

Underwater Acoustics Technical Committee Minutes
171st ASA Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT (23 – 27 May 2016)

These are the minutes from the Underwater Acoustics (UW) Technical Committee (TC) meeting at the 171st Acoustical Society of America (ASA) meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. The TC meeting was held on Thursday, 26 May 2016 from 7:30 pm to 8:40 pm and was chaired by Megan Ballard. There were approximately 75 attendees.

The meeting began with a discussion about the current meeting in Salt Lake City. There were many complaints about the small size of the rooms. In particular, the room assigned for the TC UW special session was especially small with only 42 chairs. Almost everyone in attendance had experienced a time during the meeting when they could not attend the special session because there was not enough room. There were also complaints about the poor noise isolation during technical sessions.

Next, special sessions for the upcoming meetings of the ASA were reviewed. First, the four special sessions for the joint meeting with the Acoustical Society of Japan (ASJ) in Honolulu were reviewed: “Nonlinear effects in underwater acoustics and bubbles” organized by Tom Muir, James Esplin, and Prof. Kanagawa, “Harbor acoustics” organized by Peter Stein and David Bradley, “Transmission through the air-water interface” organized by Peter H. Dahl and David R. Dall’Osto, and “Underwater Acoustics Studies in Asian Seas” organized by Chi-Fang Chen and Chin-Sang Chiu. The “Data Sciences Workshop in Acoustics” was also presented. Next, the six special sessions for the joint meeting with the European Acoustical Association (EAA) in Boston were reviewed: “Sound propagation and scattering in 3D underwater environments” organized by Ying-Tsong Lin and Frederic Sturm, “Passive sensing, monitoring, and imaging in wave physics” organized by Karim Sabra and Philippe Roux, “Unmanned vehicles and acoustics” organized by Erin Fischell and Peter Nielsen, “Underwater noise from offshore renewable energy” organized by Jim Miller and Paul Lepper, “Infrasound in the ocean and atmosphere” organized by Oleg Godin and Philippe Blanc-Benon, and “A century of sonar” organized by Kevin Heaney and Michael Ainslie. One special session the New Orleans meeting was suggested: “Sediment characterization using direct and inverse techniques,” organized by David P. Knobles and Preston S. Wilson.

The TC thanked outgoing Technical Program Organizing (TPO) representative Anthony Bonomo and current TPO representative Todd Hefner for their service. Derek Olsen agreed to assist Todd Hefner as the secondary TPO representative for the Honolulu meeting and to be the lead TPO representative for the Boston meeting.

The chair made several announcements. The opportunity to become involved in a task force to implement the ASA strategic plan was discussed and the new ASA organizational chart was presented.

Next, there was lengthy discussion about live broadcasting. First, the chair described the current state of live broadcasting: 19 special sessions were broadcast at the current meeting as well TC Noise, TC PP, and the Education in Acoustics Committee. This is the second meeting of the ASA for which technical sessions were live broadcast; the operation has been conducted entirely by volunteers and has been free for users. Looking to the future, ASA is considering contracting a service and charging for viewers. The response from TC UW regarding live broadcasting was largely negative. Concerns were related to increased travel restrictions for government employees, lack of engagement leading to loss of

membership in the ASA, presentations directed toward the internet audience rather than colleagues present at the meetings, and enforcement of copywrite and intellectual property rights. The TC UW members expressed that the cost, which is expected to be equal to one day of registration, is too high. They also requested data on how other societies are adapting this technology and its effects on their societies.

The chair made announcements on behalf of Roger Logan, the ASA Standards representative, including the new Standards Manager is Neil Stremmel, reminding members that they can receive five standards annually, and listing the four active working groups related to topics in underwater acoustics: Measurement of underwater sound from ships, Underwater acoustical terminology, Measurement of radiated noise from marine pile driving, and Standard-target method of calibrating active sonars.

The chair made announcements on behalf of Preston Wilson, the Education in Acoustics Committee representative, including a full-time Education and Outreach Coordinator will be hired in June. A request was made for a larger pool of volunteers to host student lunches as part of Students Meet Members for Lunch (SMMfL). Students present in the TC UW meeting shared there was some dissatisfaction with the “algorithm” used to pair members and students. John Buck agreed to be the new TC UW Education in Acoustics Committee representative. He will replace Preston Wilson starting at the Honolulu meeting.

Several announcements targeted at student members were made. The TC congratulated Brian Worthmann and Dieter Bevans, the TC UW Best Student Paper Award winners from the Jacksonville meeting. Then Brian Worthmann was introduced as the new ASA Student Council Representative, and he made several additional announcements.

Nick Chotiros told TC UW members about a new series of conferences on “shallow water marine geophysics” started by the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers (EAGE). Nick has contacted the treasurer of the EAGE and he is interested in the possibility of joint meetings with the ASA in the future. There was interest in engaging the EAGE community, and suggestions were made to invite EAGE members to give talks at the Boston meeting. The next EAGE conference on shallow water marine geophysics will take place in Barcelona, Spain on 4 - 8 September, 2016.

Andrew Holden announced the “Acoustic and Environmental Variability, Fluctuations, and Coherence” meeting which is organized by the Institute of Acoustics (IAO) and co-sponsored by the ASA. The meeting will take place in Cambridge, England on 12-13 December, 2016.

Final remarks included information about related meetings and workshops. The meeting was officially adjourned by the chair at 8:40 pm.