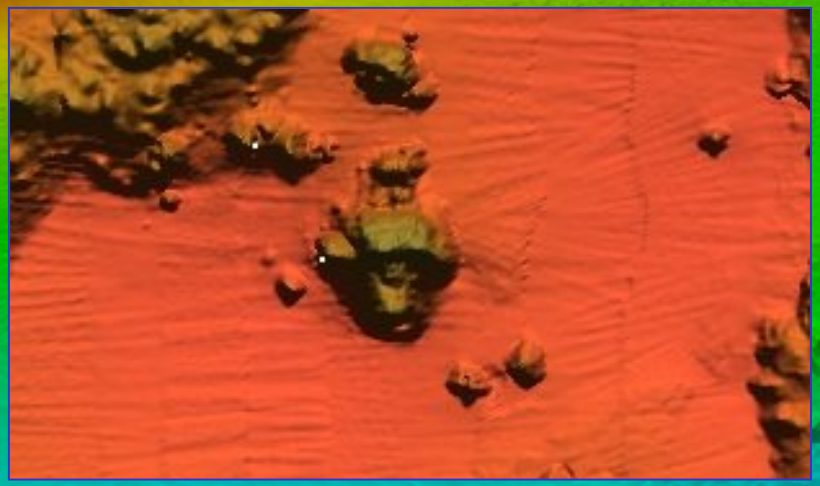
Multibeam Sonar/Ocean Mapping Workshop



Workshop Wrap-up

March 11, 2004

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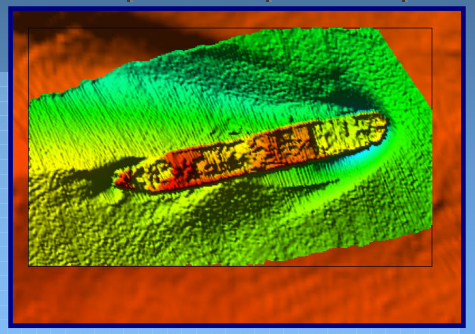

Part I: Data Standards

Highlights:

- Discussed desired outputs and end products
- In order to acquire data for water column research, there's a need to tow a net and provide repeatability
- Determined that OCS Specs+Deliv cliff notes or tutorials should be created to better educate other offices

"Is there such a thing as calibrated multibeam backscatter?"

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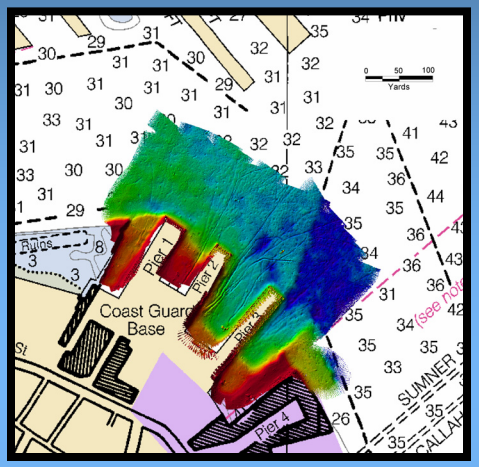
Part II: Data Management Models



Highlights:

- Identified “bottlenecks” (major ones include: vertical control, metadata, and proprietary holdings
- Discussed ways to solve a variety of “bottlenecks”
- Provided a water-column data pipeline
- Noted that ancillary data from a survey needs to be archived too

“OCS could be FGDC compliant, but will that really help the end users?”

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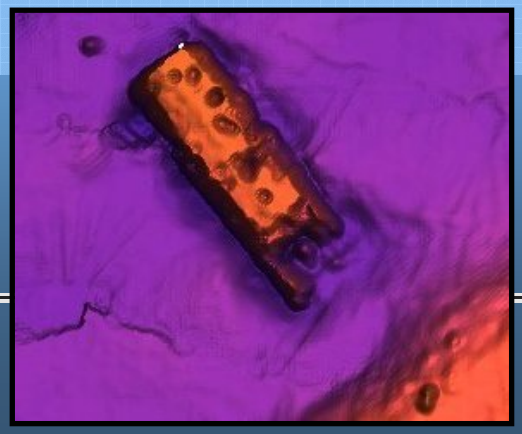
Part III A: Training Requirements

Highlights:

- A call to provide tutorials/briefing material to engage more program managers
- Noticed a shift from providing in-house training ("how do I train my personnel"), to utilizing partnerships ("who already has the expertise to help me out")

"NMAO will work with programs to provide full functional multibeam platforms"



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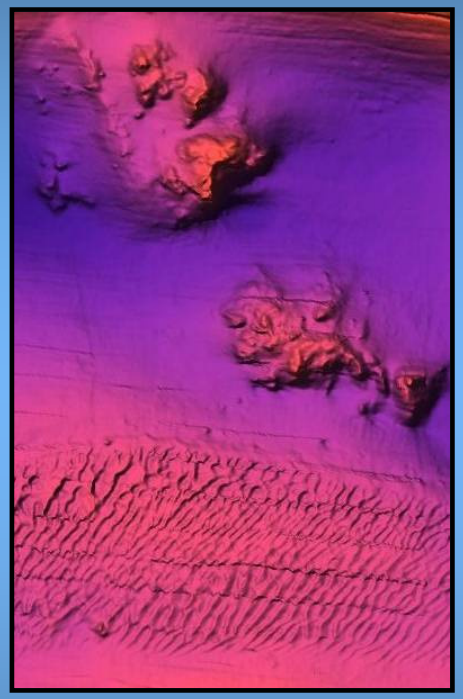
Part III B: NOAA Processing Centers

Highlights:

- Discussed goals and roles, including a need to implement standardized data formats
- Discussed a center or clearing house, created out of IOM, based in UNH that can coordinate with other data centers

"The worst thing a [lead NOAA Processing Center] could do is ignore the other data centers"



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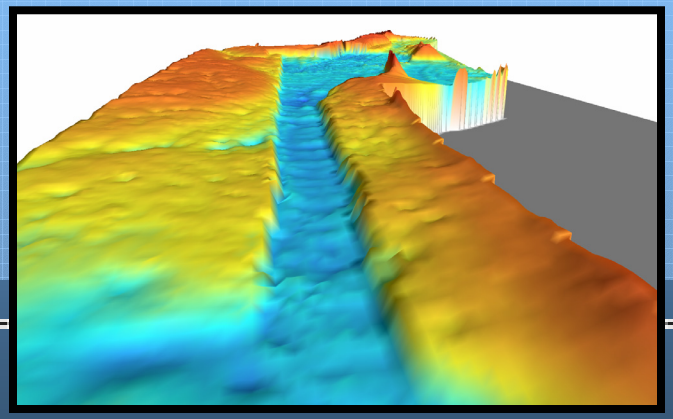
Part IV: Multibeam and Water Column

Highlights:

- Discussed multibeam Research Requirements for Fisheries Management and water column technology
- System and operational requirements for multibeam water Column Surveys
- Provided a forum for non-water column folks to learn about the discipline

"We need for repeatability."



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SOME NEXT STEPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Populate the IOM Action Plan with recommendation and concepts
- Create inter-workshop working groups to address on-going topics such as metadata and a NOAA Processing Center
- Pursue creating a multibeam matrix-managed program
- Need to create a dictionary (what is backscatter data?, what is raw data?)
- Communicate with the multibeam group to fill in the gaps in up-coming documents
- Continue to explore partnerships internal and external to NOAA

Next workshop……Seattle?