

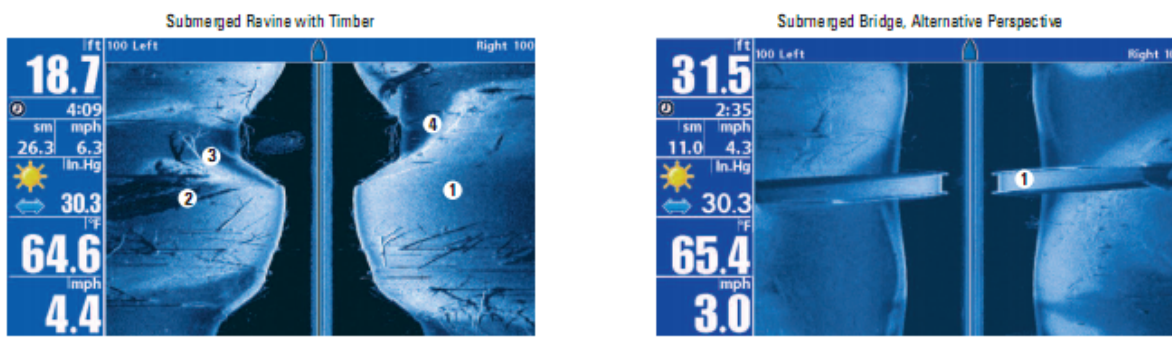


Humminbird Side Scan Imagery in HYPACK®

By Pat Sanders

Humminbird is a company that is well-known by sportsmen for their excellent Fishfinders. During the 2011 HYPACK USA seminar, one of the Corps of Engineers hydrographers mentioned that Humminbird now offered a unit (998c SI) that provided side scan imagery and wondered if we could either read their system in real time, or generate a mosaic in post-processing. This is a low-cost system that uses a vessel-mounted transducer and generates some very good looking imagery.

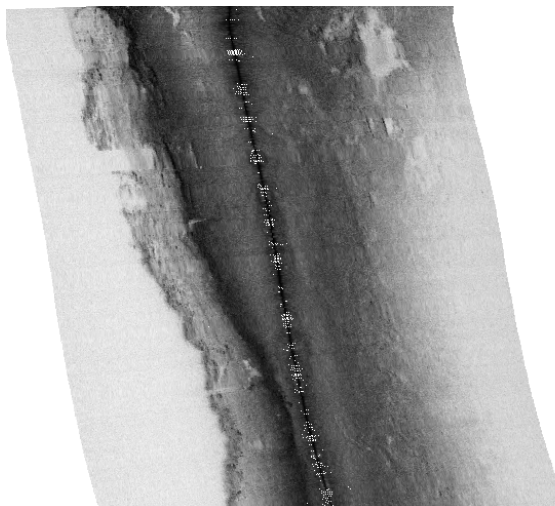
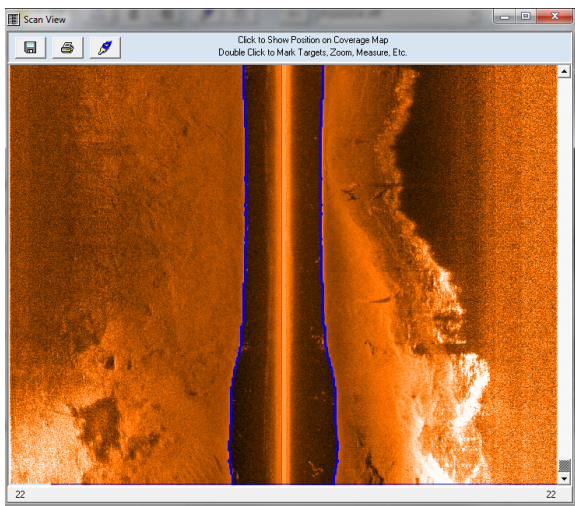
FIGURE 1. Screen captures from Humminbird 998c SI



Their manual showed that they logged their side scan imagery data to an internal *.SON file. This is a proprietary format that they aren't interested in sharing. However, they include a SON2XTF conversion utility that can take the SON format data and re-format it to XTF, an industry standard format that HYPACK® supports.

One of our Corps hydrographers forwarded us an XTF file they had converted using their SON2XTF utility. Harold Orlinsky, of HYPACK, immediately loaded it up into our SIDE SCAN TARGETING AND MOSAIC program without any intermediate steps.

FIGURE 2. Humminbird XTF in the Side Scan Waterfall Window (left), The Resulting GeoTIF from our Program (right)



We then took the resulting GeoTIF file and converted it to KML so we could view the imagery in Google Earth™ and check out our geometry. The shoreline from the GeoTIF matched perfectly with the background details in Google Earth™!



Note: In order to accomplish the accurate positioning, you will need to send your DGPS position data directly into the Humminbird unit.

In summary:

- No. We cannot log/display the data from the Humminbird side scan in real time.
- Yes. You can download the imagery data from the Humminbird unit and convert it to an XTF file that loads straight into our SIDE SCAN TARGETING AND MOSAIC program.
- This unit looks to be an excellent value for hydrographers working in shallow water environments who can use a hull-mounted side scan.