#### **Best practices in topo-bathymetric lidar collection & processing**



Tim Webster, Nathan Crowell, Kevin McGuigan, Candace MacDonald, Kate Collins + many



#### CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION FOR INNOVATION

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## Outline

- Quick intro to CH2 topo-bathymetric lidar Processing flowchart/research products
- Real-time turbidity buoys
- Detection of 1 x 1 m cubes
- Variable AGL 300 vs. 400 m + overlap
- Multi-use products from
  - the topo-bathy survey
  - Conclusions





Source: Leica Geosystems

Dense point cloud of lidar data captured for the by several flight lines. Halifax, 2014

THE

o photo line







## Research & Development of additional map products



## Turbidity & Wind Direction, Cape John





If wind is blowing between 270 and 90 degrees (from NW or NE) & Wind speed is > 25 km/hr

Water can take between 8 and 16 hours to clear



Oct. 2015 Max. Depth 4 m

Sept. 2014 Max. Depth 6 m





Cape John 2014 Lidar Survey (4/m4) bdS build (km/h) 45 0 15 0 1 30 01/Oct/14 Wind Dir (°) 180 06 30 01/Oct/14 30 01/Oct/14 



3 CB-50s D-cell batteries

Modem + Turbidity

1 CB-150 Solar Panel + Modem + Wind Temp + + Turbidity









#### 2016 Mission utilizing the Turbidity Buoys







-3.83 m

0 100 200 m

**Neguac CSR** 









2









#### 2016 Mission utilizing the Turbidity Buoys

Cape John - John Bay 2016 - Detail of Flight Window







-7.842285156 -2.313012123 3.21626091 8.745533943 14.2748069



## Point Densities at 300m and 400m Altitude

	Nominal Point Density (pt/m <sup>2</sup> )		
300m Altitude Data Collection	Single Line	Overlap	Double Overlap
Bathymetry Points	2.1	. 3.6	6.5
Topo + Bathy Laser (Ground Points)	33.8	56.4	112.7
Topo Laser Only (Ground Points)	29.0	55.6	97.9

400m Altitude Data Collection	Single Line	Overlap	Double Overlap
Bathymetry Points	1.6	3.1	4.9
Topo + Bathy Laser (Ground Points)	20.6	47.4	80.9
Topo Laser Only (Ground Points)	19.3	46.7	79.9

Point density increased on average of approximately 20% at 300 metre altitude over 400 metres.

### Point Cloud gridded to 50cm resolution



400m Single Flightline



400m Overlapping Flightlines

50m



### Point Cloud gridded to 50cm resolution



300m Single Flightline



300m Overlapping Flightlines

50m





400 m 60% overlap 300 m 60% overlap

### Bathymetry Standard Deviation vs AGL & Depth



**300m** at depth of 4.5m:368 Pts, St Dev 0.07Bottom points

4.5m

400m at depth of 4.5m:385 Pts, St Dev 0.10Bottom points



**300m** at depth of 7.3m: 209 Pts, **St Dev 0.20** Bottom points



**400m** at depth of 7.3m: 155 Pts, **St Dev 0.25** Bottom points



#### Cape John Topo-Bathymetric testing area



N\_Profile S\_Profile

Surveys conducted Sept. 26, 2014, 400 m 30% Oct. 28, 2015, 400 m 30% July 13, 2016, 400 m 30% July 19, 2016, 400 m 30% Aug. 30, 2017, 400 m, 60% Aug. 30, 2017, 300 m, 60%









## 75 37.5 0 75 m Legend Aug30\_300\_2017\_contours Aug30\_400\_2017\_contours July19\_2016\_contours July 13\_2016\_contours









![](_page_32_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

Lidar DEM profiles northward with & without refraction & speed adjustment

20170830\_400 --- 20170830\_400NR

![](_page_34_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_36_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_0.jpeg)

### Detecting Submerged Features 1m Metal Cubes placed within Survey Area

![](_page_38_Picture_1.jpeg)

