

IFHS News

No. 2 10-2015

Welcome



IFHS is always looking to see how it can improve its performance as an organisation representing individual and corporate professionals in hydrography. To be truly robust and relevant on a worldwide scale, IFHS is constantly seeking to attract more member societies. A lot of mutual benefit will be gained if IFHS can encourage even more similar national and regional organisations to join.

The International Federation of Hydrographic Societies currently has eight members:

AHS	Australasian Hydrographic Society	Australasia
HSB	Hydrographic Society Benelux	Benelux
HSD	Hydrografisk Selskab Danmark	Denmark
DHyG	Deutsche Hydrographische Gesellschaft	Germany
IHS	Italian Hydrographic Society	Italy
HySK	Hydrographic Society of Korea	South Korea
HSSA	Hydrographic Society of South Africa	South Africa
THS UK	The Hydrographic Society UK	United Kingdom

Elsewhere in this issue of *IFHS News*, my thoughts on the next five to ten years are laid out (see page 8). Over the summer the Presidents/Chairmen of our sister organisations in the United States, Canada, France and Nigeria were invited to respond to invitations to join IFHS. It was made clear that, by joining, the new member societies would have their say on existing values, such as ambition, vision, objectives and subscription rates. Other regional and national societies, such as those in Norway, Poland, Japan and Russia, are also encouraged to join IFHS.

Discussions with the Francophone organisation during 2015 have been very encouraging. Indeed, in early September we received a very positive reaction from Eric Langlois, Head of SHOM's External Relations and Chair of the Promotion Working Group of the Association Francophone d'Hydrographie (AFHY) or the Francophone Association for Hydrography. The association intends to apply to become the ninth IFHS member imminently. Of course we received this announcement with great joy!

The Hydrographic Society of America (THSoA) is currently presided over by Paul Cooper. On the telephone he told us that THSoA, together with the associations in Canada and Central America, is currently exploring how a hydrographic and oceanographic society of The Americas might be formed. The report of the exploratory committee will be presented at US Hydro 2017. In the meantime, we intend to maintain a healthy mutual relationship and co-operation with THSoA wherever possible. We have discussed the economic interests of corporate members on both sides, which we will investigate further and use as an important value when looking at further integration. I believe that it is only a matter of time before we can unite our organisations.

I am positive about the future of IFHS as, step-by-step, other regional groups decide to join and I encourage those who have not decided to join yet to reconsider.

Rob van Ree, IFHS Chairman

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The International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS) is a unique partnership of learned national and regional hydrographic societies that, through its worldwide membership, is able to address every specialism within the hydrographic profession and related disciplines, at all levels of experience and expertise. It has considerable international influence, and is respected by hydrographic professionals and organisations at governmental and intergovernmental level. IFHS is recognised throughout the world for promoting the development of hydrography and hydrographic learning by providing unrivalled opportunities for the exchange of ideas and practices.

Chairman: Rob van Ree (Benelux)

Vice-Chair: Holger Klindt (Germany)

IFHS News is published biannually by:

International Federation of
Hydrographic Societies

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International Federation of Hydrographic Societies
serving the interests of the world hydrographic community

Assessing the impact of explosive blast on marine life

UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) poses an obvious risk to the marine environment and those who inhabit it. It is also widely acknowledged that explosive blast energy can have a deleterious effect on marine life.

The options available for dealing with UXO are to leave it in place, detonate it *in-situ*, or remove it to a safe place prior to detonation.

If detonation is required, and the circumstances permit, then this must be carried out in a site sufficiently far away that any potential environmental impacts are minimised as much as possible. For example, the detonation site should be sufficiently far from, for instance, seal haul-out sites, fish spawning grounds, and whale migration paths. The critical distance for survivability and the likely outcome on fish and marine mammals may be estimated by modelling the effect of explosive blast on marine life.

However, the question remains: how far away is far enough? This has been the subject of several investigations which are reviewed in this paper and the accompanying presentation. The solution involves a two-stage process. The first part is concerned with the propagation of explosive blast which is represented using a set of semi-empirical equations, based on the explosive charge weight. This is followed by modelling the impact of the impulsive blast wave on fish and marine mammals where the key parameter is their body weight.

