Remote Sensing Applications in Marine Sciences and Technology,
edited by Anthur P. Cracknell, D. Reidel Publishing Company,
Dordrecht/Boston/Lancaster, 1983 XII + 466 pp. US $ 78.00 (ISBN
90-277-1608-0).

One of the problems in ocean science is the inadequacy of the con-
tentional means to gather information of any feature simultaneously occurring and
its repeated coverages. In this context, remote sensing appears to be a promising
tool. Since the first symposium on 'Oceanography from Space' held at Woodshole
Oceanographic Institute, USA in 1964, several important developments have taken
place in the field of remote sensing of the oceans and it has become a reality now.
The techniques of remote sensing is receiving considerable attention even in de-
veloping countries, like India along with the development in satellite technology. As
this is a fast developing technique in marine sciences, any piece of information
is welcome especially to the scientists and students.

The materials contained in the book under review, are prepared by different
authors as lectures for the summer school on Remote Sensing held at University
of Dundee, Scotland, U.K. in August 1982. It contains 20 chapters covering dif-
ferent aspects of the remote sensing techniques and its application in marine science.
The major topics covered in the book, as indicated in the preface are (i) the
general principles of remote sensing with particular reference to marine applica-
tions, (ii) applications to physical oceanography, (iii) marine resources applica-
tions and (iv) coastal monitoring and protection.

Apart from these, it gives an idea of the present status of remote sensing
in oceanography in different countries not only the developed but also the
developing ones in Asia and Africa. It is appreciable that the texts of the
lectures presented by a wide spectrum of scientists have been well edited and
published in elegance. This book is certainly useful as a text book for students,
teachers, scientists and even general readers because of the rather simple pre-
sentation without hampering the scientific aspects. Since it contains some
regional studies on different ocean parameters, it may be useful as a reference
book even for those who are not directly involved in remote sensing applica-
tions.

Perhaps, a detailed review of the performance of the sensors placed on
SeaSat which survived only for 3 months in the orbit would have been an
added attraction, since those sensors had special relevance to marine science.
However, in Chapter 8, the scatterometer has been described and in Chapters
1, 2 and 20 one can find brief descriptions of most of the sensors.

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