New Multibeam Interfaces for 2012

By Harold Orlinsky

With the release of HYPACK® 2012, the ENL WASSP Multibeam sonar interface has been added to our list of supported sonars. This multibeam sonar is one of several new systems released this year, aimed for users who are on a limited budget, but want to use multibeam technology.

During the past few months, data was collected with this system by ENL and a few survey groups, to verify the HYSWEEP® interface was working properly. One data set, shown in Figure 1, is of the Lake Washington PB4Y plane wreck—probably the most surveyed plane ever! Sitting on a slope at 150 feet, the plane and debris field can be observed.

FIGURE 1. *TIN MODEL Showing the Lake Washington PB4Y Bomber.*

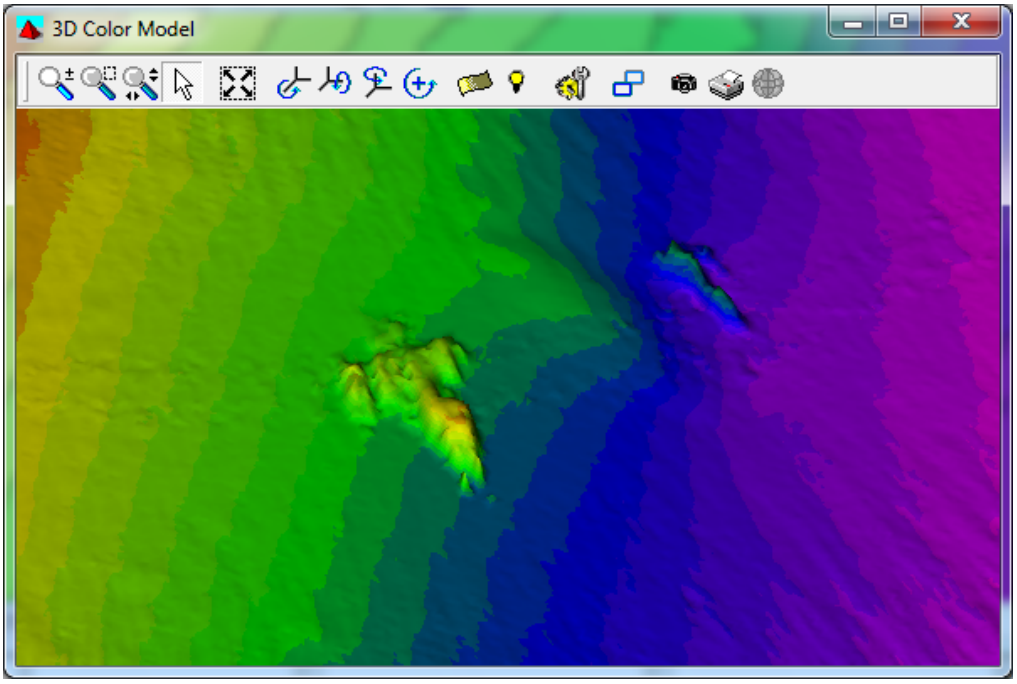
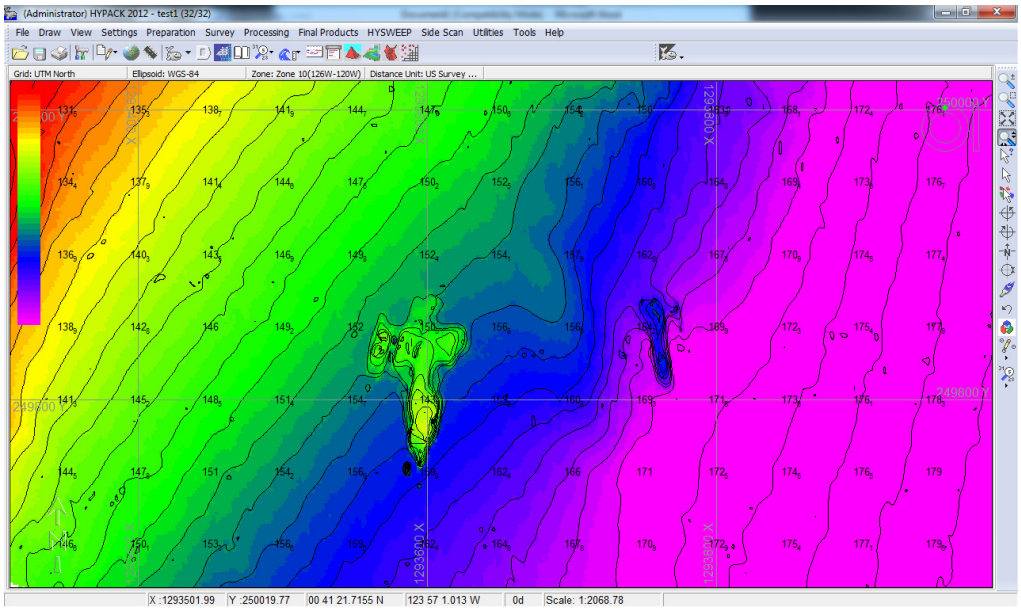


FIGURE 2. *HYPACK® Display of Data with Contour and Soundings*



Recently at Oceanology International, several sonar manufactures were showing their new low cost multibeam systems. These portable sonars, weighing just a few pounds, can be used on many different platforms. Although limited in some respect to their higher cost competition. With a larger beam angle, shallower depth range or smaller swath coverage, these systems may open the market for users who, in the past, wanted this technology but could not afford the equipment. As we go through 2012, you will see additional interfaces to these systems.

Updates for the WASSP and the others are all built into the HYSWEEP® SURVEY and HYSWEEP® HARDWARE programs, but it will be important for you to do a bit of homework. *Know the limitation of these systems.* As long as you know what the system can and cannot do, the system may fill your survey needs, obtaining full bottom coverage of the seafloor.