The Answer Nobody Knew….

By Pat Sanders

While reviewing the results of the HYPACK Certification Test from the 2009 USA HYPACK Seminar, I was a little shocked to find that EVERYBODY who took the test missed a particular question. The most difficult question on the HYPACK Certification Test was (and still is….):

The DXF Format shown to the right is 'Ukrainian Format'. What program would you use to generate 'Ukrainian Format' DXF soundings?

1. *EXPORT TO CAD*
2. *PROJECT CONVERSION*
3. *HYPLOT*
4. *TIN MODEL*

FIGURE 1. Sample Ukranian Format

FIGURE 2. TIN MODEL Export Dialog

Thirty-four hydrographers took the HYPACK Certification Test in San Diego and 34 hydrographers got it wrong. 18 people thought the EXPORT TO CAD program was the answer, 5 thought that PROJECT CONVERSION was the answer and 11 thought that HYPLOT was the answer. NOBODY got the correct answer of the TIN MODEL!

Notice that every sounding is on the planned line and every sounding is equidistant from the previous sounding. In order to generate a DXF file with these attributes, we need to generate a surface model (TIN MODEL) and then export the results to DXF.

The TIN MODEL program has an Export Tab that is normally used to cut sections along planned lines and output the results to our Edited 'All Format' data files.

By checking the 'Output to DXF File' option, it takes the section data (equally spaced, along the planned line) and outputs it to the Ukrainian DXF format shown in the top figure.

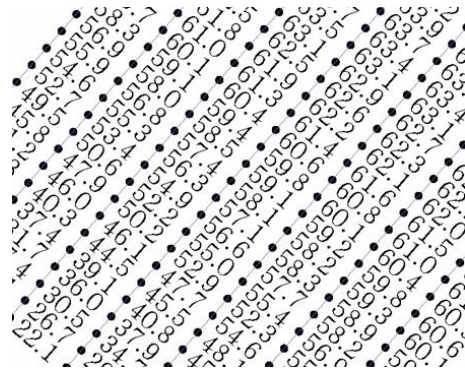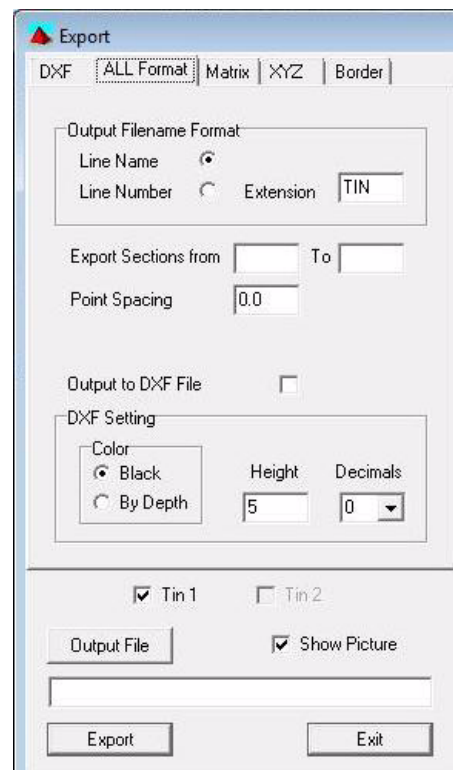Why the 'Ukrainian' in the name? Because a hydrographer at one of our training seminars in Odessa, Ukraine was adamant that this format was needed to meet their national requirements!