

***Annual Report: Fall 2014 (Indianapolis, IN) and Spring 2015 (Pittsburgh, PA)***

This annual report reviews activities of the Technical Committee on Acoustical Oceanography (TCOA) from the 168th and 169th meetings of Acoustical Society of America (ASA) held in Indianapolis, IN in Fall 2014 and Pittsburgh, PA in Spring 2015, respectively.

Two well-attended special sessions were organized by the TCOA at the Indianapolis meeting: 1) "Education in Acoustical Oceanography and Underwater Acoustics," joint with UW, and co-chaired by Andone Lavery (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution), Art Baggeroer (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and Preston Wilson (The University of Texas at Austin), and 2) "Parameter Estimation in Environments that Include Out-of-Plane Propagation Effects," joint with UW and SP, co-chaired by Megan S. Ballard (Applied Research Laboratories, The University of Texas at Austin), and Tim Duda (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution). In addition, there were 3 special sessions that AO co-sponsored: 1) "Mobile Autonomous Platforms for Bioacoustic Sensing," co-sponsored with AB and SP and organized by Holger Klinck (Oregon State University) and David Mellinger (Oregon State University), 2) "Standardization of Measurement, Modeling, and Terminology of Underwater Sound," co-sponsored with UW, AB, and ASA Committee on Standards and co-organized by Susan Blaeser (ASA Standards), Michael Ainslie (TNO, The Netherlands), and George Frisk (Florida Atlantic University), and 3) "Use of Passive Acoustics for Estimation of Animal Population," co-sponsored with AB and organized by Tina Yack (Bio-Waves Inc.) and Danielle Harris (University of St. Andrews).

The highlight of the Pittsburgh meeting was the 2015 Medwin Prize Lecture, presented by Karim Sabra from the Georgia Institute of Technology, entitled "Monitoring deep ocean temperatures using low-frequency ambient noise". This prize recognizes the accomplishments of young and mid-career scientists involved in research that addresses the effective use of sound in the discovery and understanding of physical and biological parameters and processes in the sea. Also at the Pittsburgh meeting, AO sponsored a special session on "Acoustics of Fine Grained Sediments: Theory and Measurement", joint with UW, organized by David Knobles (Applied Research Laboratories, The University of Texas at Austin), Mohsen Badiy (University of Delaware), and Charles Holland (Applied Research Laboratory, Penn State University). This session was well-attended and generally considered to be a success.

This report is my second as Chair of the AO Technical Committee. I want to close by thanking the volunteers who made the activities of the AO Technical Committee possible this year. I look forward to continuing to work with the AO Technical Committee and the ASA community more broadly for the remaining year of my term.

Andone Lavery, Chair Acoustical Oceanography

AO Website: <http://acosoc.org/TechComm/AOTC/>

List of committee members: <http://acosoc.org/TechComm/AOTC/members.html>