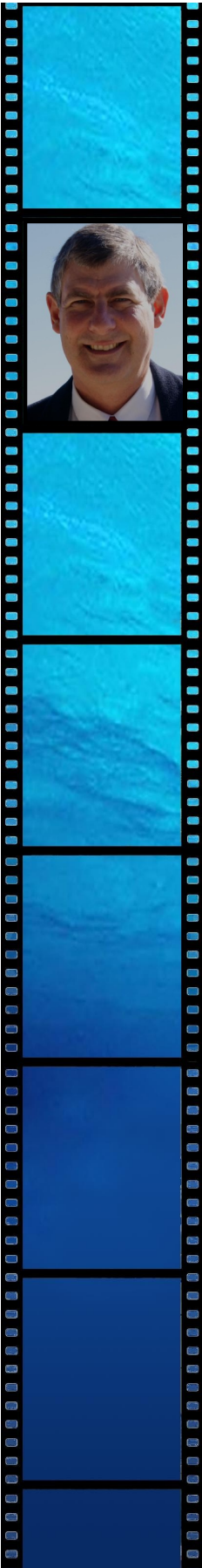


Editorial

This Edition comprises three papers sourced from the US Hydro 2011 Conference hosted by The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA) in Florida in April 2011. For the IHR, each of the authors have kindly updated their content in terms of further development and review since the papers were first presented. The Conference was well attended with 450 participants, papers were well presented and the Exhibitors Hall well attended and supported by industry. Of particular interest was the number of young adults attending as part of the Student Outreach Program. When the program was initiated, 3 students attended. This year the number was 23. I had the good fortune to spend some time with many of the young men and women in the program and it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm. The technical support to enable them to hit the water and experience hydrographic surveying first-hand was of considerable benefit. THSOA should be congratulated for their initiative in supporting our next generation of potential hydrographers.

This Edition comprises five articles covering a wide range of topics. The first article discusses the impact of echo sounders on marine life and the legislative processes being imposed that affect survey operations. The second paper describes the challenges of trying to find a vertical reference frame for depth measurements based on ellipsoidal measurements. Within the electronic charting world, the depiction of data quality information continues to be reviewed. Our third paper outlines the sources of data uncertainty and options to improve the depiction and provide more-meaningful data quality portrayal options.

The use of automated vehicles for surveying and military applications is on the increase. Our fourth paper describes the current status of the technology and provides examples of its use. Finally, our fifth paper describes techniques for mapping large scale, ocean current dynamics.

This edition includes Notes relating to a European project for creating pilot components of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet). The second paper describes the work of the IHO's Inter-Regional Coordination Committees (IRCC).

One booklet was reviewed and describes the IALA Buoyage system and other aids to navigation.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I hope that this edition is of interest to you. Thank you to all of the authors for your contributions. In particular, I would like to thank the Committee of the THSOA for their support at both the Conference and to allow some of the papers to also be included in this Edition. Your ongoing support of the IHR is much appreciated. Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues who provided peer reviews for the Articles in this edition. Your feedback and encouragement to the authors is much appreciated.

If you have any comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ian W. Halls
Editor

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