

Minutes of the Meeting

These are the minutes from the Acoustical Oceanography (AO) Technical Committee (TC) meeting from the 160th Acoustical Society of America (ASA) Meeting in Cancun, Mexico November 15-19, 2010. The TC meeting was held Tuesday November 16, 2010 from 7:30 PM until 9:30 PM and was chaired by Martin Siderius the Acoustical Oceanography Technical Committee Chair.

- The TC congratulated new ASA fellows from AO, UW and SP. These were Tim Duda (AO), Cathy Clark (UW), Bruce Newhall (UW) and Lee Culver (SP).
- The TC congratulated Ed Sullivan for receiving the Silver in Signal Processing in Acoustics.
- The TC congratulated George Frisk for receiving the Silver (Pioneers in Acoustics) in Underwater Acoustics.
- The ASA Committee on Standards (ASACOS) gave a short presentation about their proposal to have the ASA begin the process of establishing standards for underwater sound measurements. ASACOS was represented by Susan Blaeser and Paul Schomer. The AO TC was generally supportive of the effort to start the process and no concerns were raised.
- The AO Student paper winners were announced from the Baltimore meeting. First Place to Jorge Quijano (Portland State University) for “Tank experiments for validation of volume scattering models” and second place to Jit Sarkar (Scripps Institution of Oceanography) for “Inverting for surface displacement fields using directly measured point-to point sensitivity kernels.” The TC thanked the student paper judges from the Baltimore meeting.
- The special session from the Cancun meeting were reviewed. The first was “Acoustics of Fish Schools and Bubble Clouds” which had the description: Experimental evidence and theoretical descriptions of low frequency resonances associated with fish schools and wave induced bubble clouds. The organizer was Orest Diachok and the TC thanked Orest and the participants of the special session. The second special session was “Remote Sensing with Ambient Noise” with description: Using noise and interferometric methods to obtain information about the environment. This was organized by Peter Gerstoft and Martin Siderius and the TC thanked the organizers and special session participants.
- The future meetings were then discussed. The next ASA meeting is in Seattle from May23-27, 2011. The Chair asked for volunteers to be the TPOM representative and Brian Dushaw volunteered. Next, the Seattle special sessions were reviewed. The first is, “Ocean Observing Systems: Acoustical Observations and Applications”, with description: Passive and active acoustic methods can be employed for long-term, sustained observations of physical, chemical, and biological processes with Global and Regional Ocean Observing Systems. Such observations offer valuable, unique information about the state of the oceans not obtainable by other means. Modest, cost-effective instruments can be shared to serve a variety of multidisciplinary purposes. Session is being organized by Brian Dushaw and Tim Duda. The second, AO Seattle special session is “Integrating Ocean and Acoustic Observations with Models” with description: Results from both the forward and inverse problems in acoustics can be significantly improved by the inclusion of information in ocean models be they physical, oceanographic, geologic or

biologic. Session will concentrate on the combination of acoustics with ocean models at all frequencies and ocean scales. This is being organized by Jim Lynch.