In order to illustrate the potential impact of blast on marine life, a number of case studies are considered. These include the SS *Richard Montgomery* which is currently resting on the seabed off Sheerness (near the mouth of the River Medway, in north Kent, England) with around 1500 tonnes of explosive on board; a World War II sea mine dredged up off Sheerness and containing 680kg of high explosive which was later detonated in the English Channel in November 2012; and the Kyle of Durness incident where a number of pilot whales were beached following the controlled detonation of a series of 1000lb bombs during an underwater munitions disposal exercise at nearby Cape Wrath (Scotland) in July 2011.

[Read the full article or view the presentation](#)

by Peter D Ward, Kongsberg Maritime Ltd

Soundings, No. 64 (Summer 2015) and THS UK UXO Surveys Seminar (19 June 2015)



Beyond bathymetry: Water column imaging with multibeam echo sounder systems

Multibeam echo sounder mapping systems are primarily designed for seabed depth determination. Echo sounder systems in general represent powerful tools not only to determine the seafloor depth, but also to investigate the water column. The most prominent fields for such acoustic water column investigations include fish shoal detection and biomass assessments, target detection for military purposes, oil and gas leakage detection and suspension matter analyses. Data examples from multibeam echo sounder mapping systems – so far primarily used for depth measurements – are introduced in the full article for demonstrating their water column analyses capabilities. Some environmental data are presented in the study, e.g. greenhouse gas release from the seabed. The article presents some acoustic patterns of typical artefacts, fish shoals, zooplankton and oceanographic layers to highlight multibeam water column potentials, but also discusses associated pitfalls.

Water column imaging with multibeam has been available for a couple of years and the resulting very large datasets become more and more manageable today due to most recent computer power and mass storage advances. But this novel technique has attracted very little attention to the hydrographic community so far. One reason might be that water column data storage and post-processing workflows are not yet fully available and is computationally expensive. But real-time observation of water column data during field measurements is straightforward to use and represents a viable quality control tool for hydroacoustic surveys. Water column imaging analyses can certainly help identifying specific data corruptions, e.g. interference from other sonars, bubble wash down, or propeller noise. Once those difficulties have been identified, then the setup may be adapted accordingly to improve the data quality of the bathymetric measurements. Water column records overcome bathymetric misdetection and – if interpreted correctly – can present a supporting tool for time-consuming diver work improving wreck least-depth determination. Further, the evaluation of water column data contributes to better environmental understanding and supports a meaningful interpretation of multibeam backscatter data of the seabed.

At a time when very large and high-definition video data enters our daily life, the modern hydrographer should not be discouraged by large datasets emerging from water column records and could think about using this novel technique to gather valuable information in the near future.

[Read the full article](#)

by Jens Schneider von Deimling and Wilhelm Weinrebe

Hydrographische Nachrichten, No. 97 (February 2014)



The spatial awareness conundrum in ancient Polynesia: With parallels from ancient Greece



Forty-three years of research into ancient navigation and discovery in the Pacific have led to some recent conclusions that go way beyond navigation. The two great questions in the minds of Europeans that dominated research, following European contact with Polynesians, centred on issues of vessel sustainability and navigational accuracy (post Magellan 1520 AD). In the 1950s, the New Zealand historian, Andrew Sharp, rejected the notion of organised discovery on both accounts and for several years the concept of accidental drift and enforced migration became the dominant scenario. Fortunately, there was sufficient indigenous knowledge throughout the islands to challenge Andrew Sharp's assertions and the pioneering work by Dr David Lewis of New Zealand and Professor Ben Finney of Hawaii opened doors for the active participation of Polynesians to prove the worth of their ancestral vessels (wakas). The navigational side of the argument, however, became locked into a hybrid of Polynesian experiential and European scientific methods with no real progress beyond tweaking those observations that David Lewis had made when he sailed, aided by a grant from the Australian National University, in the late 1960s. Lewis, however, believed there was more to indigenous navigation technique than his research had discovered.

