



Taihoro Nukurangi

Multibeam echosounder mapping to identify seafloor habitats

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Data coverage





- Kongsberg EM302, 30kHz
- 7000 m swath in 2500 m water depth
- Dual swath giving 864 soundings per ping
- Water column data recording



Bathymetry - where geology meets biology



Taihoro Nukurangi

Northwest D'Urville

Site 2.3:

- bathymetry data
 reveal the shape and
 depth of the seafloor
- grid resolution of10 m and 2 m





Northwest D'Urville

Site 2.3:

strength of the return
 signal (backscatter)
 provides valuable
 information on the
 bottom types

data recorded
 throughout the full water
 column can characterise
 water masses, fish
 schools, other features









Seafloor depressions





Seafloor depressions













Strike Ridges







Sediment Waves







Sediment Waves





Sediment Ripples



Images from Biogenic Habitats on the Continental Shelf project



Stephens Passage



Images from Malcolm Francis



Benthic Terrain Model









BTM – Seafloor depression, Strike Ridges & Sediment Waves







Hikurangi Survey



enhancing the benefits of New Zealand's natural resources

N-I-WA

Taihoro Nukurangi

Hikurangi Survey





Hikurangi Survey





Summary

- A mapping initiatives using both NIWA's shallow-water and deep-water, high-resolution multibeam echo-sounders have been undertaken to map the seafloor bathymetry and identify habitat types.
- Bathymetry, backscatter, water column data and derivatives of bathymetry (benthic terrain models) can be interpreted together to describe a variety of geomorphic features and classify the seafloor into mappable zones with distinct environmental conditions.
- NIWA has produced a range of digital and charting products that can be used to define habitat types, aid habitat demarcation, and inform future sampling around New Zealand.
- The approach used herein can help endusers to better characterise marine areas and plan for the preservation of indigenous biodiversity.
- Identifying and characterising important habitats for biodiversity will improve ongoing monitoring of the state of the coastal and marine environment.



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Legacy data sourced form NIWA data catalogue



Imaging fluid seeps using water-column backscatter data



Single beam echo sounders: Limited spatial coverage Serendipitous

Law et al 2010



Imagery: Local details





Multibeam echo sounders: Broad spatial coverage Complete seafloor bathymetry Full imaging of flares



noaa.gov

Water column database





RV Ikatere

- 14m inshore survey catamaran
- EM2040 installed on Ikatere
- Retractable pole mount
- Diver fitted to Tangaroa





NIWA Kongsberg EM2040

- 2040-04 Single TX/RX System
- 0.4° TX 0.7° RX
- Frequency range of 200, 300 & 400 kHz
- 300 kHz used for normal survey operation
- Dual swath giving 800 soundings per ping
- Water column data recording



