

Looking Astern to Chart Our Way Forward

Emily Tidey (New Zealand)

Key words: History; Hydrography; Professional practice

SUMMARY

In order to prepare current and future generations of hydrographers, we should reflect on what has come before us. By considering our professional history we can highlight the changes that have occurred and more accurately envisage those that may lie in our future.

A 250 year subset of hydrographic history was studied in Aotearoa/New Zealand in 2019 as part of commemorations of dual Māori and European history - since the crew of Cook's Endeavour visited the country. For this work, the contemporary experiences of hydrographers in Australasia were compared to those of Cook (Tidey, Jurgens and Morrison, 2019), and a consideration of the evolution of methods and charting outputs was undertaken (Tidey, Morrison and Jurgens, 2019). In these investigations we discovered that some experiences, methods and procedures were relatively constant, even while the technology used evolved rapidly.

By focusing on the responses of the 50 Australasian hydrographers and the past 250 years, this paper shows how long-period comparison provides insights that are useful for the current and future development of 'Smart Surveyors'. The methods and learnings from our research are shared so that others may be able to undertake similar studies and learn from their own professional survey and spatial ancestors. The thoughts of our contemporary hydrographic personnel on the past, current and future of the profession that are presented in Tidey, Jurgens and Morrison (2019) are now analysed in the context of the Smart Surveyor and current hydrography-related projects such as UN Development Goal 14: Life Below Water and The Nippon Foundation-GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project.

Our 2019 discussion also has limitations in its considerations. To strengthen and develop our profession, diverse representation is needed. Our initial work primarily focused on European history

and demonstrated the continuation of this legacy in the responses of our modern-day hydrographers. Their answers highlighted the current equity imbalances in hydrography, but we provided little further comment. This paper outlines thoughts on ways we might develop more diverse inclusion and representation in our sector of the profession.

Tidey, E. J., Jurgens, K. M., & Morrison, J.-L. B. (2019). Cook: Our professional ancestor. *New Zealand Surveyor*, 305(December), 79-112.

Tidey, E. J., Morrison, J.-L. B., & Jurgens, K. M. (2019). Charting our history. *New Zealand Surveyor*, 305(December), 131-161.

Looking Astern to Chart Our Way Forward (11188)
Emily Tidey (New Zealand)

FIG e-Working Week 2021
Smart Surveyors for Land and Water Management - Challenges in a New Reality
Virtually in the Netherlands, 21–25 June 2021