This paper follows an essentially European line of historical research and hopefully gives closure to that exclusivity. Fortunately, there are signs of developing Polynesian interest and an evolving inter-disciplinary and inter-racial consensus movement away from the understandable more recent Polynesian tendency to claim back their own, almost to the exclusion of the European historical research input. A clouding over by the Polynesian contribution, more from esoteric sentiment than academic discipline, merely creates a new undesirable mythology.

[Read the full article](#)

by Stan Lusby

The inverted heading calibration



A regular recurring procedure in the field of hydrographic and offshore operations is the heading calibration of vessel gyros. Using a known external reference (e.g. a quayside) and a known reference on the vessel (e.g. its centreline at the weather deck) the misalignment of the vessel's gyro can be determined by comparing the gyro output to the external reference. Now this is pretty straightforward thanks to the gyro and the reference on deck that is used for it.

On board navy vessels several master training datum marks (MTDM) and one or more reference marbles (RM) are commonly installed during the construction of the vessel. The RMs usually get installed inside gyro rooms, while the MTDMs are placed both inside the gyro room and outside on the weather deck. Installation during the vessel's construction is relatively easy as the vessel is stable and on an even keel, while RMs can be aligned with the vessel still open. When properly done the MTDMs and the RMs all resemble the same heading reference within certain tolerances.

Recently, Starmountain Survey & Consultancy was asked to check and restore the relationship between the internal RM and MTDMs at the weather deck of several navy vessels. Over the years the MTDMs had partially disappeared. As they are crucial for the alignment of various onboard systems, the lost MTDMs had to be replaced with new ones.

On its own this could be done using conventional land survey techniques by running a traverse through the various decks of the vessel. However, the vessel was afloat and no dry-dock facilities were available. The requirement for alignment was 3 minutes of arc (0.05°). Being afloat, and thus unstable, maintaining this accuracy while running a traverse would be difficult.

The problem was solved using an inverted heading calibration. Instead of calibrating a gyro using an external reference, a highly-accurate fibre optic gyro (FOG) was aligned with the RM, while a second equally accurate FOG on the weather deck was aligned with the first one. That second FOG was then used to align an optical theodolite to set out the MTDMs by sight.

For this project Starmountain Survey & Consultancy combined forces with Geovisie, a company with which it regularly collaborates. Geovisie created a differential FOG application (dFOG) to compare the output of both FOGs, while Starmountain created the necessary optical tooling hardware to align the FOG with the RM and the theodolite. Using a dedicated algorithm in the dFOG the two FOGs were aligned within their theoretical accuracies.

The MTDMs set out formed two vertical planes: one on port side and one on starboard side of the vessel. By measuring the locations of the newly created MTDMs using conventional surveying techniques their mutual attitude in heading and roll could be compared. With an average heading error of 1.1 minutes of arc and an average 1.5 minutes of arc error in roll, the results were all within the required 3 minutes of arc.

[View the presentation](#)

by Nicolàs de Hilster, Starmountain and Erich Gaikhorst, Geovisie Land & Marine
HSB Workshop on Vessel Geometry and Calibrations (15 January 2014)

Protection of the cable landing: New techniques for minimizing the environmental impact and costs

Surely the biggest challenge facing companies that deal with the design and the installation of submarine cable systems is to protect the cables that are laid on the seabed.

Damage to telecommunications cables can result in catastrophic disruption of services which, in turn, lead to significant financial losses relating to both repair costs (on average over one million dollars) and from the suspension of services. These potential risks are widely known throughout the telecommunications industry, which is constantly looking for new methods and technologies to limit such damage.

