

Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership Executive Committee Meeting Notes
March 21, 2005
NHDES Conference Room and by Conf Call

Attendees: David Mountain, Dan Sampson (phone), Deb Soule, Philip Bogden, Evan Richert, Linda Mercer, Bob Branton (phone)

Planned Agenda:

- 1230 Technical Committee activities - Deb
- 1315 Regional Association update - Evan
- 1400 Content Management Systems (e.g., Plone) - Bob
- 1430 Other business (e.g., 'How are we doing?')
- 1500 Adjourn

Meeting called to order by David Mountain at 1:00PM.

Technical committee update

- The technical committee has held 2 meetings to date (Jan and March) – need to send out an email to the larger group with minutes rather than just posting to the wiki site. Meeting topics included data authority, common language, survey next steps. Sylvia/Tom to work on putting the survey on the wiki site for partners to fill out. Exec committee discussion indicated that the survey will actually become the minimal FGDC metadata record that each partner will need to supply. The marine metadata website has the information needed to identify the minimal metadata – we might want to incorporate any missing pieces in the survey.
- Lou's project is underway and will yield information about the relative size of the project associated with bringing each partner up to speed. Lou's project includes ME DMR, NMFS, Wells NERR, SeaNET, Stellwagen. At this point we expect that he has heard from each of them to begin work.
- Bob B. pointed out that we are really working within a continuum such that different partners will likely publish varying amounts of metadata, but the goal would be to use GeoConnections or FGDC clearinghouse for the minimum common denominator. The global change master directory (GCMD) may serve as the main catalog.
- The relative status of each partner will fall out of the survey. This also enables us to deal with the interoperability piece of the puzzle in an incremental fashion. We are trying to get the first round of information for the interoperability piece by the end of the summer at the latest.
- Sylvia to talk to Tom about moving the survey into a database format, and also establish if there are any other pieces of information that will enable us to have a minimally compliant FGDC metadata record out of the survey results. Philip will work with Sylvia on the subject of creating an interactive form for people to fill out.

- The partnership may choose to get information from the GCMD and then provide a value added service from there. These options can be further explored as we go along in an incremental fashion.
- Questions from the tech committee:
 - Do we need an organizational page in Geoconnections for the GoMODP?
 - Username/password: GOMODP/datashare
 - Bob will follow up
 - How far into the watersheds do we go for data interests?
 - Exec committee determined that data includes all of the watershed – beyond head of tide in order to be as comprehensive as possible. Don't see a reason to limit data supplied in the long run, but will start with surface water, sources of marine contamination. Datasets should have some ocean component. Focus is on long-term data collection efforts (multiple year or ongoing projects) or stable databases.
 - Outreach committee will seek members who have data within the Gulf of Maine watershed, not beyond. Try to retain the ability to sort by some kind of geographic unit.
 - Focus will be on participation by partners. Goal is a scalable system that will ultimately meet the need of encompassing as many datasets as possible.
 - Technical committee should ultimately determine the outer bounds of the Gulf of Maine watershed. The Gulf of Maine Times includes a useful map that can help to clarify the watershed for our purposes at this time.
 - Need to change April 14th meeting date, as the survey will be delayed. Deb to follow up.

Regional Association

- As part of the IOOS, the NOAA Coastal Services Center over the past two years has been trying to provide seed funds for 9 regional associations. These RAs will become the gateways for future federal dollars coming into the regions for highest priority observation systems. RA will become the cornerstone within each IOOS.
- We (Philip B., Evan R., Janet C., David M., Bob W.) applied for a grant in Dec. and we have been recommended for funding. GoMOOS will remain the host with the GoMODP as the target organization. Funds have been earmarked for a half-time staff person for 3years. Additional funds earmarked for technical services – data integration. This could be programmers, etc. very open ended. Total funding is over \$100K.

Content Management Systems

- Went back to Bob's presentation from December 7th to see initial discussion on Plone, which is a Content Management service. Discussion on the relative benefit of using Plone or Zope (one level below Plone) and the difference between this and the wiki site. The ultimate goal is to create a central location to begin establishing an outward identity to the GoMODP.

- Discussion on aggregator vs. content management system and the goal of developing interoperability. Ultimately it remains undefined whether we want a separate website for the partnership vs. the regional association. It is likely that there will be multiple data aggregators and the necessity of a separate identity for the GoMODP is not certain. Sylvia to distribute sample websites in the minutes for further discussion.
- Different sites will be tasked with enabling different types of integration, i.e. CMB = biodiversity, etc. Interoperability enables integration. Integration enables funding. Integration occurs at a variety of levels.

Other Business

- a. Next exec committee meeting will include an item to begin working on the “year 2” workplan.
- b. NMFS has received notice of new funding to work with GoMOOS to enable programming time to get data outside the firewall and enable interoperability.
- c. Funding is a critical issue. Need to engage multi-agency buy-in, something that the DMAC steering committee is working on. Regional efforts are gaining acceptance, and can give rise to additional resources. This effort is strategic and a few good demonstration projects will improve our chances of funding.
- d. Membership news – Gulf of Maine Fish and Wildlife Service, Stewart Fefer will be signing. Bob Groman has taken up the banner for WHOI. This will make 20 partners. The Gulf of Maine Research Institute may consider joining. Maine DEP is next on the list. Division of Marine Fisheries and Department of Environmental protection would be the next contacts in Massachusetts.
- e. Geological Survey of Canada has their own data service and to date has not chosen to join the group or respond to inquiries. Mid-June (Bob to double check date) there is a BIO internal workshop meeting that might be an opportunity to approach them again. There will also be an opportunity this fall. Environment Canada is another target on the Canadian side.
- f. Next exec committee meeting Tuesday, June 14th. NHDES is the first choice, Deb to check on room availability.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm