

GEOHAB2015

MARINE GEOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL HABITAT MAPPING

Marine Habitat Mapping: Challenges of a Warming Ocean First Circular



4th-8th May, 2015

SALVADOR, BAHIA, BRAZIL

<http://www.geohab2015.org>



GEOHAB (Marine Geological and Biological Habitat Mapping) is an international association of marine scientists studying biophysical (i.e., geologic and oceanographic) indicators of benthic habitats and ecosystems as proxies for biological communities and species diversity.

The GeoHab 2015 annual conference will be held for the first time in South America. in the historic city of Salvador-Brazil, from the 4th to the 8th of May. We are pleased to invite you to come to Brazil and join us in 2015.

The annual conference brings geologists, biologists, acousticians, statisticians, spatial analysts and environmental managers from around the world and provides a truly multidisciplinary forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas that underpin sustainable ocean management.



VENUE GeoHab 2015 will take place at the Pestana Hotel, in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil from the 4th to the 8th of May, 2015.



LOCATION The conference venue is located in the central area of Salvador city, capital of the state of Bahia. Salvador was the first capital of Brazil and for many years after its founding (March, 29, 1549), it was the largest city in the Americas and an important center of the sugar industry and slave trade. This legacy remains today in its Afro-Brazilian culture and large black population.



THEMES for the 2015 Conference:

Oceanographic Variables in Marine Habitat Mapping: Habitat diversity and distribution is a result of the interplay between different oceanographic variables. How can we integrate biological, geological, chemical and physical variables in habitat mapping? The session will explore multidisciplinary approaches to habitat mapping, including case studies.

Acoustic Backscatter: Applications, Challenges and Best Practices: This session aims to bring together studies focusing on backscatter applications and challenges to habitat mapping and the best practices, expanding on the results of the GeoHab Backscatter Working Group.

Habitat Mapping for Marine Spatial Planning: sustainable use of Marine Natural Resources is a major concern all over the world. In this context, marine habitat mapping is a major step in the identification of areas suitable to the establishment of Marine Protected Areas. The main goal of this session is to present studies/experiences from different regions of the world focused on the use of habitat mapping for marine spatial planning.

Heterogeneity of Tropical Seas Habitats: The tropical oceans present a high degree of spatial heterogeneity of its geo and biodiversity. From the Amazon Plume to the Tropical Coral reefs of Arolhos and the storm-dominated environments in the south, a number of different geological/sedimentological settings are represented along the Brazilian Margin. We welcome case studies from the Brazilian Margin and other regions of the world focusing on habitat heterogeneity.

Coastal, Shelf and Deep-Sea Habitats: This session aims to bring together studies from all over the world involving case studies on seabed habitat mapping.

Technology, Methods and New Approaches in Marine Habitat Mapping: linking acoustics, ground-validation and modelling: Following the workshop held in Geohab 2014, this session will explore new technologies and approaches for habitat mapping and predictive modelling.

Geohabitat Mapping Applications to Marine Energy and Mineral Industries: The expansion of oil exploration to deep and ultra-deep waters and renewed interest in Marine Minerals raise a series of issues concerning marine habitat protection and conservation in jurisdictional and international areas. How are the industry, government and academia dealing with this?





WORKSHOP: The workshop for 2015 to be held on the 4th of May is titled:
"Connecting Coastal and Nearshore Mapping Techniques"
Further details will be available in the second circular on the 1st of December 2014.

IMPORTANT DATES:

2014

December 1st: Second Circular
December 8th: Registration and Submission of abstracts OPEN

2015

January 7th: Student support application CLOSES.
February 28th: Abstract submission CLOSES.
March 16th: Authors notified of acceptance of abstracts
April 4th: CLOSE of early bird registration
May 4th: Pre conference workshop. Registration OPENS. Pestana Hotel - Ice breaker party.
May 5th: Conference oral and poster presentations
May 6th: Conference oral and poster presentations and Conference Dinner
May 7th: Conference oral and poster presentations
May 8th: Field trip

REGISTRATION FEE: Information will be made available in the near future on the GeoHab 2015 website and will be provided in the 2nd circular.

ACCOMMODATION: Delegates are responsible for making their own reservations. Salvador has many beautiful places to stay. However we strongly recommend delegates to stay at the Pestana Hotel. The organizing committee has negotiated discount rates for those staying at the Pestana Hotel and placing their reservations until April 4th. Only those booking their rooms through our official agent (Taticca Eventos - geohab2015@taticcaeventos.com) will be entitled to the discounted rates)





FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Check the GeoHab 2015 website (<http://www.geohab2015.org>)

CO-CONVENERS

Alex Bastos (Federal University of Espirito Santo, Brazil)
Helenice Vital (Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil)
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