

2009 HYDROACOUSTIC LAKE SURVEY WORKSHOP

FISHERIES ASSESSMENTS IN LAKES

June 17-19 2009

Organized by



Hydroacoustic Technology, Inc.
715 N.E. Northlake Way
Seattle, WA 98105



in cooperation with

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
1030 N. Bear Lake Blvd.
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Garden City, UT 84028

conducted at

Bear Lake - Utah State University Facility

It's time to start planning for the next biennial Hydroacoustic Lake Survey Workshop, a forum to discuss and exchange ideas for monitoring fish populations using mobile survey hydroacoustic techniques. This workshop focuses on challenges and advancements in the application of hydroacoustic mobile survey data collection and analysis techniques. The workshops have somewhat of an HTI equipment focus, as they were originally started as an informal support group for HTI *Model 241/244 Split-Beam System* users. However, we've broadened our scope since that first meeting in 2001 and have had a number of recent participants using Simrad, BioSonics and other scientific acoustic instruments. Anyone with an interest in fisheries acoustics is welcome to attend.

This workshop, the fifth in a continuing series of "*Advanced Mobile Survey Hydroacoustic Techniques*" gatherings, provides an informal 3 day forum to present research, discuss challenges and brainstorm solutions. Previous workshops in Dutch John, Utah (Utah Department of Natural Resources) in 2001, Grand Junction, Colorado in 2003 (Colorado Department of Wildlife) and Yellowstone Park in 2005 and 2007 (National Park Service) provided a great opportunity to get connected with others doing similar work. Our typical attendance at past workshops has been between 20-30 researchers from across the US, and we have even had attendees coming from as far away as the Caribbean, Europe and Australia.

Scott Tolentino with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has graciously offered to facilitate the 2009 Workshop at Bear Lake, Utah. It's a beautiful spot on the border of Utah and Idaho, and home to the famous "Cisco Disco" sport fishery that occurs each winter (<http://www.kutv.com/content/outdoors/story/Cisco-Disco/uz0VH8jwlky7GglTuo8HWg.csp>). You can get more information on recreational opportunities in the area at www.bearlake.org.

Utah State University (USU) has a conference facility located at Bear Lake that appears to be perfect for our needs, with a bunkhouse, full kitchen and meeting rooms. We're proposing to meet from June 17-19, 2009 and are tentatively holding the facility with USU for those dates. However, there is competing demand for the conference center, and adjacent weeks are filling up. So we need to confirm that there is sufficient interest to conduct a 2009 Workshop and if so, reserve the facility soon.

Assuming we can get commitments from enough participants to make a 2009 Workshop worthwhile, HTI is willing to fund the USU conference center rental. There's no charge to attend the Workshop, but attendees will be responsible for their own transportation and food costs. Typically we have some shared dinners together and people can contribute to those expenses, if they are interested. Free lodging is available in the bunkhouse, accommodating up to twenty people. If you prefer to camp, Bear Lake State Park campgrounds are located within a few miles of the Utah State University facility. Reservations for camping can be made by calling 1-800-322-3770 and indicating that you would like to camp at "Rendezvous Beach". Even though we aren't charging a

registration fee for the 2009 Workshop, we do need notice of commitment by a sufficient number of people to justify the event (and rent the facility). We are setting a "registration" deadline of March 6, 2009 in order to establish that we have enough attendees to proceed with the Workshop again this year. Another motivator to respond is that Workshop attendance space will be held on a "first come, first served" basis, meaning that if we have more interest than available space at the facility, we may have to turn down some late applicants. This hasn't been a problem in the past, but be aware.

The 2009 Workshop will follow the same format as previous meetings with informal presentations of results and challenges our participants have encountered in their assessments, followed by group discussions. All attendees will have ample opportunity to discuss their current research programs, data collection and analysis procedures, and ask questions in an open forum setting. We are asking for volunteers to serve as discussion leaders to introduce topics and summarize your experience and/or questions on the matter. Topics of discussion at past workshops have included survey design, statistical analyses of acoustic data, optimizing resolution of fish targets near the bottom/surface, data collection parameter selection, database (and other) analysis techniques, and presenting hydroacoustic results within a GIS framework. This is just a sampling of possible topics for 2009, so please suggest your own! I'll also plan to review recent developments in the field of fisheries acoustics.

The workshop assumes that participants have some background in hydroacoustics, i.e. we don't plan to formally review basic acoustic theory or principles. However, previous attendees have had a range of experience, from just starting in the field to career fisheries acousticians, so don't let experience (or a lack of it) keep you from taking part.

At the moment we just need to know:

- Are you interested in attending the proposed Bear Lake Workshop on June 17-19, 2009?
- Topics you would like to see addressed at the meeting and if you would be willing to serve as a discussion leader.
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- Presentation titles and authors. We're hoping that the majority of attendees will have some new or ongoing research that they would be willing to present during the workshop, either as part of a larger topic discussion, or independently. This would involve the standard 15-min PowerPoint presentation, followed by questions and discussion. If you're willing to present, please provide a presentation title and authors and I'll include it in the proposed agenda. It can even be just a rough topic for now; there will be opportunity to refine the presentations before the meeting.
- Your lodging plans for the workshop (so we can keep track of how many are staying in the bunkhouse)

As soon as we have an indication of sufficient interest in a 2009 Workshop, we will be assembling a draft agenda based on your input and the research topics you want to present or discuss at the meeting. We'll plan to forward the draft agenda by early April to all attendees for comment and revision. We will also include a summary of the Bear Lake meeting logistics (i.e. directions, contacts, schedules, etc.) at that time.

Please let me know if you would be interested in participating in the 2009 Bear Lake Hydroacoustic Workshop by responding to: Workshop2009@htisonar.com. Caroline Mercado and Colleen Sullivan here at HTI are assisting in the planning effort, and one of us will be back in contact with you shortly regarding the Workshop status and any questions you might have. If you aren't interested in the Workshop and would prefer to not receive future e-mails regarding the meeting, please let me know and I will remove you promptly from this mailing list.

Thanks for your consideration and I hope you will be able to attend. And please feel free to forward this announcement to any of your colleagues that might be interested in attending the Workshop.

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