



SeaStarNews

News, information and observations for commercial fishing professionals

SeaStar Technology Helps Train Japanese Students for Careers in Marine Industries

Uwajima Fisheries High School is located in Ehime Prefecture, Japan. The Ehime prefecture has a rich history that includes a strong association with commercial fishing. The name Ehime comes from the Kojiki meaning "beautiful maiden." The prefecture includes both high mountains in the inland region and a long coastline, with many islands in the Seto Inland Sea.

Since 1945, the high school has played an important role in training students on all facets of working in the marine industry. The school of about 190 students studies marine science, fisheries, marine electronics, maintenance and engine mechanics. The school operates two training vessels where students can gain practical experience in many disciplines.



Photo: (left to right) Captain Izaki (Ehime Maru), Masatoshi Tanaka, (Kaisho Co. Ltd., SeaStar Agent)

In February 2001, the school suffered the loss of four students, two teachers and three crew members when the Ehime Maru sank after being struck by the USS Greenville, a U.S. Navy submarine. A memorial to the those lost at sea stands next to the school as well as in Honolulu. The school has since built a new training vessel (also called the Ehime Maru) and continues to train students on the important skills needed for a career in the marine and fishing industry.

For the last four seasons, Captain Izaki of the Ehime Maru training vessel has subscribed to the SeaStar oceanographic service, especially during their long training voyage out to the Hawaiian Islands. Captain Izaki noted that he was easily able to monitor accurate weather conditions and sea current information, in addition to other SeaStar oceanographic information that is introduced to the students showing them how to identify good fishing conditions. Fish caught during the trip helps to defer costs and support teaching efforts.

M3I – Track your Fishing Assets & Productivity!

By Chris Wilson

The SeaStar Team is pleased to introduce the new M3I Sonar Buoy model. The M3I buoy transmits satellite position and echo sounder readings that can help to determine fish under the buoy. It includes a satellite transceiver, GPS, a 50 KHz/500W echo-sounder, sea surface temperature sensor and magnetic On/Off switch.



M3I Sonar Buoy

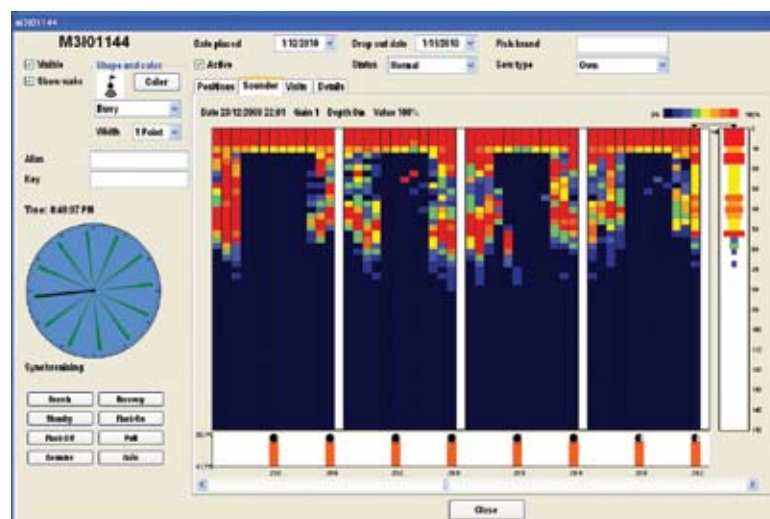
In addition to the echo-sounder information, the M3I buoy transmits by satellite the GPS position in latitude and longitude, a light (flash on/off) and the battery level in volts.

Like the MDS OrbBuoy, the buoy has several modes of communicating buoy report information in addition to the echo-sounder readings.

- ▶ **Battery Saving Mode** – Buoy reports twice a day. Soundings are taken every two hours and sent with position report. Six sonar pings per report.
- ▶ **Approach Mode** – Buoy reports every three hours during 12 hours. Soundings are taken every hour, with three sonar pings per report.
- ▶ **Recovery Mode** – Buoy reports once immediately upon command, then reports every 15 minutes for two hours, with one sonar ping per report.
- ▶ **Poll Mode** – Buoy reports all data on demand.
- ▶ **Flash Mode** – Activates the high-intensity beacon and causes the buoy to report every 15 minutes for an hour, with sonar one ping per report.

M3I buoys are designed with a double power system that employs solar panels and an alkaline battery pack, providing unlimited autonomy. In addition to gaining valuable sounding data, captains can use the position reports to interpret real-time ocean currents.

For more information, contact seastar@geoeye.com.



M3I Sonar Buoy echo sounder screen .

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About GeoEye

Headquartered in Dulles, Va., GeoEye is a leading producer of satellite, aerial and geospatial information. The company is the premier provider of geospatial data, information and value-added products for the national security community, strategic partners, resellers and commercial customers. GeoEye operates Earth imaging satellites, two mapping aircraft, possesses an international network of regional ground stations, a robust image archive, and advanced geospatial imagery processing capabilities. The company was listed on Nasdaq in September 2006. GeoEye maintains a comprehensive Quality Management System (QMS) and has achieved corporate-wide ISO accreditation. For more information, visit www.geoeye.com.

UPCOMING SEASTAR CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Boston Seafood Show
3/14/10 - 3/16/10 Boston, MA USA

Western Fishboat Owners Association General Meeting
3/29/10 - 3/31/10 Rockland, CA USA

BC Tuna Fishermen's Association Albacore Tuna Convention
4/19/10 - 4/21/10 Victoria, BC Canada

American Albacore Fishing Assn. Annual Meeting
4/9/10 - 4/12/10 San Diego, CA USA

European Seafood Exposition
4/27/10 - 4/29/10 Brussels, Belgium

Tuna 2010 Bangkok
5/20/10 - 5/22/10 Bangkok, Thailand

Navalia Tradeshow
5/18/10 - 5/20/10 Vigo, Spain

SeaStar Agent Workshop
6/23/10 - 6/26/10
Panama City, Panama

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