

Re: [OT] Navy releases photos of U.S.S. San Francisco

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Henry Spencer wrote:

>
>*(Such devices really do exist, but whether they are useful and practical*
>*for submarine navigation is not obvious.)*
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>

Triton found some correlation between hers and their search sonar (their fathometer was on the fritz) as far as what depth of water they were traversing... the big problem is that the sea bottom and its topography can be made out of substances of different density (silt, limestone, basalt, granite, etc.), and there are local areas of gravity anomaly due to the underlying geologic structure— and both can throw off the readings on the device. But if you had one of these near the stern of the sub, and one near the bow, then you should get a reading of some sort if you approached a steeply-sloped seamount, such as the sub apparently hit —based on the damaged area— because of the different degree of gravitational attraction at the two ends of the sub as the seamount was approached. The degree of difference and its rate of change at the two ends of the sub could give you the approximate distance to the seamount ahead of you.

Pat