

Acoustical Oceanography Technical Committees Minutes of the Fall 2013 ASA Meeting in San Francisco, CA

These are the minutes from the Acoustical Oceanography (AO) Technical Committee (TC) meeting at the 166th Acoustical Society of America (ASA) meeting in San Francisco, CA. The meeting was held on Tuesday December 3, 2014 from 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm and was chaired by Andone Lavery. There were approximately 60 attendees.

The TC thanked Martin Siderius for serving as chair of the AO TC for the last three years. The TC thanked Jim Lynch for serving as TPOM representative for San Francisco. The TC thanked Tim Stanton for agreeing to serve as TPOM representative for Providence, to be held on 17-18 January 2014.

The TC congratulated Dr. Steven Holbrook for winning the 2013 Munk Award. The award was given for his use of low frequency seismic reflection profiling to image the water column has provided quantitative and novel insights into the structure and dynamics of internal waves, eddies and mixing processes. Steve Holbrook is honored as the father of the new field of "Seismic Oceanography". It was announced that Dr. Holbrook would be presenting the Munk Award Lecture on Wednesday at 11:00am.

Several announcements were made with information from the Technical Council Meeting:

1. The printed book of abstracts/meeting program will no longer be printed and mailed to ASA members prior to ASA meetings. This allows the deadline for the submission of abstracts for the next meeting to be delayed by various weeks. Also, the printed program is expensive both financially and environmentally. Printed versions will still be available at the meeting registration desk, the entire book of abstracts is already available on-line prior to the meeting, and members will be able to "opt-in" to having a printed version mailed to them "snail-mail" (however this will not occur prior to the meeting). No comments ensued.
2. Changes to Postdoc /Early Career Memberships: The requirement that Postdoc /Early Career member must be within three years of holding an ASA student membership was eliminated. The new requirement is that the applicant for a Postdoc/Early Career membership be within three of years of their last degree.
3. Session chair responsibilities and instructions were reviewed.
4. The ASA School 2014 was announced. The TC was reminded that the deadline for applications is 3 February 2014, but that all students applying for the ASA School must also be named/submit an abstract by 16 December 2013. Attention was drawn to the fact the ASA School 2014 would have heavy representation from AO, UW, SP, and AB.
5. Acoustics today announcement. The chair communicated the request from Allan Pierce for volunteers to write technical articles for Acoustics Today.

6. Future meetings of the ASA were announced, including: Providence Spring 2014, Indianapolis Fall 2015, Pittsburgh Spring 2016, Jacksonville Fall 2015, Salk Lake City Spring 2016, Honolulu Fall 2016, Boston Spring (late June) 2017.
7. Other national and international meetings of possible interest to the AO TC in 2014 were also announced, including: AGU San Francisco 2013, Ocean Sciences Hawaii, Oceans Taipei, ICES FAST New Bedford, IEEE ICASSP Florence, UAC Greece, Volga International Symposium Russia, Oceans Canada, AGU San Francisco Fall 2014. Some concerns were voiced that both the IEEE ICASSP and the ICES FAST meeting are the same week as the ASA Providence meeting. The possibility that UAC 2017 might overlap with the Boston 2017 meeting was raised. No concerns were voiced regarding a possible Sunday – Thursday meeting in Boston in 2017.
8. It was announced that the ASA Archives and History Committee has organized a special session to be held at the San Francisco meeting titled **“Oral History Bootcamp”** on **Thursday, 5 December, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** In this bootcamp, participants will learn appropriate techniques to conduct oral history interviews. The ASA Archives and History Committee requested each Technical Committee Chair to assign at least one representative from his/her committee to attend this session. Volunteers from the AO TC were requested. Jim Lynch volunteered to participate in the Oral History Bookcamp. It was also announced that the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution keeps an archive, similar in principle but not as extensive or comprehensive, of “Distinguished Colleagues” that might be linked to the ASA Archives and History Committee website. Of particular note is that the WHOI archive has a transcript with William Carey.

Reminders were given for the upcoming Providence meeting. It was re-iterated that Tim Stanton has volunteered to be the Providence AO Technical Program Organizing Meeting (TPOM) representative. The TC was again reminded that the deadline for abstract submission for the ASA Meeting in Providence, RI is **Monday 16 December 2013**. The chair reminded the TC that there was one AO special session on *Using Acoustics to Study Fish Distribution and Behavior* (co-sponsored with SP) organized by Kelly Benoit-Bird and Tim Stanton. The chair also announced the Underwater Acoustics (UW), Signal Processing (SP), and Animal Bioacoustics (AB) Special Sessions for Providence. Some questions were raised regarding the exact content of the SP special session on *Array Signal Processing*. It was noted that neither AO or UW were listed as co-sponsors of the SP special session in Providence in *Honor of William Carey*. It was suggested that both AO and UW should be co-sponsors and this issue was to be brought up at the Friday Technical Council Meeting.

The next topic was special sessions for the Indianapolis meeting in Fall 2013, to be finalized by Friday December 6. Suggestions for Pittsburgh were also discussed. For Indianapolis, one special session on *“Inversion methods in 3D propagation conditions”* was agreed upon to be organized by Megan Ballard (ARL) and Tim Duda (WHOI). The chair also suggested a Providence special session on *“Education in Acoustical Oceanography and Underwater Acoustics”*, to be jointly sponsored with UW. DJ Tang, chair of the UW technical committee agreed that this was good idea and would bring it up at the UW TC meeting on Thursday. Discussion on the motivation for this session was delayed to later in the TC meeting, when a more general

discussion on education in AO and UW was tackled. A special session on "*Sediment Acoustics in Muddy Environments*" was suggested, with David Knobles willing to organize/chair. It was agreed that this special session would be held in Pittsburgh.

The chair inquired if there were any technical initiatives for Pittsburgh. However, none were suggested.

The chair then announced and congratulated new ASA fellows, followed by encouraging TC members to nominate the AO members for ASA and external awards, including ASA Fellows, ASA Lindsay Award, Medwin Award, AB Wood Medal, Munk Award, etc.

Volunteers were requested for student paper judges, "take-a-student-to-the-fellows-luncheon" and "students-meet-members-for-lunch". A sign-up sheet was circulated with a good number of responses.

Finally a discussion on education issues in AO and UW was undertaken. The chair summarized the discussion that was initiated in Montreal, and explained that very little progress was made by the sub-committee established in Montreal on any of the issues. The chair suggested that in order to make headway on these issues it might be useful to have a special session and panel discussion that allowed these issues to be elaborated on. Invited speakers would represent different universities/laboratories/organization with traditionally strong education programs in AO and UW, such as Scripps, ARL, UW, WHOI, Penn State, etc. These talks would revolve around allowing the "State of Education in AO and UW" to be assessed, including number so of students, classes taught, media used, etc. This special session suggestion was well received and initiated an animated and constructive discussion. Numerous TC members volunteered to participate. An ONR representative also agreed to talk at this special session on the "pipeline" issues and on the ONR perspective on education in underwater acoustics.

As a part of the discussion on education issues in AO and UW, the chair asked the AO student representative, Ravi Menon, to present the student's perspective on issues in education in AO and UW. It seemed that there is a general feeling that the experience of AO students at ASA could be improved by enabling more opportunities for interaction between AO students and AO TC members.

The meeting was officially adjourned by the chair at 9:30 pm.