Underwater Inspections – Imaging to Monitor Scour and Scour Countermeasures

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Learning Outcomes

- SONAR Basics
- 2D Advantages/Disadvantages
- 3D Advantages/Disadvantages
- Case Study





SOund Navigation Ranging

- Transducer emits a sound wave
- Sound travels at known velocity
- Sound bounces off object
- Receiver captures the returned soundwave
- Math = known distance of object from transducer



Single Beam – 2D









Sector Width and Heading are used to orient the head scan angle and arc of acoustic coverage.

The profile points can be extracted and recorded in real-time or during post processing where different weighting values can be (if desired) applied to the profile point extraction algorithm. Graphics Reference: "Echoes and Images" by Mark Atherton



Single Beam – 2D



Graphics Reference: FHWA-HIF-18-049 – Underwater Inspection of Bridge Substructures Using Imaging Technology





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San B Take

A Moment in Time

- Quick setup/teardown
- Water depth
 - > 10-ft. desired
- Numerous deployment options
- Water velocity
 - Higher velocity becomes more challenging
- Stationary deployment
- A picture in a single plane





2D SONAR Deployment Options





2D SONAR A Moment in Time





2D SONAR Challenges – Air Bubbles – High Velocity





2D SONAR Challenges – Sea State







2D SONAR Challenges – Depth of Penetration







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- **3D Advantages/Disadvantages**
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3D SONAR Georeferenced Point Cloud

- Setup/calibration time challenge
- GPS challenging under bridges
- Georeferenced Point Cloud
 - Volumes
- Rough water not a problem
- See underneath footings
- Cover large areas quickly





3D SONAR *Challenges – Dolphins*







3D SONAR *Challenges – Dolphins*





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Georeferenced Point Cloud







Georeferenced Point Cloud



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Georeferenced Point Cloud





View From Many Angles









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Case Study

Diving Inspection







Case Study 2D Imaging in a Single and Multi Plane





Case Study

2D Imaging in a Single and Multi Plane





Case Study 2D and 3D







Case Study 2D and 3D







Case Study 3D Imaging over Time









Case Study Combined Point Clouds





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Scour Examples







Scour Examples







Scour Examples







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