## 1m Metal Cubes as seen in Airborne Imagery

![](_page_39_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_0.jpeg)

400m altitude: 10 returns from three flightlines (3, 4, and 3 returns on each pass)

![](_page_40_Figure_2.jpeg)

400m altitude: 6 returns from three flightlines (2, 2, and 2 returns on each pass)

Light scattering with depth + beam divergence

1m Metal Cubes in the Point Cloud: Number of detected returns and effect of beam divergence on point distribution

![](_page_40_Figure_6.jpeg)

300m altitude: 11 returns from two flightlines (4 and 7 returns on each pass)

![](_page_40_Figure_8.jpeg)

300m altitude: 9 returns from two flightlines (5 and 4 returns on each pass)

### Classification of Submerged Features Strength or Amplitude-Intensity of the Returns

![](_page_41_Picture_1.jpeg)

Spatially points returned off the 1m Metal Cube are indistinguishable from the surrounding water column noise

![](_page_41_Picture_3.jpeg)

However, intensity of these returns are much higher than the surrounding water column noise. This noise can be filter out using intensity thresholds

### 1m Metal Cubes in gridded surface (50cm resolution), 5m depth

![](_page_42_Picture_1.jpeg)

400m Altitude

![](_page_42_Picture_3.jpeg)

300m Altitude

## Submerged Cubes: Shag Harbour (July 2016)

![](_page_43_Figure_1.jpeg)

North Cube

#### ▲ South Cube

![](_page_44_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### July 11 survey

~4.5 m water Surrounded by eelgrass

> ~5.8 m water Surrounded by ??

## North Cube July 13, 2016

![](_page_46_Picture_1.jpeg)

2.5

![](_page_46_Picture_2.jpeg)

Increased wind-fetch on the 11<sup>th</sup>, glint effects the photos and obstructs seeing the cube

![](_page_47_Picture_0.jpeg)

## Southern Cube, too deep to see

![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Figure_0.jpeg)

124.00

Intensity difference highlights the cube

![](_page_49_Picture_2.jpeg)

1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 -1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 - 1999 -

July 11

![](_page_49_Picture_4.jpeg)

July 13

and the second second

Second collection with cube removed

Can we detect boulders in such an environment?

**Cross-Section** 

![](_page_50_Picture_2.jpeg)

Can we detect boulders in such an environment?

Exposed ground

# Lidar point cloud

**Cross-Section** 

![](_page_51_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Figure_0.jpeg)

Stronger return From shallower real target, less scattering in the water column

![](_page_53_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_54_Picture_0.jpeg)

http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/tsb-report-into-deaths-of-3-fishermen-in-tabusintac-released-1.2833664

![](_page_55_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_61_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_62_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_63_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### Landing

The lidar data fills in the shallow area that the CHS Multibean echosounder could not acquire safely. A hybrid continuous elevation model will be constructed for hydrodynamic modelling. Boat Hr

High : 15 Low : -30

CGVD28 (m) 50 25 0

![](_page_63_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_64_Figure_0.jpeg)

9/3/2016 02:00:00, Time step 0 of 144

### Conclusions

- Processing workflow scripted for improved automation, still need human inspection, now includes export of point clouds and raster models to virtual reality and mixed reality devices. Great QA tools
- Continued research into benthic habitat mapping using lidar-orthophoto combination 85% range, + additional waveform metrics
- Best practice around turbidity management for optimal surveys
- $1 \ge 1 \mod 1$  m cubes detectable at depths of 5-6 m on lidar, deeper = wider
- 2017 experiment with standard 400 m AGL vs. 300 m and 60% flight line overlap vs. standard 30% point density increased 20% @ 300m
- Depth effects bottom variance, can use intensity to differentiate real targets vs. water column noise
- Multiple applications of the surveys beyond charting benthic habitat, hydrodynamic models ...

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Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust

![](_page_65_Picture_11.jpeg)

![](_page_66_Picture_0.jpeg)