

Underwater Acoustics Technical Committee Minutes
175th ASA Meeting in Minneapolis, MN (7 – 11 May 2018)

These are the minutes from the Underwater Acoustics (UW) Technical Committee (TC) meeting at the 175th Acoustical Society of America (ASA) meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. The TC meeting was held on Thursday, 10 May 2018 from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm and was chaired by Megan Ballard. There were approximately 35 attendees.

The meeting started with a discussion led by Vic Sparrow and a representative from AIP about the relationship of the ASA to the U.S. Federal Government. They solicited ideas from the TC about ways to bring the importance of acoustics to the attention of the U.S. Federal Government. The TC largely felt that congressional representatives and their staffers should be educated about acoustics. Ideas included inviting local congressional representatives and their staffers to ASA meetings, inviting them to present an award at one of our meetings, and holding outreach events for congressional staff. The previous effort to recognize underwater acoustics as a National Naval Responsibility was also discussed.

Next, special sessions for the upcoming meetings of the ASA were discussed. The five special sessions for the 176th meeting in Victoria were reviewed: “Unmanned Vehicles and Acoustics,” organized by Erin Fischell, “Acoustic Vector Field Studies,” organized by Bob Barton and Kevin Smith, “Sediment Acoustics – Inferences from forward modeling, direct, and statistical inversion methods,” organized by Charles Holland and Stan Dosso, “Biological Effects on Seabed Geoacoustic Properties” organized by Kevin M. Lee, Megan S. Ballard, and Kelly M. Dorgan, and “Variability in Shallow Water Propagation and Reverberation” organized by Todd Hefner and David Dall’Osto. One special session for the 177th meeting in Louisville was presented: “Uncertainty in Transmission Loss Prediction” organized by Jennifer Cooper and D. Keith Wilson. One special session on CTBTO related research was tentatively suggested for the 178th meeting in San Diego organized by Peter Nielsen.

The chair made several announcements. First, the chair told the TC about the new Technical Specialty Group (TSG) on Computational Acoustics. The new TSG will start holding open committee meetings in Victoria where they will begin organizing special sessions for future meetings. After a three-year period, the TSG can become a TC. Authors can already self-identify their articles as Computational Acoustics in POMA, and soon this option will be available in JASA and JASA-EL. The chair also gave an update on live streaming on technical sessions. Live streaming started in Jacksonville (5 meetings ago), and has been holding steady with a fixed number of streamed sessions since Honolulu (3 meetings ago). The ASA has accumulated over 300 recorded talks from the previous three meetings for which the authors have agreed to allow ASA to post indefinitely. They are looking for a couple of students who would be willing to work on editing the recordings into a format to post on the ASA YouTube Channel.

Next, news about the ASA’s journals was presented. Jim Lynch is stepping down as Editor-in-Chief (EIC) in 2020, and search for a new EIC is underway. The concentration has been on decreasing the time from submission to publication, and time to first decision has been reduced to an average of 59 days for JASA and to 40 days for JASA-EL. Next, the impact factor (IF) of JASA/JASA-EL was discussed. The IF is a measure of the frequency with which the average article in a journal has been cited in a particular year. The calculation is based on a two-year period and involves dividing the number of times articles were cited by the number of articles that are citable. The IF of JASA/JASA-EL is 1.572, which is lower than 2.0 which is considered a “magic number” for high tier journals. More special content and increased

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advertising are suggested ways in increase the IF of JASA/JASA-EL. The chair also requested feedback from the TC about whether (1) they were discouraged or prevented by their institutions from publishing in JASA because of its low IF and (2) they were deciding not to publish in JASA because of its low IF. The response was overwhelming positive in favor of publishing in JASA/JASA-EL despite its low IF.

Several announcements targeted at student members were made. The TC congratulated Brendan Nichols and Aaron Gunderson, the TC UW Best Student Paper Award winners from the New Orleans meeting. Then Brian Worthmann made numerous announcements about student activities, including the Student Video Competition, Mentor Award, student travel funds, Students Meet Members for Lunch, and posting of job opportunities. This was Brian's last meeting on the Student Council, and Alexandra Padilla's two-year term will start with the Victoria meeting.

The meeting was officially adjourned by the chair at 8:30 pm.