

Underwater Acoustics Technical Committee Minutes
170th ASA Meeting in Jacksonville, FL (2 – 6 Nov 2015)

These are the minutes from the Underwater Acoustics (UW) Technical Committee (TC) meeting at the 170th Acoustical Society of America (ASA) meeting in Jacksonville, FL. The TC meeting was held on Thursday, 4 November 2015 from 7:30 pm to 8:10 pm and was chaired by Megan Ballard. There were 41 attendees.

The meeting began with discussion of special sessions for the upcoming meetings of the ASA. First, the special session for the Salt Lake City meeting was reviewed: “Sediment characterization using direct and inverse techniques” organized by David Knobles and Preston Wilson. Next, the three special sessions for the joint meeting with the Acoustical Society of Japan (ASJ) in Honolulu were reviewed, and one new special session was proposed. The four special sessions agreed upon were: 1) “Nonlinear effects in underwater acoustics and bubbles” organized by Tom Muir and James Esplin and Prof. Kanagawa (ASJ), 2) “Harbor acoustics” organized by Peter Stien and David Bradley, 3) “Transmission through the air-water interface” organized by Peter Dahl and David Dall’Osto, and 4) “Underwater Acoustics Studies in Asian Seas” organized by Chi-Fang Chen and Chin-Sang Chiu. Then three new special sessions for the joint meeting with the European Acoustics Association (EAA) in Boston were proposed: “Passive sensing, monitoring, and imaging in wave physics” organized by Karim Sabra and Philippe Roux (EAA), 2) “Unmanned vehicles and acoustics” organized by Erin Fischell and Peter Nielsen (EAA), and 3) “Underwater noise from offshore renewable energy” organized by Jim Miller.

The TC thanked outgoing Technical Program Organizing (TPO) representative Nick Chotiros and current TPO representative Anthony Bonomo for their service. Todd Hefner agreed to assist Anthony as the secondary TPO representative for the Salt Lake City meeting and to be the lead TPO representative for the Honolulu meeting.

Several announcements were provided from members of the ASA. First, Roger Logan, the ASA Committee on Standards (ASACOS) representative, reminded the committee about free standards available for download to ASA members. Next, Ray Soukup from ONR Ocean Acoustics provided information about funding levels and ONR priorities. Then Jim Lynch presented the ASA Strategic Plan to those in attendance. The committee was encouraged to become involved by participating in the four goals 1) Awareness of Acoustics (Mike Stinson), 2) Member Engagement and Diversity (Lilly Wang), 3) Dissemination of Information and Knowledge (Jim Lynch), and 4) Financial Stewardship (David Feit).

The chair made several announcements related to goals of the ASA Strategic Plan. First, “Data Sciences Workshop in Acoustics” was presented. This is an interdisciplinary workshop that will be held on Friday of the ASA meeting in Honolulu focused on using techniques developed for “Big Data” on acoustic data. The workshop will consist of longer plenary talks and shorter invited talks (no contributed talks). Interested members were encouraged to contact the organizers: Matthew Blevins, Andrew Christian, and Joonhee Lee. Next, broadcasting and recording technical sessions was discussed. The chair encouraged special session organizers to consider having their sessions broadcast or recorded. Tom Muir related his own experience with poor quality recordings from the “History of Underwater Acoustics” session at the Pittsburgh meeting. Then, the chair reminded the members that POMA was free for authors and open access for readers. A new opportunity to publish Special Session Collections in POMA was presented, and the use of POMA for co-sponsored meetings was described.

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Several announcements targeted at student members were made. The TC congratulated Christopher Verlinden, the Best Student Paper Award winner from the Pittsburgh meeting. The chair reminded students about the ASA School 2016, which will occur the weekend before Salt Lake City Meeting at Cliff Lodge in Snowbird, UT. Then James Esplin, the ASA Student Council Representative, made several additional announcements. Aaron Thode agreed to give a 5 minute overview of UW to students at the SLC meeting.

Final remarks included information about related meetings, workshops, webinars, and job opportunities. The meeting was officially adjourned by the chair at 8:15 pm.