- Upcoming non-ASA meetings were then announced. There are two that would be of interest to Acoustical Oceanography. The first is "Acoustic Challenges in Aquatic Ecosystem Assessment" which is a workshop and is sponsored by the ASA and will be held concurrently with the ASA, Seattle meeting May 25-27 in Seattle. The second conference announced was the 4th Underwater Acoustics Measurements Conference which is co-sponsored by the ASA. This is being held in Kos Island, Greece from June 20-24, 2010. Abstracts are due by mid-January.
- The San Diego ASA was next discussed which will take place from October 31-November 4, 2011. There were two AO sessions that were proposed in Baltimore but one on the "Acoustics and Oceanography of the Philippine Sea" was moved to the Hong Kong meeting. The second proposed special session was the Van Holliday Memorial and the TC agreed to go forward with that. The title is "Van Holliday Memorial" with description: This session is to commemorate Dr. D. Van Holliday, his life and his scientific contributions. It is being organized by Mike Buckingham (AO, UW), Tim Stanton (AO, UW) and Kelly Benoit-Bird (AB, AO) and Whitlow Au (AB, AO). Co-sponsored by UW and AB. A second special session for San Diego was proposed and approved by the TC. The title is, "Steven Schock special session on acoustic bottom characterization and subbottom imaging including buried objects" and the description: This session will address Steven Schock's pioneering research on chirp sonar bottom characterization and subbottom imaging including buried objects. This is being organized by Altan Turgut and George Frisk.
- Next, the Hong Kong ASA meeting was discussed which is taking place from May14-18 2012. Lisa Zurk is the Technical Chair for the meeting and explained that representatives from the US and Asia will coordinate on special session organizing. The US, AO representative is the AO Chair, Martin Siderius, and the Asian counterpart has not yet been identified. Two special sessions were proposed, the first is roughly the one from the San Diego meeting but was renamed to "Remote sensing in the western pacific marginal" with description: This session is concerned with experimental and theoretical studies related to remote sensing of the environment in the western pacific. It is being organized by Peter Worcester and John Colosi. It was discussed that there may be a UW session that is complementary. The second proposed session was "Bioacoustics (fish and plankton)" (The title will likely need to change). This is tentatively being organized by Orest Diachok and Andone Lavery.
- The next topic of the meeting was the status of the ONR letter from the concerned scientists. In Baltimore David Bradley made a presentation about the state of research funding in ocean acoustics. He described that in 1998 the ocean acoustics community was successful in restoring stability to ocean acoustics funding at ONR. This was accomplished through a report on the state of funding along with a letters to ONR from the ASA and from the scientists working in ocean acoustics. The funding decline in recent years prompted discussion for a new letter which was drafted by David Bradley and was approved by the ASA Executive Council and was signed and sent to ONR by the ASA president (Whitlow Au at the time). A second letter was drafted by David Bradley and was signed by concerned scientists. This second letter was circulated in Baltimore where most of the signatures were collected. Some signatures were added after

Baltimore. The AO TC Chair then forwarded the letter to ONR in August. The reply from ONR arrived in mid-October and a copy of the letter was provided at the TC meeting. The Chair indicated he could send an electronic copy to anyone interested.

- The next topic was the student paper competition. In the ASA rules, the AO students are supposed to upload a paper to an ASA website and give a presentation at the meeting. Both students and advisors had complained to the AO Chair about the need for a paper. The TC voted and decided overwhelmingly to do away with the paper for the competition. The Chair has made the request to the ASA to remove this requirement.
- A discussion was initiated on whether or not the ASA could stop the practice of mailing out meeting programs before meetings. Around 7000 programs are sent before each meeting and another 1500 or so are provided at the meetings. Further, the requirement to mail the programs moves the abstract deadline up about a month. The TC discussed and were mostly in favor of doing away with mailing out a hard copy of the program. There were approximately 60 for doing away with and 3 against. Most felt it was a waste of money and really wanted the abstract deadline relaxed. The few that like receiving the program said they use it to prepare for the meeting. The ASA is expected to improve its electronic program to make it more user-friendly.
- A follow on discussion was about the call-for-papers and the need to send hard copies by mail. Again, nearly everyone wanted to do away with the hard copy. The vote to do electronically was approximately 55 in favor and 8 against. The main reason raised in favor of keeping the hard copy was that it serves as a reminder. It was also requested that if the call is done by email that a somewhat different email be sent by ASA that is more obvious than the usual emails so that the call won't be confused with other ASA emails.
- Next, the question was posed to the TC as to whether or not people wanted the CD of JASA. Most of the people that receive the CD didn't seem to have a problem if that went away. Not everyone was in favor of doing away with the CDs but most everyone said it could be mailed just twice a year. There were two objections to doing away with the CDs, the first was that some people like to archive all the journals and the second was that some felt if they left the society they would no longer have access to the journal including the journals they would have received by CD.
- George Frisk then described the "Year of Acoustics" which is a proposal to have a region of ocean studied and have a time period where all ship traffic and other anthropogenic sound sources would be stopped. There was a variety of discussion on this and most indicated it was an interesting idea but with some obvious hurdles.
- The Chair requested the TC look for sounds and video that might be provided to the ASA website. The sound clips currently on the website are somewhat out of date.
- The new ASA website launch date of Dec. 8, 2010 was announced.
- James Traer is the AO student representative and announced the special student council special session for Seattle where short talks are given by each of the TCs. Also, the Seattle soccer game seemed to be going forward.
- The meeting was concluded.