

Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership Executive Committee Meeting
Jan 18, 2005 by Conference Call

Attendees: David Mountain, Dan Sampson, Deb Soule, Philip Bogden, Tom Shyka, Evan Richert, Linda Mercer, Bob Branton

Meeting called to order by David Mountain at 12:05PM.

Outreach Efforts – Evan Richert

- Evan reports that xxx is now signed on officially, so we are at 18 partners. Currently working on US Fish and Wildlife and Canadian counterpart. NOAA Coastal Services Center proposal for funding Regional Associations has been submitted. Confident that we will receive funds, which would become available in May/June timeframe. 3-year proposal for the Regional Association. Funding related to the GOMODP would include Host coordinator, (full time 2 1/2 years), also technical assistance for partners (Consultant).
- Have signed an agreement with the Atlantic Reference Center, \$6000 for pilot study by Lou Van Guelpen working with biologic data (CoML \$ must have biological focus) from 5 partners. Data will be entered into GeoConnections/FGDC. Will report in April on progress to Exec Committee, including recommendations on how to proceed with the rest of the partners. Will try to have pilot done by end of March. Datasets from NMFS, MEDMR, ENET (Birds), Stellwagen Bank, will be included.
- Marine Lab at the Isle of Shoals, Bemis, 30-year dataset of transects looking at biological data interested in joining the partnership (D. Mountain contact).
- Evan has been talking with Woods Hole to sign on as a member. Have been participating without officially joining. Discussion on who should be approached – wanting to remain open to anyone who would like to join, but stay manageable. “Ongoing” datasets remain the critical focus. Individual vs. Institutional membership – University entities are currently programs, not the PI or the entire institution.
- MA/RI Bays Observing System invitation came to D. Mountain this month. Discussion on how this fits into the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association. This is an area of overlap with the NE Region.

Technical Committee Update – Deb Soule

- Half of the group will be meeting in person next week – the rest by conference phone. Total of about 15 people.
- Paul Currier of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council (and also Deb’s immediate supervisor at NHDES) was looking for a presentation on the Ocean Data Partnership at their summer conference in Portsmouth on July 26-28, 2005. Michelle Tremblay was to contact Evan. Local interest section will be the appropriate section to present in. Tom will likely be

the appropriate presenter on topic of interoperability. Evan would attend on day of presentation and look to recruit partners for the partnership.

- Technical committee to come up with recommendations for the projects outlined in the work plan.

Workplan discussion

- Lou's project should help enable us to get the bulk of the partners registered by the end of the year. Will help us to understand costs, timing.
- Regarding data access, there are multiple access points to the data, none ideal. For example, Canadian/US registries are not linked up. Will need to consider some marketing on the availability of data through these sources. Need to make home site suited to make metadata and keywords available via Google or some other search engine in addition to GeoConnections or FGDC. Primary access point may be the Regional Association's website for partnership data.
- Major issue is guidelines – there are many out there. The technical committee will begin tackling this next week. Species list, ITIS available, but others are also out there. May need to combine lists to make a comprehensive list. Lou Van Guelpen may be able to assist in this. Also need a parameter list, for non-animal related data. Gazetteer is important. Goal is to avoid duplication. Need for a comprehensive parameter list (types of observations) – Global Ocean Observing System has developed one – D. Mountain to provide that to Deb Soule.
- Species List, Parameter List, Datapoint Location – ie. Lat/Long reference (Gazetteer (uniformity in spelling of place names, locations of place names, etc.)) all must be defined to move forward.
- Lou Van Guelpen's project is intended to provide input on Metadata to the technical committee. May need to adjust the project timing to enable the committee to work with him.

Coastal Ocean Information Network (COIN) – Bob Branton

- Mike Butler is responsible. Meeting tomorrow that Bob is attending regarding initial partnership arrangements. Will likely focus on non-structured data – reports, papers.
- In April at BIO will be a BIO “GeoSpatial showcase.” International Keynote speaker, Panel Two, BIO data providers showing available data. Panel three, groups trying to get a handle on data, such as GoMODP, COIN. Looking for speakers, possibly from CoML, GoMOOS. Policy type discussion probably important. Date TBD based on availability of external participants.

Next agenda will include results of Tech Committee discussion. Expect that the Exec Committee should meet at least every two months.