

NZ Bathymetry – *Mapping the farm*

New Zealand is a submerged continent where 96% of the land area is underwater - an area similar to the size of Australia. New Zealand's marine estate includes the territorial sea, EEZ and ECS (equivalent to twenty-three times the island area of NZ), and the Ross Sea. This vast area represents a huge opportunity (and responsibility) for the nation that needs to be managed appropriately.

In the last 10 years the government of NZ has implemented several ocean policy initiatives to delineate and survey this area, to ensure certainty of title and to guide management decisions in its role as custodian and steward.

The presentation will focus on the importance of bathymetry as a fundamental dataset for the benefit and prosperity of all NZ society. Bathymetry provides the framework for understanding the marine environment and to guide the management of the flora, fauna and physical resources in, under and on the oceans. The merits and vision of past and current projects and initiatives will be examined and their success discussed. This will lead to consideration of a future goal and discussion of what is required to achieve it.