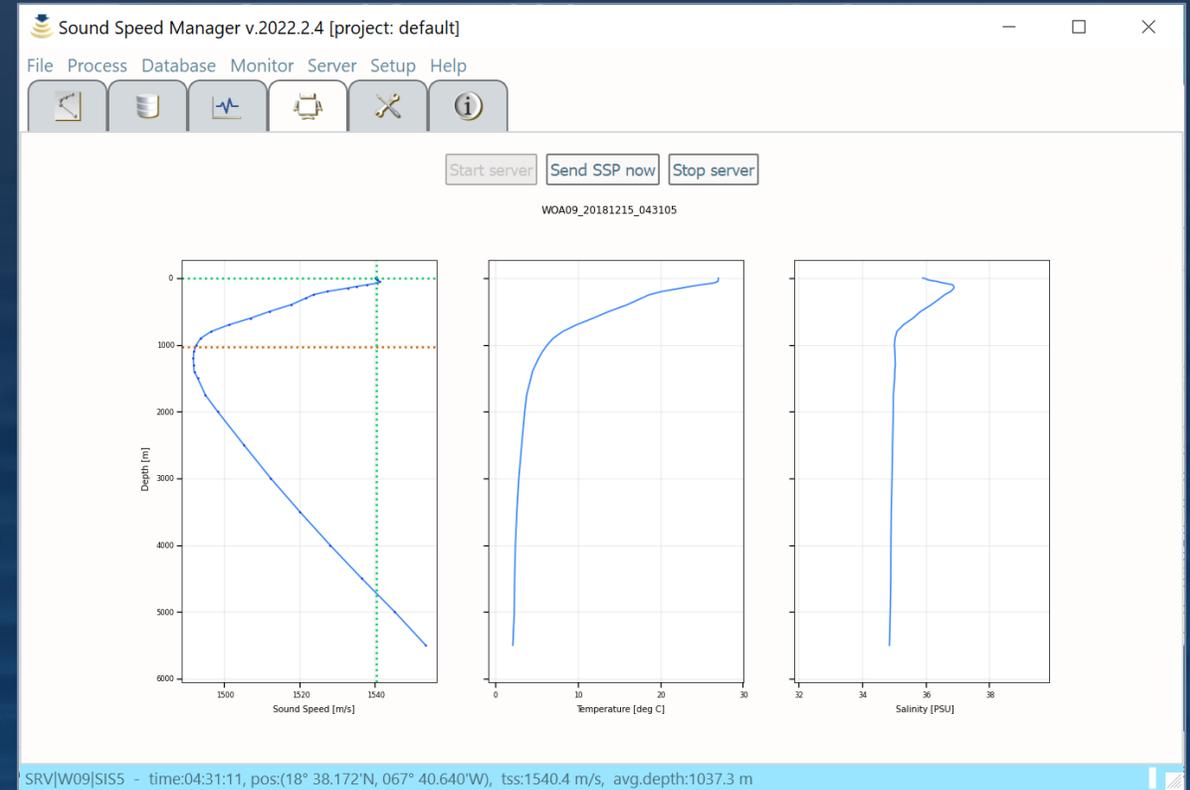
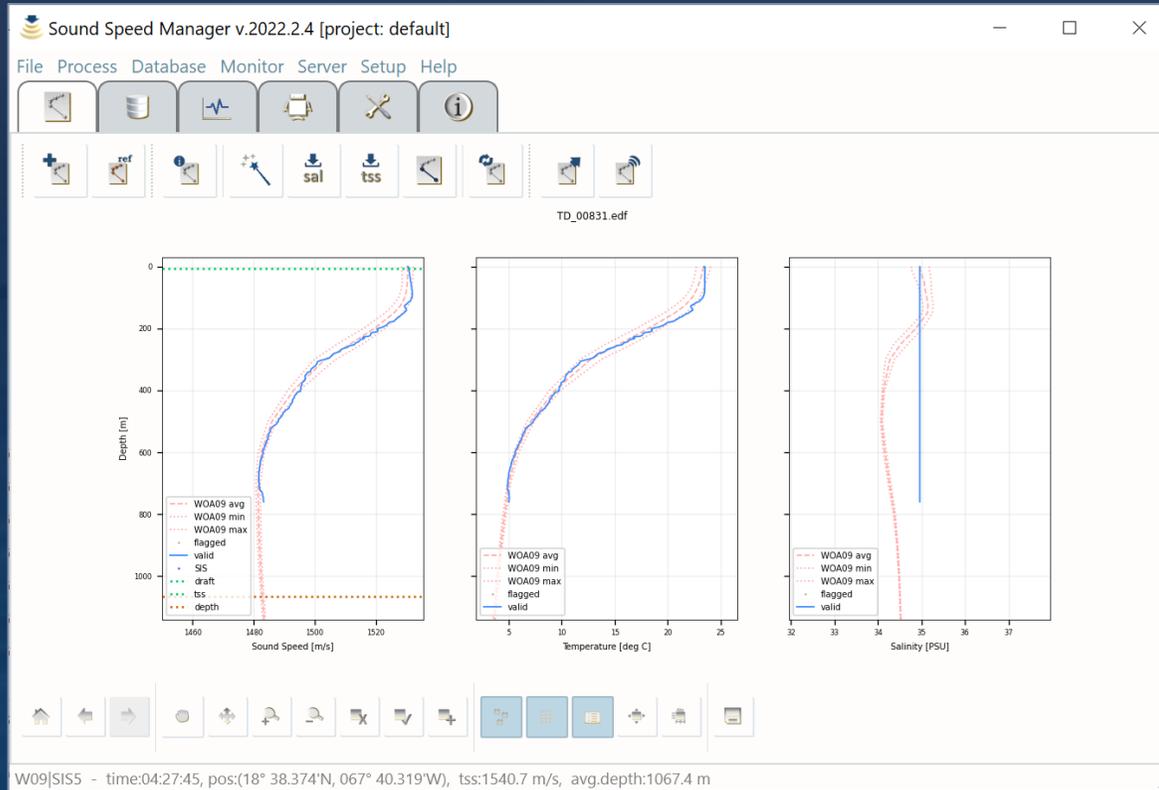


Sound Speed Manager

1. Added **World Ocean Atlas 2018**
2. Enhanced **Server Mode**
3. Additional format support
4. Quick turnaround for new versions



NOAA: B. Gallagher, C. Zhang



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hydroffice.org/soundspeed

MAC Activities Since RVTEC 2021

Remote* and on-board support:

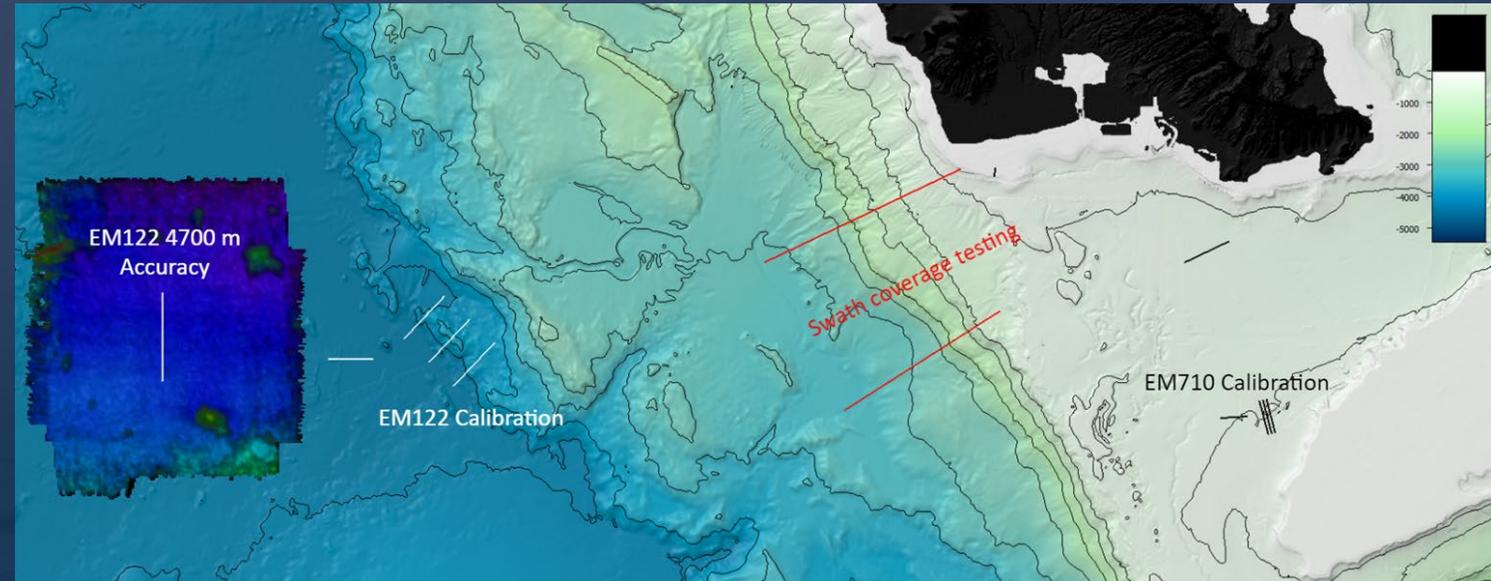
- *Atlantis* (post-SAT*)
- *Healy* (QAT*)
- *Kilo Moana* (QAT*)
- *Sikuliaq* (QAT*)

Related projects:

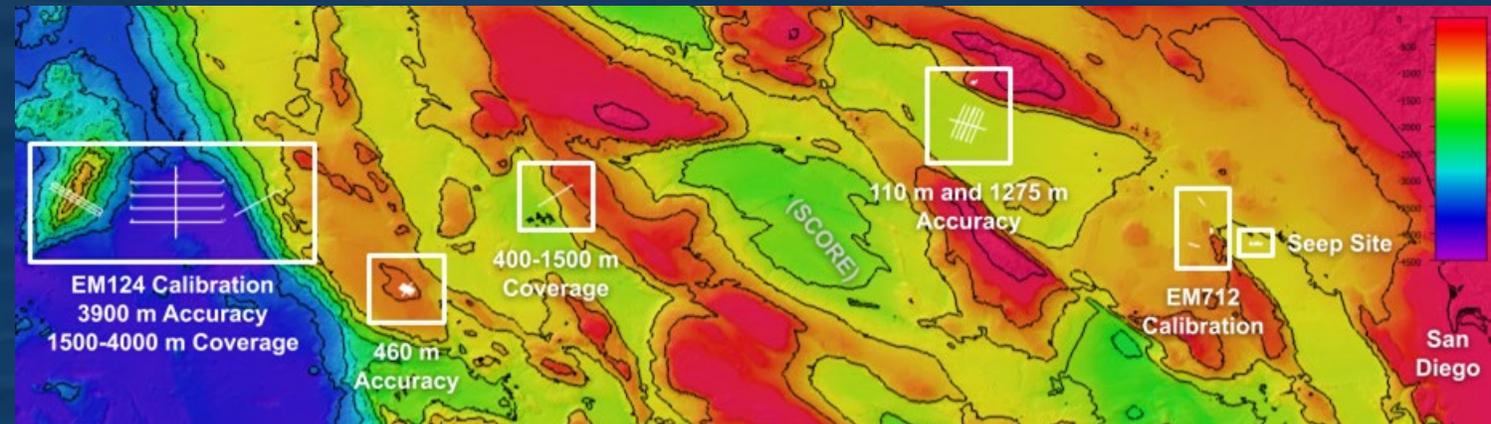
- Assessment tools
- SAT/QAT site database
- GMRT tiling package

Non-MAC testing / field work:

- *OceanXplorer* (QAT)
- *iXBlue DriX* (NA142)
- *Nautilus* (QAT)
- *Saildrone Surveyor* (various)
- *Okeanos Explorer* (various)



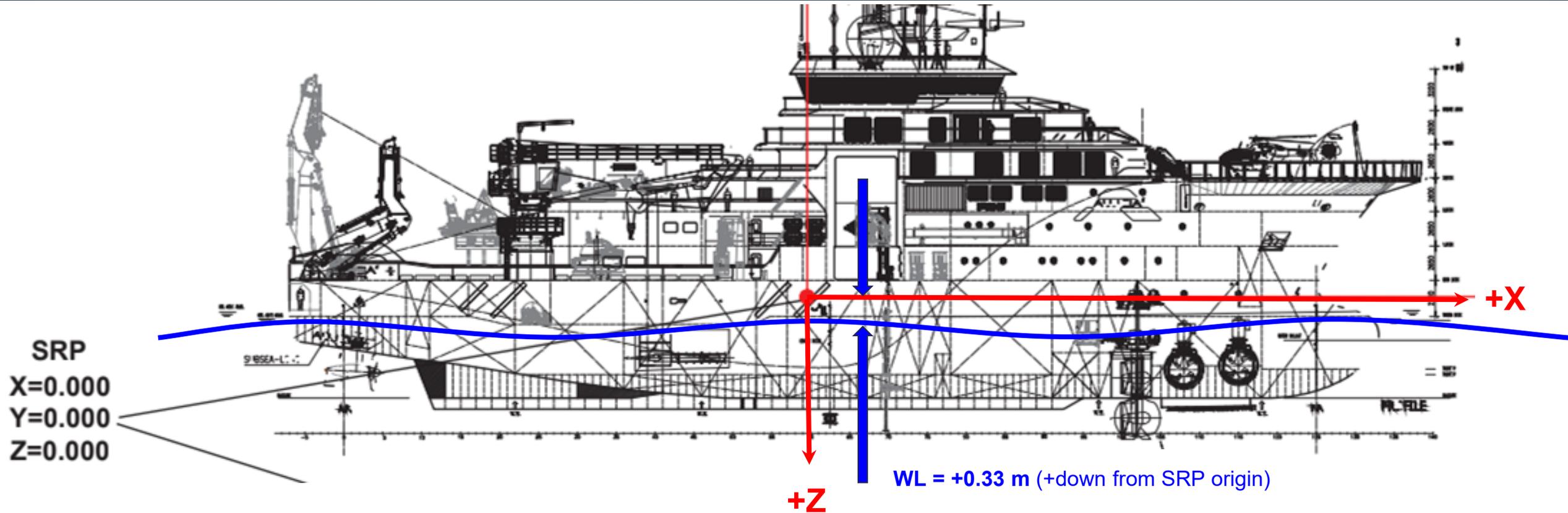
***THANK YOU to technicians and managers
for making remote support possible***



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Takeaways from the Field 2021-22

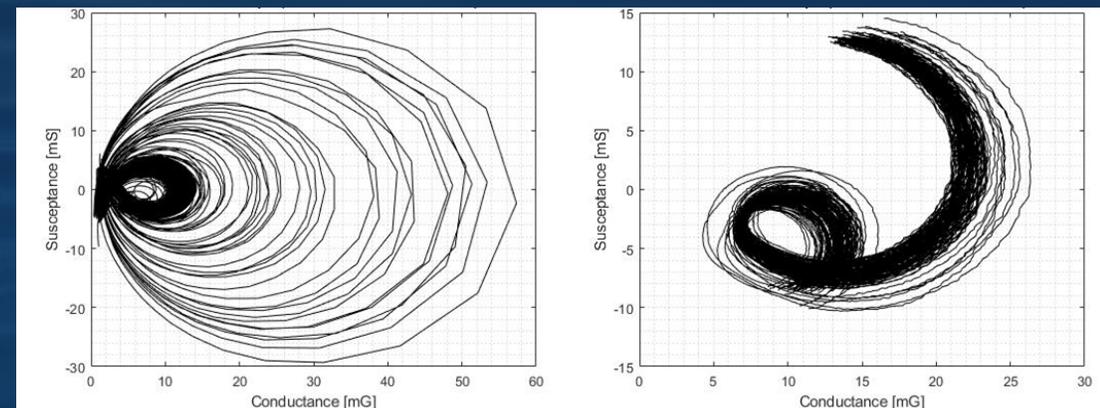
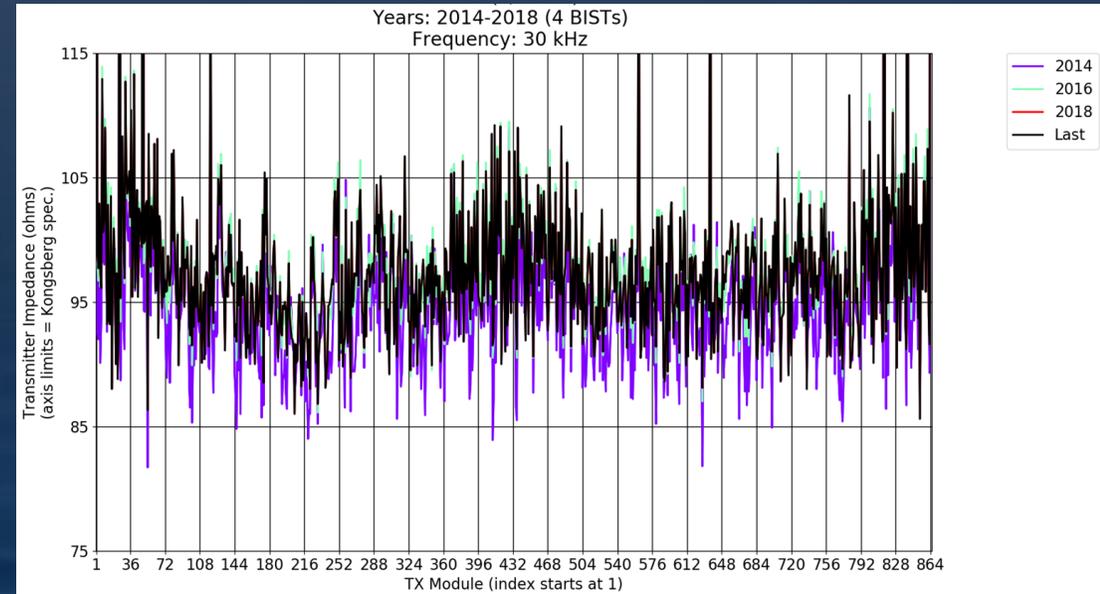
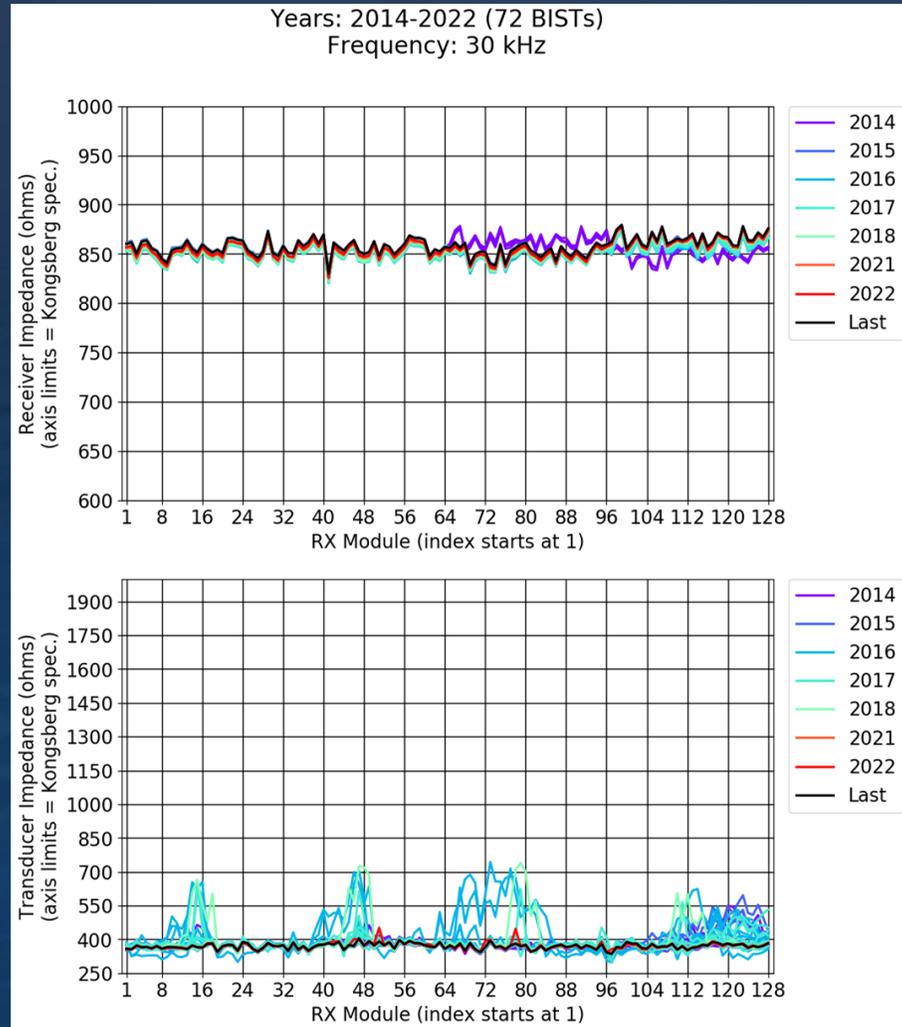
- Even the **best** survey reports can still be interpreted incorrectly
- **Waterline** remains a window of opportunity for large, persistent errors



Background image adapted from ANKO

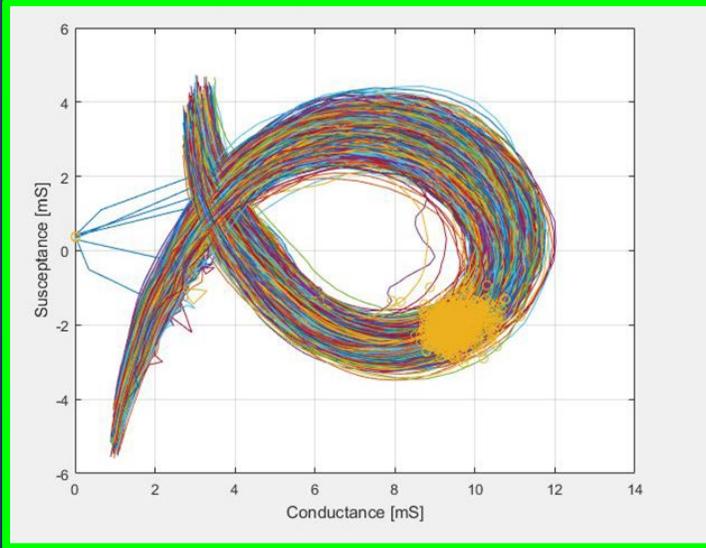
Takeaways from the Field 2021-22

- Routine BIST monitoring is extremely useful for tracking **general system health**
- **Direct impedance analysis** is critical; some element-level trends not reflected in BISTs

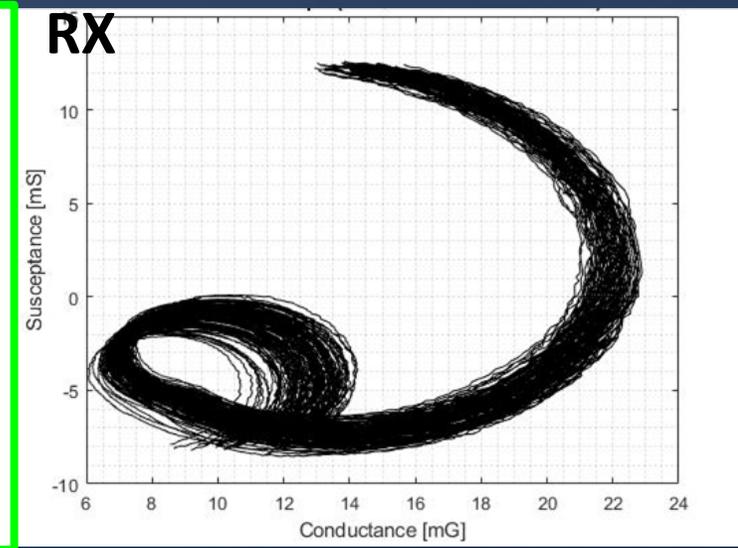
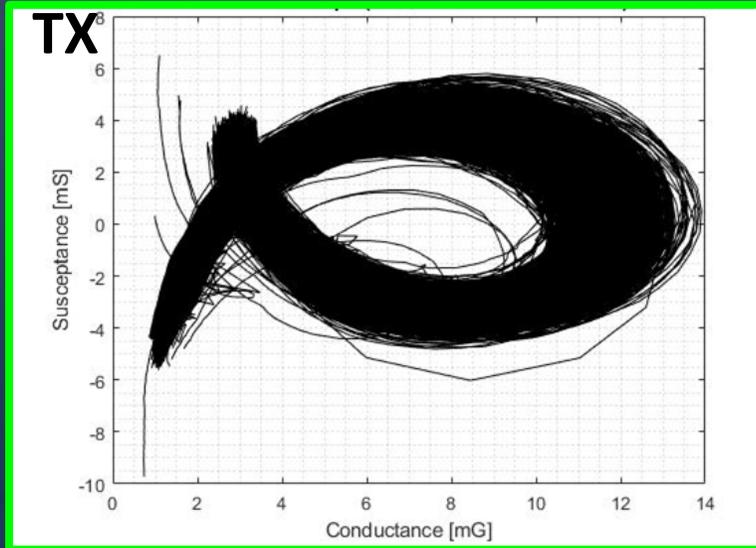


Takeaways from the Field 2021-22

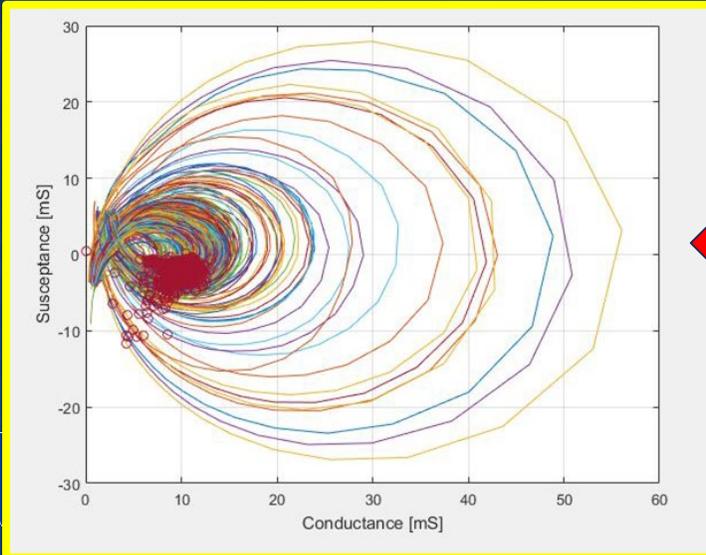
'Healthy' EM302 TX (Kongsberg)



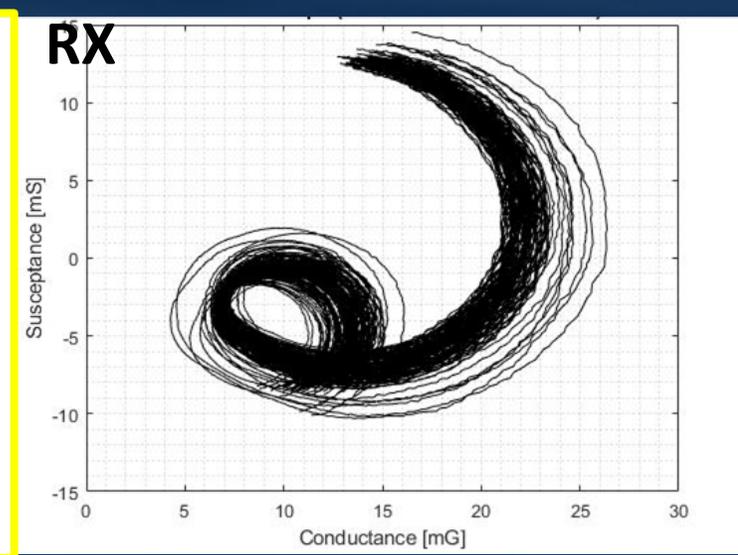
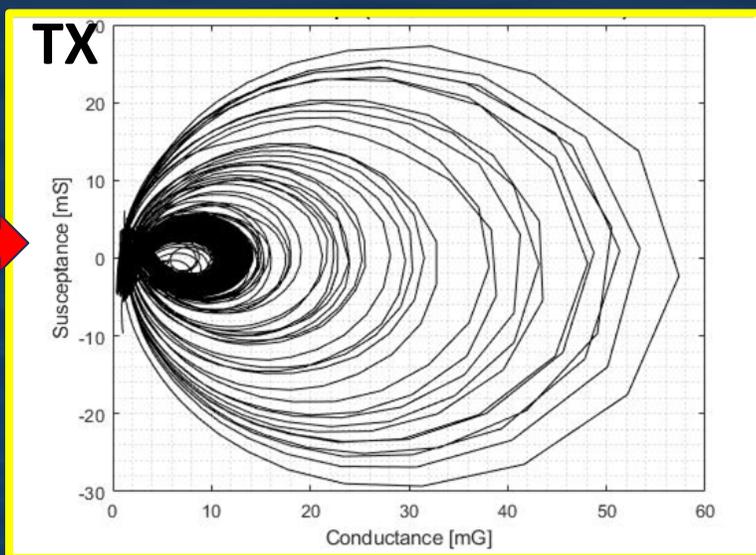
UNOLS EM302 (2020, 6 yrs)



'Failing' EM302 TX (NOAA, 12 yrs)

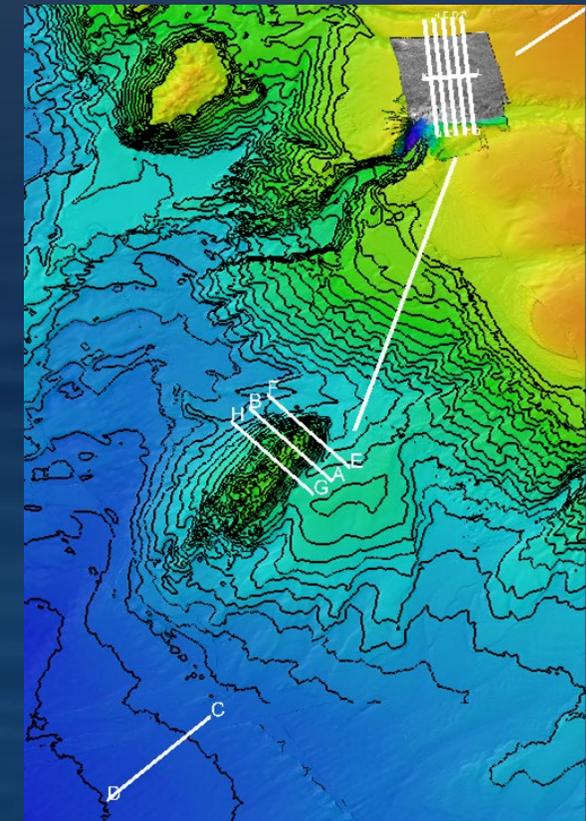
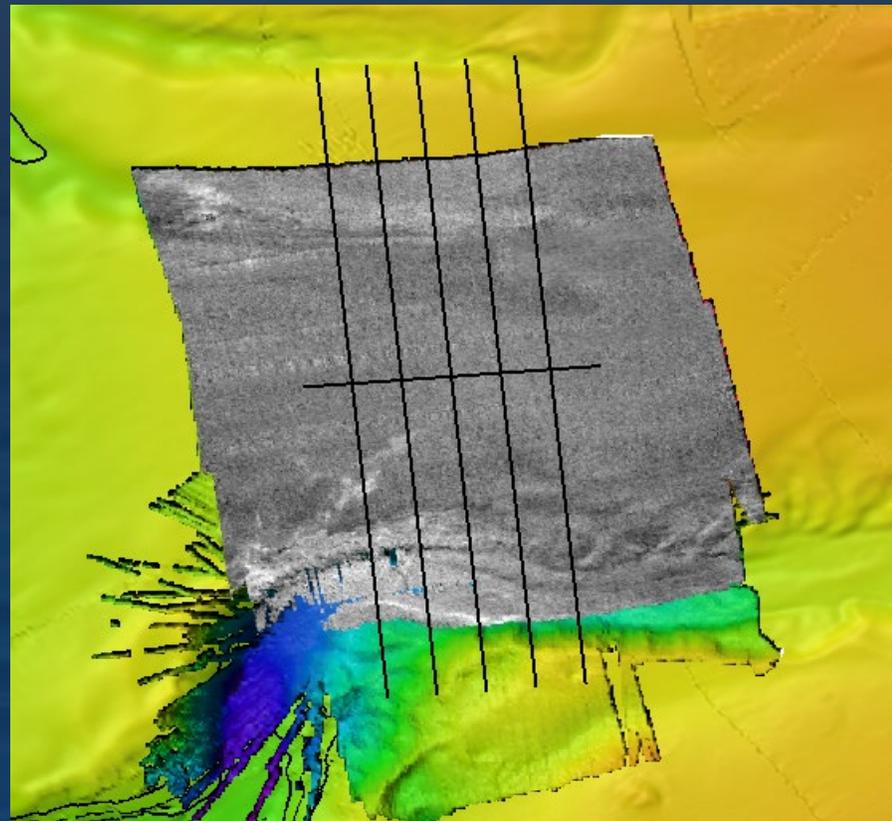
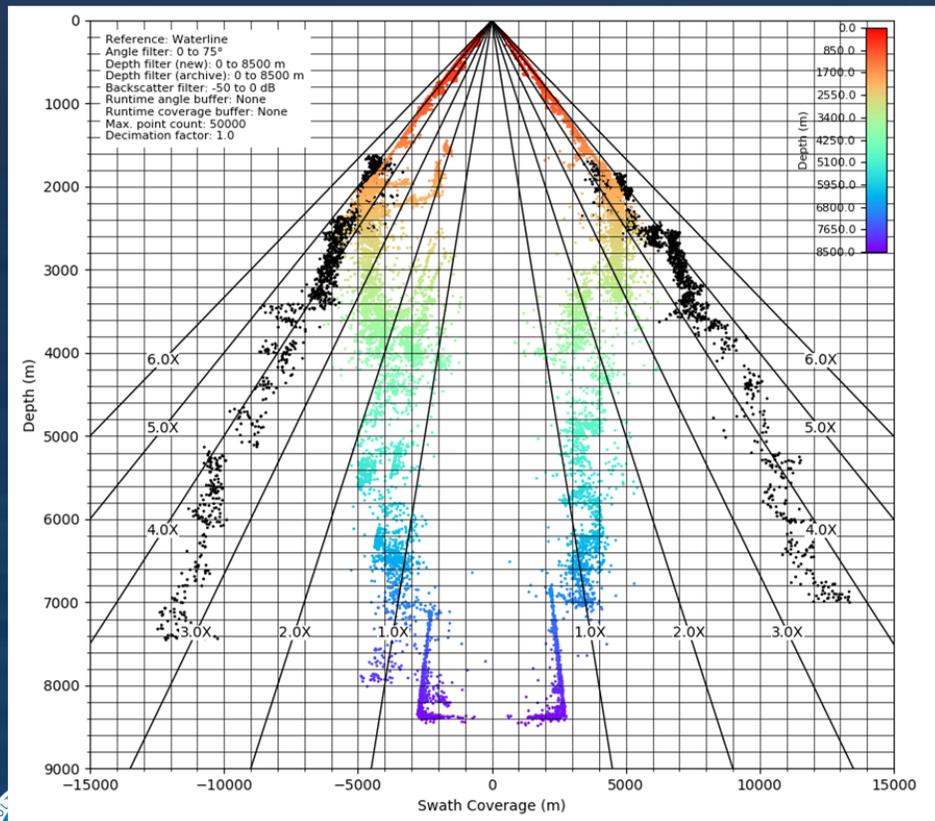


UNOLS EM302 (2022, 8 yrs)



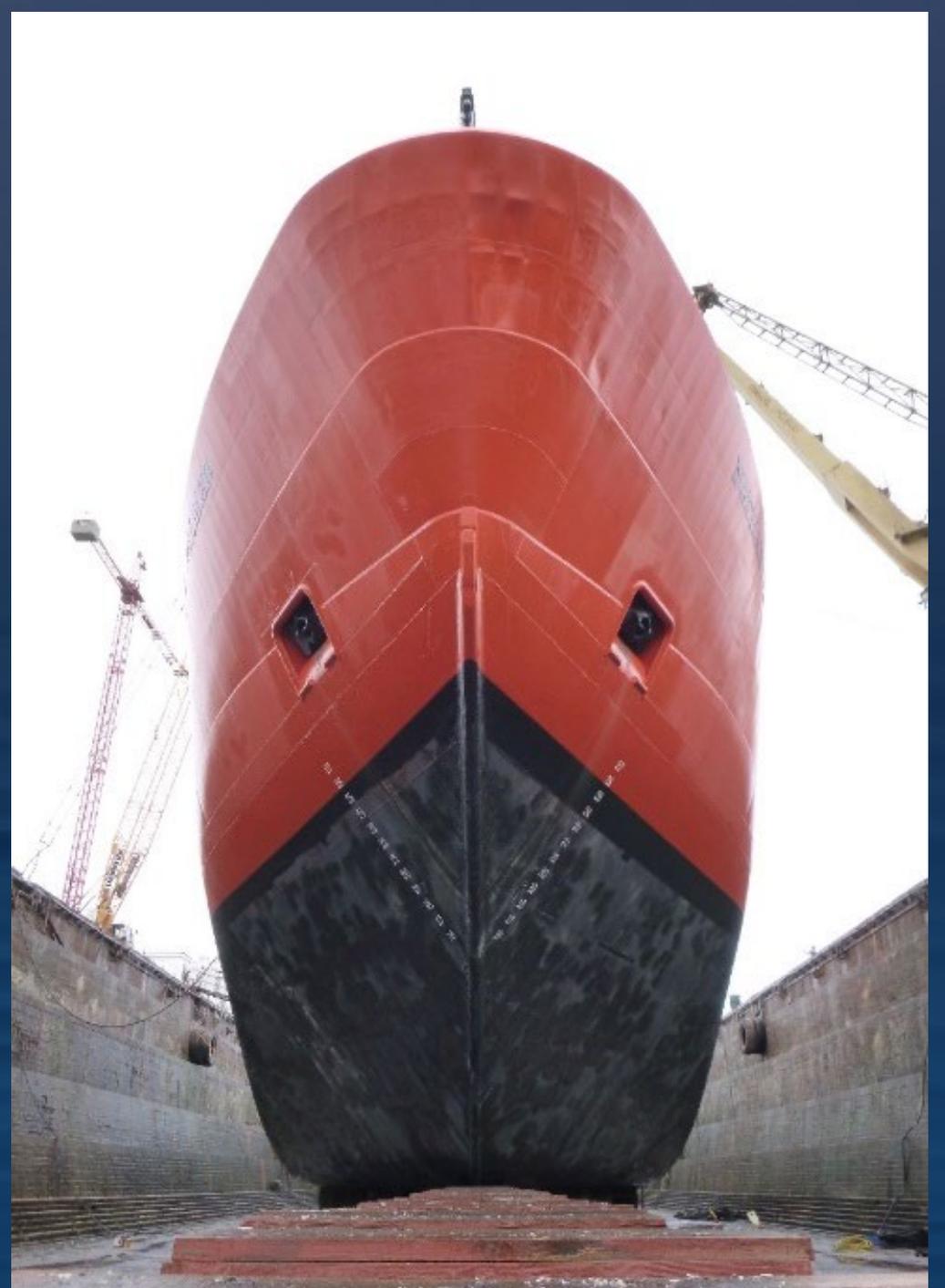
Takeaways from the Field 2021-22

- Value in using same test areas for yearly assessments and ‘apples to apples’ comparisons
- Test plans can be opportunistic and flexible, with limits
 - SAT/QAT steps can be readily dovetailed with other activities
 - Advance planning means efficient use of ship time, proven sites, and personnel



What's Next?

- RCRV SAT planning in progress
- Late-life cycle systems
 - EOL testing / replacement planning
- Who is planning what (and when)?
 - Adding navigation/attitude systems?
 - Most recent patch test?
 - Any new noise issues?
 - Available to help plan SAT/QATs
- Ocean Mapping Community Wiki
 - Share your (extremely valuable) experience



Ocean Mapping Community Wiki

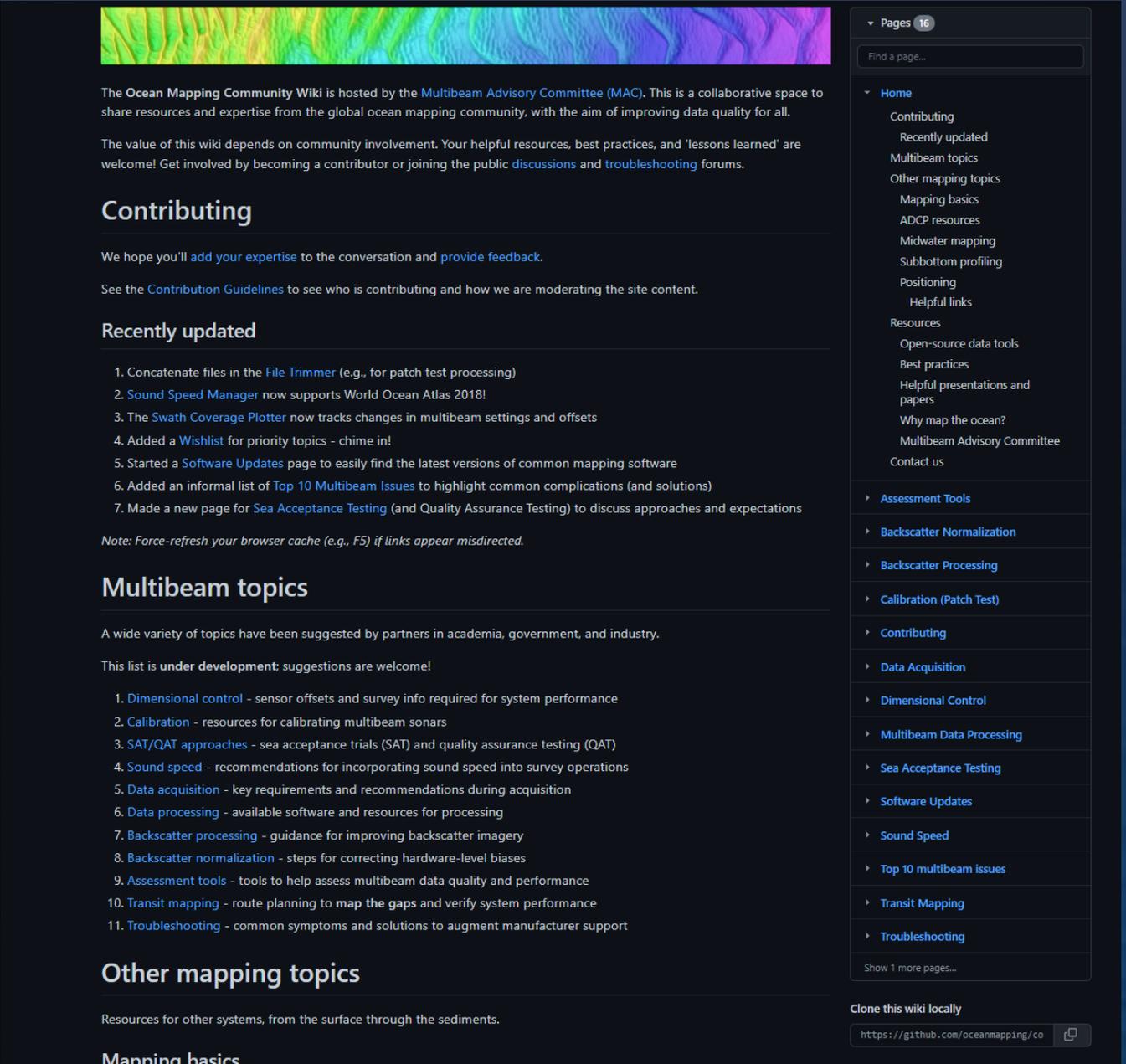
github.com/oceanmapping/community/wiki

What it IS (or aims to be)

1. Public resource with context
 - a. Admins from MAC, NOAA, Saildrone
2. Easily updated and expanded
3. Platform for discussion / troubleshooting
4. Backed up with examples and references
5. Welcoming, accessible, and respectful

What it is NOT (or shouldn't be)

1. SOP repository (see Ocean Best Practices)
2. Replacement for manufacturer guidance
3. Promotional, preferential, or judgmental



The screenshot shows the GitHub Wiki page for the Ocean Mapping Community. At the top, there is a colorful bathymetric map. Below it, the introductory text states that the wiki is hosted by the Multibeam Advisory Committee (MAC) and is a collaborative space for the global ocean mapping community. It emphasizes the value of community involvement and provides links to resources, discussions, and troubleshooting forums.

Contributing

We hope you'll add your expertise to the conversation and provide feedback.

See the [Contribution Guidelines](#) to see who is contributing and how we are moderating the site content.

Recently updated

1. Concatenate files in the [File Trimmer](#) (e.g., for patch test processing)
2. [Sound Speed Manager](#) now supports World Ocean Atlas 2018!
3. The [Swath Coverage Plotter](#) now tracks changes in multibeam settings and offsets
4. Added a [Wishlist](#) for priority topics - chime in!
5. Started a [Software Updates](#) page to easily find the latest versions of common mapping software
6. Added an informal list of [Top 10 Multibeam Issues](#) to highlight common complications (and solutions)
7. Made a new page for [Sea Acceptance Testing](#) (and Quality Assurance Testing) to discuss approaches and expectations

Note: Force-refresh your browser cache (e.g., F5) if links appear misdirected.

Multibeam topics

A wide variety of topics have been suggested by partners in academia, government, and industry.

This list is **under development**; suggestions are welcome!

1. [Dimensional control](#) - sensor offsets and survey info required for system performance
2. [Calibration](#) - resources for calibrating multibeam sonars
3. [SAT/QAT approaches](#) - sea acceptance trials (SAT) and quality assurance testing (QAT)
4. [Sound speed](#) - recommendations for incorporating sound speed into survey operations
5. [Data acquisition](#) - key requirements and recommendations during acquisition
6. [Data processing](#) - available software and resources for processing
7. [Backscatter processing](#) - guidance for improving backscatter imagery
8. [Backscatter normalization](#) - steps for correcting hardware-level biases
9. [Assessment tools](#) - tools to help assess multibeam data quality and performance
10. [Transit mapping](#) - route planning to map the gaps and verify system performance
11. [Troubleshooting](#) - common symptoms and solutions to augment manufacturer support

Other mapping topics

Resources for other systems, from the surface through the sediments.

Mapping basics

On the right side of the screenshot, there is a sidebar with a search bar and a list of pages. The 'Pages' section shows 16 pages, including 'Home', 'Contributing', 'Recently updated', 'Multibeam topics', 'Other mapping topics', 'Mapping basics', 'ADCP resources', 'Midwater mapping', 'Subbottom profiling', 'Positioning', 'Helpful links', 'Resources', 'Open-source data tools', 'Best practices', 'Helpful presentations and papers', 'Why map the ocean?', 'Multibeam Advisory Committee', and 'Contact us'. Below this, there are expandable sections for 'Assessment Tools', 'Backscatter Normalization', 'Backscatter Processing', 'Calibration (Patch Test)', 'Contributing', 'Data Acquisition', 'Dimensional Control', 'Multibeam Data Processing', 'Sea Acceptance Testing', 'Software Updates', 'Sound Speed', 'Top 10 multibeam issues', 'Transit Mapping', and 'Troubleshooting'. At the bottom of the sidebar, there is a 'Clone this wiki locally' button and a URL input field with a copy icon.



Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory
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Ocean Mapping Community Wiki

github.com/oceanmapping/community/wiki

omcadmin@ccom.unh.edu or mac-help@unols.org

Assessment Tools

kjerram edited this page 13 days ago · 24 revisions

Overview

Multibeam assessment tools developed by the MAC include:

1. Swath Coverage Plotter
2. Swath Accuracy Plotter
3. BIST Plotter
4. File Trimmer

The tools are available as standalone Python apps on the [multibeam_tools_distribution](#) repository.

These tools are intended to give users the same plotting and reporting functions used by the MAC for routine performance testing (e.g., sea acceptance trials and quality assurance testing). Currently, only Kongsberg data formats are supported.

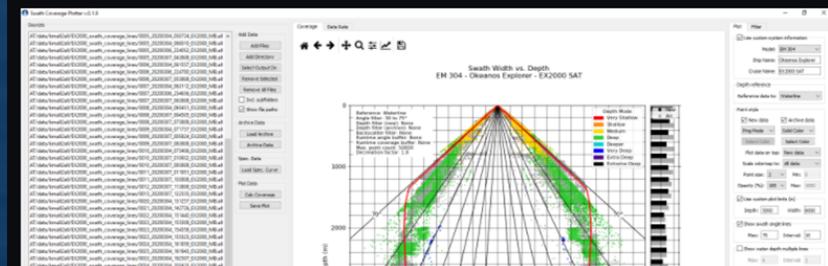
Hint: Most of the app features include tooltips; just hover over a button, list, or checkbox to get more information!

Instructions for data acquisition and processing are presented in the following sections. Suggestions are welcome for improving the workflow in each application.

The source code is available on the [multibeam_tools](#) repository.

Swath Coverage Plotter

The swath coverage plotter extracts the outermost soundings (flagged 'valid') and plots these with a variety of filtering and plotting options. Currently only .all and .kml are supported.



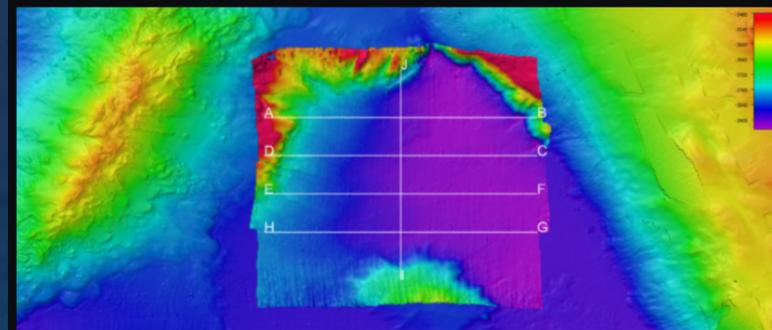
Reference survey acquisition

The reference survey should be planned over relatively flat, benign, homogenous seafloor with slopes no greater than a few degrees. Because the selected depths will likely be used for testing several different modes, the area may also be suitable for backscatter normalization across those modes [wiki development: add link to BS normalization section when complete].

The reference survey lines are planned with a few key considerations:

1. Orientation orthogonal to the crossline (or as a 'grid' if time allows)
 - i. This reduces alignment of any swath biases in the reference grid with the crosslines
2. Narrow spacing (e.g., 1 WD) to achieve very high sounding density
3. Length sufficient to cover the full crossline swath width (e.g., 6-8 WD, with buffer for ship handling)
4. Number of reference lines to accommodate desired crossline length
 - i. Typically 6-10 reference lines at 1 WD spacing, depending on depth, to yield several hundred crossline pings

Small regions of steeper slopes may be filtered during processing, if present (e.g., the 3900 m reference site off San Diego, below). Likewise, the number of lines may be adjusted to fit the terrain and the schedule.

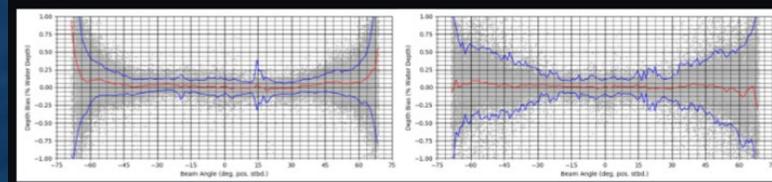


Crossline data acquisition

The primary crossline setting of interest should be the same used for the reference survey; ideally, this is a setting that would be selected automatically by the multibeam system for this depth. This provides a consistent comparison between the 'trusted' bathymetry created from a dense survey and the single-pass crossline(s) for the mode that is intended for this terrain.

As discussed in the [planning constraints](#), there may be several modes of interest that have been grouped for this reference surface depth. Additional crosslines are added as needed and allowed by the ship schedule.

Crosslines are typically run in 'pairs' on opposite headings for each mode to assess any heading-dependent impacts, such as sea state (example below shows accuracy heading with seas and into seas shown on top and bottom, respectively). When seas are calm, this approach also supports deep roll verification using pairs of lines with the same mode and settings on opposite headings over the flat terrain.



Top 10 multibeam issues

Kjerram edited this page 20 days ago · 5 revisions

The MAC, technicians, and colleagues encounter several common factors that limit data quality across a wide variety of platforms.



Top 10 common issues

In no particular order, here are ten common complications to consider when planning, collecting, and processing multibeam data:

1. Inaccurate vessel offsets (or incorrect interpretation)
 - i. Data quality depends fundamentally on sensor configuration; see [Dimensional Control](#)
2. Inadequate sound speed profiling and/or mismatches at the transducer
 - i. See [Sound Speed](#) and [SmartMap](#)
3. Higher noise levels due to biofouling on the arrays and hull
 - i. Run pre- and post-shipyard RX Noise tests to examine this
 - ii. For Kongsberg systems, see the [Transducer Cleaning, Faiming, and Painting Procedure](#)
4. Inappropriate runtime parameters
 - i. The depth gates mean business!
5. Infrequent calibrations
 - i. Routine patch testing can rule out some biases
6. Interference from other acoustic or electronic systems
 - i. Is that 12 kHz bridge fathometer *really* secured?
 - ii. Synchronize your scientific echosounders!
7. Sea state, aeration, and bubble sweep along the hull
 - i. Work is underway to adjust ping cycles around washdown events
 - ii. Meanwhile, testing RX Noise vs. swell direction can help to identify quieter/better survey orientations for each particular vessel
 - iii. Mapping is often the 'back up plan' when other work is on hold due to sea state!
8. Waterline errors
 - i. Like other sensor offsets, this *directly affects* the reported depth
 - ii. Waterline impacts refraction correction by changing the 'starting point' in the sound speed profile
 - iii. The value depends on the manufacturer's conventions and is not always equivalent to the draft
9. Infrequent operation
 - i. It takes longer to identify issues when the systems are not operated routinely
 - ii. When issues do arise, they are under more 'critical' circumstances and become 'emergencies'
 - iii. Opportunistic testing and transit mapping helps to maintain operator familiarity and catch problems early
10. Outdated software and firmware
 - i. Over the 10+ year hardware lifespan, manufacturers routinely release software and firmware updates to fix real issues with operation
 - ii. While some of these might be simple user interface updates, some address fundamental errors in TX or RX processes
 - iii. Keeping systems up to date can improve data quality (e.g., reduce outliers, provide new warnings to users) and protect hardware health (e.g., adjust duty cycles or power limits)

Uncommon multibeam issues

Here are a few examples of issues that severely impacted data quality and took a while to sort out, partially because they may not be common problems.

1. Transducer anti-fouling paint (over-application)

Pages 14

Find a Page...

- Home
- Assessment Tools
- Backscatter Normalization
- Backscatter Processing
- Calibration (Patch Test)
- Contributing
- Data Acquisition
- Dimensional Control
- Multibeam Data Processing
- Sound Speed
- Top 10 multibeam issues
- Top 10 common issues
- Uncommon multibeam issues
- Transit Mapping
- Troubleshooting
- Water Column Mapping

+ Add a custom sidebar

Clone this wiki locally

<https://github.com/oceanmapping/co>

MAC Breakout Session Thursday at 3:00 PM

mac.unols.org

mac-help@unols.org



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