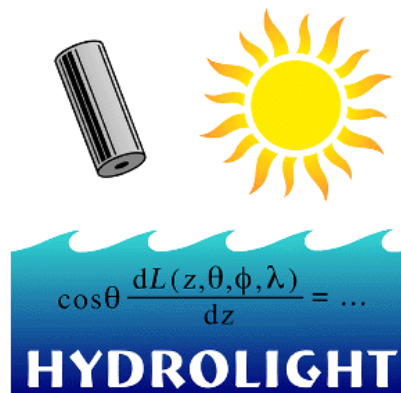


# The Future of HydroLight

Curtis Mobley  
John Hedley



**Curtis:** HydroLight has been part of my entire forty-year career in optical oceanography. It began as an unplanned postdoctoral project and grew from there. (See my *History of HydroLight* for the full story of how HydroLight came to be.) Developing and maintaining HydroLight has always been a sideline to my research, and I never expected—nor had the software engineering skills—to become a software developer. Nevertheless, HydroLight has succeeded beyond all expectations, and it is very gratifying to see it in use by hundreds of scientists around the world.

However, I am phasing into retirement and it is time for HydroLight to find a new home. I therefore transferred ownership of HydroLight to John Hedley effective January 1, 2017. John has the radiative transfer and optical oceanography expertise, software engineering skills, and entrepreneurial drive required to continue developing HydroLight. He has already developed Linux and Apple versions of the code, which are now in final testing, and more such improvements are underway. I am therefore certain that HydroLight will become even better and more useful under his management.

I am currently doing a long-overdue rewrite of the entire numerical code into Fortran 95. The rewritten code, HydroLight Version 6.0, will function just as before, but the resulting code will be much easier to maintain and to modify as new features are added. I will serve as a consultant to John for the indefinite future to insure a smooth transition to the next version of HydroLight.

**John:** It is an honor and a privilege to take over the software that has had such an influence in our field. It's my intention to preserve the current software design, price and licensing model, so please be assured no radical changes are on the horizon. HydroLight 6.0 will include improvements such as versions for Linux and Apple Mac, and direct saving of Excel files (removing the need for the increasingly problematic Excel macros).

The current version, 5.3, will be supported with free upgrades for at least a further three years by me, with Curt's help. Beginning with Version 6.0, you will be able to choose the operating system independently for each of the two installation licenses. For existing HydroLight 5.3 Windows users it is likely there will be a small one-off upgrade fee if you wish to obtain the HydroLight 6.0 Linux or Apple versions. This will help cover the costs of the cross-platform development, after which free lifetime support and upgrades will continue.

I look forward to interacting with the community of HydroLight users and hope that together we can preserve this resource for future generations.

Effective January 1, 2017, purchase orders should be sent to

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Numerical Optics Ltd.  
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At that time, Sequoia Scientific, Inc. became the US distributor for HydroLight. Purchase orders for US licenses can be sent either to me or to

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We are also working with Sequoia's international distributors for HydroLight to continue the network of distributors for HydroLight outside the United Kingdom and the United States.