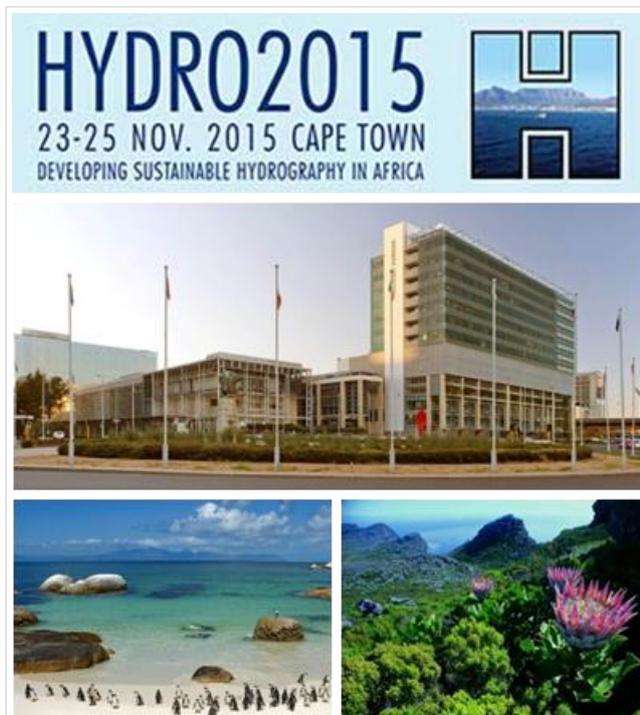
In this paper the authors do not discuss the various causes of and issues relating to such damage since they are easy to identify. Instead, they focus on the areas in which cables settle and, in particular, on those areas where protecting the cable is made difficult or is limited by the presence of vulnerable species (for example, *Posidonia Oceanica* in Mediterranean Sea). In such locations it is usually impossible to carry out an adequate cable burial owing to a number of factors which prevent the use of standard techniques and a more innovative approach must be found.

[Read the full article](#)

by Alessandro Maiolino, Filippo Luzzu, Aldo Monaca, Gioia Indelicato, Sabrina Oliveri, Antonio Scannavino and Sebastiano Calvo
ICPC Plenary Meeting (Dubai, 2014)



Hydro2015: Preview



This year's annual IFHS conference and exhibition, Hydro2015, will take place at Cape Town International Convention Centre from 23rd-25th November. Organised and hosted by the Hydrographic Society of South Africa, the event hopes to bring the global hydrographic community together to learn about the latest techniques and developments and to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas.

With the theme of 'Defining the extent and ownership of maritime real estate for development in Africa', the provisional conference programme features eleven technical sessions, a workshop and a stakeholder seminar arranged over two and half days of parallel sessions.

Proceedings commence with a keynote address by Robert Van De Poll, International Manager Law of the Sea at Fugro NV (Netherlands) who will summarise aspects of Law of the Sea relating to the 54 States in Africa. This will be followed by two plenary presentations. In the first, Fugro will review their on-going seabed search for the missing Malaysian flight MH370. Capt Abri Kampfer, Hydrographer of the South African Navy, will then outline the current status and future aspirations for hydrography in Southern Africa. The programme also features a presentation on the performance of Sonardyne USBL with tilted transceivers by this year's IFHS Student Award winner, Neeltje van der Laan (Netherlands).

The FIG/IHO/ICA International Board on Standards of Competence stakeholder seminar, on the second morning of the conference, will discuss training and education in hydrography and nautical cartography.

The conference will be complemented by an international trade exhibition featuring over 30 leading companies and organisations and a number of boat-based demonstrations in Cape Town's stunning V&A Waterfront area.

Delegates will also have the opportunity to network at a cocktail reception and the gala dinner.

Hydro2015 is sponsored by QPS, Teledyne RESON and Teledyne Odom, CARIS, Fugro and Marine Data Consultants.

[Further information about Hydro2015](#)

Hydro14: Energy & Enterprise

300 delegates and 60 exhibitors from over 25 countries took part in the THS UK-organised Hydro14 conference and exhibition at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre (AECC) from 28-30th October 2014. A QPS-sponsored ice-breaker Party took place on the preceding evening.

Aberdeen, Scotland's third largest city, is situated between the rivers Dee and Don. Referred to as the Energy Capital of Europe since the discovery of North Sea oil & gas in the 1970s, it was the perfect venue for IFHS's annual gathering.

Hydro14 was formally opened by the then Chairmen of THS UK and IFHS and the Lord Provost of Aberdeen. Under the theme of 'Energy & Enterprise' the Organising Committee compiled an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of ten themed sessions featuring 30 recognised experts.

Keynote speaker Monty Mountford took delegates back-to-basics. In a world of exponential growth in technology and technical capability, he advocated *intelligent understanding* of the underlying challenges as the key to the development of a sustainable Blue Economy.

The early afternoon session featured presentations by students and recent graduates. Amongst them was Oliver Kumpel (MSc graduate from Hafencity University), the inaugural winner of the IFHS Student Award. Other presentation topics included the use of imaging multibeam to track basking sharks and the technical impact of ROVs and AUVs in the development of the Blue Economy. It was a pleasure to see the next generation of innovative hydrographers enthusiastically driving the profession on.

The last session of the day considered tidal and sea level monitoring. Topics included GNSS-derived tidal information for PPP (precise point positioning) and the interaction with the various datum models. The session also featured a paper on the installation of a new tide gauge network in the Thames Estuary for the Port of London Authority and one on the intertidal area which explored effects on the coastline and techniques for sustainable coastal management.

That evening there was an Atlas Professionals-sponsored reception at the wonderful Maritime Museum. Guests were greeted by a scale-model of a North Sea platform rising from the ground floor up to the roof, three floors above.

Wednesday's first session considered low impact offshore exploration, beginning with the use of AUVs in the Arctic as an efficient and safe method for surveying under the ice. As confidence in the technology has grown with time, so has the exciting range of terrain AUVs operate in. The next speaker discussed safety aspects of offshore infrastructure; in particular interaction with fishing vessels. The session concluded with a look at error budgets for AUVs and identified the need for standards for AUVs, which are not like the vessel-mounted set-ups covered by S44. This led seamlessly into the next session on Standards.

The first speaker asked 'e-Navigation: Do we need the IMO SIP?' Yes, but when will it happen? The international nature of the IMO needs committee-based agreements, with technical progress often overtaking debate. There will be a need to switch from S-57 to S-101 soon. The second speaker discussed getting more business value from data using the *observe once, use many* approach and advocated using standard specifications to get a SSDM (Seabed Survey Data Model) for use in GIS databases as a goal. Next we explored



data management standards. In the *big data* era a pipeline survey can easily generate terabytes of data. How do we deal with this? New hardware will help, but new methods are needed too. 'Harmonising survey deliverables: emerging standards and smart data exchange' was a well-chosen closing paper. S-100, S-101, S-102, S-121 and OGP standards are all in use but, to ensure big data value, they need harmonising for data in CAD, charts, SSDM and ENCs.

Delegates could choose from 13 diverse options in the afternoon, including local industry-based site visits and onsite workshops and tutorials. Offsite visits took delegates to Aberdeen Harbour Board's Marine Operations Centre and the Shell GIS Visualisation Centre. Workshops ranged from standards, to digital video, GNSS tides, errors and quality.

The Esri-sponsored Conference Dinner in the magnificent Elphinstone Hall was a real delight: excellent food, inspiring location and local flavoured entertainment. During the four-course meal the prize for Best Student Presentation at Hydro14 and the IFHS Student Award for 2014 were presented. Delegates were treated to an expert performance on the bagpipes before several of them 'volunteered' to demonstrate just how difficult they are to play!

Thursday began with a session on data quality and resilience. First up was a review of pipeline inspection in the Caspian Sea, combining bathymetric data and 'pig' data. Next we looked at whether real-time estimation of uncertainty is possible and may be used to aid automatic processing; results indicated that it is. Then we asked whether the number of beams matters in MBES; essentially yes, but it is important to consider how the data will be used. The final paper addressed automatic 3D boresight estimation of IMU and MBES; the mathematics was baffling!

The first IHO stakeholder forum ever to be embedded in a Hydro conference followed. Chaired by IHO Director Gilles Bessero, who was supported by a panel of five cross-profession experts, the debate explored ways to strengthen the two-way interaction between the IHO and industry.

The penultimate session examined education and training, including vocational training at the Fugro Academy and innovative higher education at the Institute for Hydrography (Antwerp) and Hydrographic Academy (Plymouth); all will ensure high-quality future surveyors.

The final session considered subsea engineering survey starting with a review of LBL INS and the lessons learnt; this concluded that planning and training are paramount and that the principal time-saving is made during installation. The last paper reviewed the use of close-range photogrammetry to meet offshore platform construction and installation requirements, reducing logistical challenges and achieving rapid collection and sub-millimetre accuracy.

In closing, the Hydro 'baton' was handed on to the Hydrographic Society of South Africa who will host Hydro2015 in Cape Town from 23-25th November. The finale saw the return of the piper with a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne – the traditional Scottish farewell.

Holger Klindt, IFHS Chairman (2012-14)

[View the presentations or purchase the Proceedings](#)

Australasia

Regional activity

The Australasian Hydrographic Society (AHS) has enjoyed a very positive period with a number of activities and seminars being held across its Regions.

Notably, the West Australian Region continues to host regular activities that are well-supported and offer an open invitation to all IFHS members. New Zealand's annual conference successfully focussed on student attendance and participation. It is also conducting regular open invitation webinars on areas of professional interest. The Australia on the Map Region also has a number of activities underway which can be viewed online. For information on upcoming events, or access to seminar presentations, visit AHS's new-look website. It is a pleasure to welcome Ron Tyson as the Chair of the NZR and Dave Donohue as Chair of the EAR.

Asia-Pacific region seminar

The main AHS event for 2015 is the highly-anticipated Australasian Hydrographic Symposium in Cairns, Australia on 3rd-7th November. The symposium theme of 'Harnessing the Blue Economy through Hydrography in the Asia-Pacific Region' focuses on the emerging realisation of the importance of hydrography to the world's and regional economies, and the opportunities this poses the profession of hydrographic surveying and businesses related to the maritime industry. There is a fantastic programme and an excellent line-up of speakers. For information visit the AHS website or email ahshydrosymp2015@con-sol.com.

www.ahs.asn.au

Benelux

Bi-monthly workshops

The Board of the Hydrographic Society Benelux (60 corporate, 200 individual and 90 student members) organises six to seven workshops per year. With the advantage of the small size of the countries involved, workshops are usually no more than a two-hour drive away, so many decide to participate. Typically a Board meeting is arranged prior to each workshop; in between these, Board meetings are held using digital media. It is an easy routine and led to a very well-received symposium on Terschelling in February, with many guests travelling from Germany.

On 11th September a workshop was held in Geofort, a beautiful location near Utrecht, on the subject of Underwater Positioning; there were 50 attendees. Here, also, Dutch graduate Neeltje van der Laan presented her graduation research which won her the IFHS Student Award for 2015. As part of the prize Neeltje will attend Hydro2015 in Cape Town (23rd-25th November) where she will present her work once again and receive a cheque for £1,500.

Workshops already planned for the coming months include:

- December (Antwerp): Climate change and hydrography
- January: Survey software functionality
- March: AGM (inc. announcement of HSB prize for the best student thesis) and a short workshop on Remote Sensing

www.hydrographicsocietybenelux.eu



Germany

First international issue of Hydrographische Nachrichten

In the past the German Society's journal, *Hydrographische Nachrichten*, has published some articles in English. Most of them were written by native German speakers, others were contributions by authors from abroad, whose feedback sometimes was: "I wish I could read the rest of your journal."

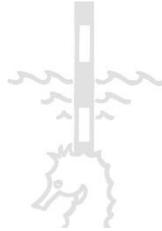
So here you go... In February, Deutsche Hydrographische Gesellschaft (DHyG) proudly presented its first 'international issue' of *Hydrographische Nachrichten* which was published in entirely in English. This premiere coincided with the hundredth edition of the journal, which has been published by the German Hydrographic Society for more than 30 years. This anniversary was celebrated with the most comprehensive and highest-ever circulation edition. Over more than 60 pages there are exclusive high-quality articles by authors who work and research in Germany. However, thematically they don't focus on national topics, but rather aim to present the wide spectrum and performance of hydrography in Germany. There is a lot of Germany in the issue, but also articles about the rest of the world in our members' work. Although the starting point is German inland waters (Lake Constance, Hamburg Port), *Hydrographische Nachrichten* No. 100 also considers the frontier relationship with the Netherlands at the Ems, and on to the world's oceans and, finally, lands in Micronesia.

HN No. 101 (June 2015) also includes a couple of articles published in English, among them an interview with IFHS Chairman Rob van Ree entitled: 'With the IFHS Student Award we have a true world champion'. The third issue this year (*HN* No. 102) will be published in November.

Journals can be downloaded for free from the Society's website.

www.dhyg.de





Italy

Offshore careers seminar

On 14th February, the Italian Hydrographic Society (IHS) and ATENA (Italian Association of Naval Technology) jointly hosted a seminar on 'Offshore Job Opportunities' in the Great Hall of the Rizza Institute in Syracuse.

The purpose of the event was to raise careers awareness by describing the opportunities, prospects and roles on offer, including: surveyor, data processor, survey engineer, quality control supervisor, piping supervisor, DPO.



The audience, including many school students and teachers as well as operators within the maritime sector, heard from Dr Aldo Monaca, President of IHS and Secretary (Eastern Sicily) of ATENA, Ennio Ammatuna, senior surveyor and client rep, Alessandro Maiolino, Vice-President of IHS and expert on submarine cables and Giambattista Totis, former Principal of the Nautical Institute.

Dr Monaca introduced the roles and gave an overview of market performance, the need for specialist studies and the importance of certification. "There is a strong demand for professionalism, especially in the Asian and South American markets, where the countries have growing renewal demand and need the construction of new infrastructures", he noted.

Ennio Ammatuna described the main tasks involved, showing some examples of tools and vessels used. Mr Maiolino spoke about submarine cables and their strategic importance and his own experiences on international projects such as the Google FASTER, connecting Asia to the USA.

In closing, Prof Giambattista Totis referred to the assets the Italian school system offers to institutes for new training projects which introduce careers in association with private companies and public funding.

Judging by their numerous questions the students were inspired by what they heard.

www.italianhydrographicsociety.it



United Kingdom

Educational activities

Following on from the triumphs of Hydro14, this year has also been packed full of achievements for The Hydrographic Society UK (THS UK).

Education has been a recurring theme. The South West Region held its second annual Student Presentations Evening at Plymouth University in March, offering BSc and MSc students the opportunity to present their dissertation studies to an audience of industry representatives from as far away as Holland. The Southern Region hosted a similar event for MSc and PhD students at the National Oceanography Centre, Southampton in late April. In Scotland, the annual HydroFest seminar, now in its 15th year, gave students and non-surveyors a comprehensive introduction to offshore oil & gas survey in April and, in May, two half-day hydrography taster sessions for 12-13 year olds highlighted career opportunities.

Seminars and other events

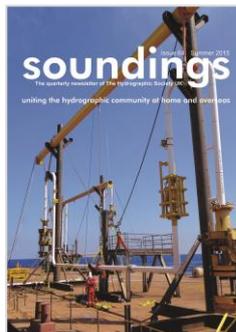
In addition to Regional technical meetings and social events this year, in locations including Aberdeen, Lowestoft, Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Gravesend, Portsmouth, Southampton, Plymouth and Abu Dhabi, the Society organised a very well-attended one-day seminar on (Unexploded Ordnance) UXO Surveys in Southampton in June. Also in June, it co-hosted a half-day Pipeline Design and Integrity seminar with SUT in Aberdeen and a Summer Party, celebrating World Hydrography Day, in Southampton. Exhibiting at Ocean Business (Southampton, April), GEO Business (London, May) and Shallow Survey (Plymouth, September) offered further opportunities to meet existing and potential members and hydrography students.



At the Society's AGM, held during Ocean Business, Ian Holden and William Heaps were elected as Chairman and Hon. Secretary respectively, several new Board members were welcomed and Dr Victor Abbott and Roger Scrivens were awarded Fellowships.

Membership questionnaire

THS UK recently conducted an anonymous, far-reaching, Membership Questionnaire. Initial analysis suggests that the quality of the Society's products and services is highly valued; a more detailed review will be published in *Soundings* No. 65 next month.



www.ths.org.uk

IFHS... A decade on



My election as Chairman coincided with the 10th anniversary of IFHS, so it seemed like a good time to reflect on the values of the global hydrographic community and look at where we are and want to go in the next few years.

Why do we have an international Federation? The Hydrographic Society was founded in the UK in 1972. Members from other countries such as Australia, New Zealand and South-East Asia, the Benelux countries and Denmark joined fairly soon afterwards; the USA and Canada were also represented. Some of these regions established Branches of THS. Early this century it was felt that the organisation needed redesigning as the overheads had become too large and some of the Branches wished to diversify their local efforts. A leaner structure was put in place during Hydro4 in Galway, Ireland and the Society was renamed the International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS). The previous Branches became national and regional hydrographic societies, and as such members of the IFHS, each member being represented by a Director on the Board of IFHS. The founding member societies in Australasia, Benelux, Denmark and the UK were soon joined by South Africa and Germany.

Again, why do we really want this international affiliation? First, it is a feeling. We are all brothers – and sisters – in this profession. The world's seas connect all our shores, and along all these shores hydrography plays its part. Indeed, it is quite logical to regard hydrography with an international, or rather a global, perspective. Our ships are in harbours, our companies never far away, we live our amphibious lives and we can never be away from the sea for too long. Next, it becomes more practical. The hydrographic community never has been, or will be, very large. Either at home or abroad, it is never automatic that a hydrographic professional will run into a colleague straightaway. Knowing the route to a Hydrographic Society opens up a new world away from home, making colleagues much easier to find. Then, we want to exchange knowledge, skills and best practices, host conferences, design training programmes and make them available to the future generations and capacity is built. Furthermore, it is good use common denominators when discussing knowledge and training skills. Meanwhile, local and regional markets are generally too small for many companies, so looking across borders is very common too.

Objectives, Principal Activities and Organisation

The objectives of IFHS are to promote the free exchange of information between all those engaged in the science of surveying at sea and related sciences. IFHS also offers an international voice for hydrography, schedules international hydrographic conferences and fosters the establishment and growth of new national societies.

The objectives of this charitable organisation are met by:

- the publication of a bi-annual newsletter *IFHS News*, technical Special Publications, collections of papers and proceedings, CD-ROMs and other relevant information including web-based services
- the organisation of specialist seminars and technical workshops and providing opportunities for interaction

and exchange of information through international symposia, including the 'Hydro' conference series

- promoting improved education and training for those engaged in or intending to engage in hydrography via the distribution of information, and educational awards
- promoting career opportunities through the publication of relevant careers guides and other web-based facilities

The national societies provide similar services of relevance to their particular regions and members.

The day-to-day administration of the charity is managed by an employee of The Hydrographic Society UK, which charges IFHS for these services. Strategic decisions affecting the Federation are made by the Board of Directors at their Annual General Meeting and at bi-monthly Board meetings.

Recent Achievements

In the absence of a Hydro conference in 2013, the hastily arranged, 'Digital Hydrography on the Maritime Web' (29-30th October 2013, Southampton) proved to be an excellent alternative. The event was a great success in terms of drawing in other organisations and specialisms. The quality of the audience, who actively participated in the lively discussions at the end of each session, was excellent. IFHS may consider organising more customer-led, as opposed to product or technology-led, events in the future.

The first issue of the new biannual online IFHS newsletter (*IFHS News*) was published in 2014. Each member society is expected to contribute an abstract (and a link to or pdf of the full paper or presentation) plus some short news items.

IFHS welcomed the Italian Hydrographic Society in late 2012 and the Hydrographic Society of Korea became the Federation's eighth member society in October 2013. Discussions are ongoing with other potential member societies, most notably the Francophone Association for Hydrography, based in France.

The Federation launched its annual Student Awards Scheme in September 2013 and presented the first recipients with the IFHS Student Award and the prize for the Best Student Presentation during Hydro14 in Aberdeen last October. The second presentations will take place at Hydro2015 in Cape Town. As it is hoped the scheme will attract candidates from all IFHS-member societies, the IFHS Award can truly be considered the world championship for new hydrographic specialists.

IFHS continues to build on its links and working relationship with the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) with which it signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2004. The IHO was actively involved in Digital Hydrography on the Maritime Web and Hydro14 saw the introduction of a regular IHO-led session and stakeholder forum into the Hydro programme. The Federation also has an MoU with the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG).

Rob van Ree, IFHS Chairman

