



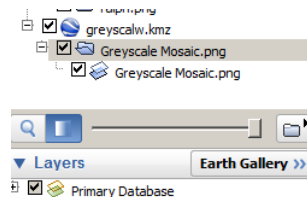
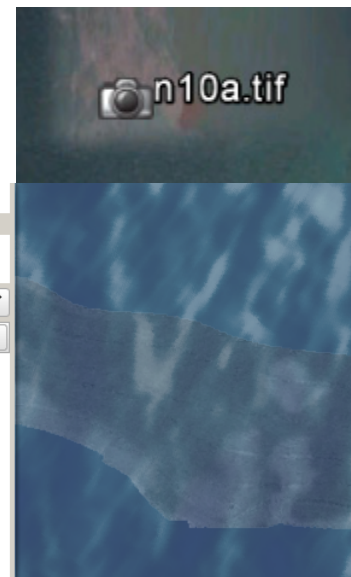
Outputting TIF images to Google Earth™

by Jerry Knisley

Recently we had a customer call with a problem about exporting TIF images to Google Earth™. In our testing, we have found that there is a limit to the size of a file that Google Earth™ will accept. The limit appears to be about 20 Mbytes. If you try to import a KMZ file that has an image greater than 20 Mbytes, Google Earth™ will show a large red square with an x in the middle of it.

When I was researching the problem, I learned a few things about using the HYPACK® files in Google Earth™.

- When you bring a TIF image directly into Google Earth™, the image is not drawn. The program places a camera where the image should be and you can view the image link by clicking on the camera.
- HYPACK® does not export TIF images in the KMZ file. Each TIF is converted to a PNG file so that the image is drawn to the map. The reason that we use PNG files is that Google Earth™ allows a PNG file to be transparent. This is a cool feature when plotting side scan over a map with features you want to view (eg. a bridge or a dock) through the side scan. Unfortunately, I didn't have a good example of side scan on my computer so this is a transparent side scan out in the ocean.



To overcome the size limitation, the software would have to be adapted to break the exported image into a sort of tile system. It would then pack the tiles into a single KMZ which would then be unpacked by Google Earth™ and reassembled on the map. This has been proven to work with other files, but it is not a quick fix.