

Agenda and Minutes
Technical Subcommittee
Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership (GoMODP)
October, 5, 2004
1 PM Conference Call
Note: Next meeting 10/18, 1pm by conference call

Present: Committee Members: Bob Branton (co-chair), Philip Bogden (co-chair), Joan Palmer (NOAA/NEFSC), Jim Manning, Steve Hale (EPA), Anne Ball (NOAA/CSC)

Goals: Review the goals of the data partnership for new members, as necessary. Discuss & revise the following draft technical elements for the Data Partnership work plan.

1. Identify available data and data products
 - a. Inventory of possible partner contributions
 - b. Issues associate with making data available
2. Dynamic access – technical issues
 - a. Services in use (OGC web services, DiGIR, OPeNDAP, other...?)
 - b. Publication tools in use (FGDC NSDI, GeoConnections discovery portal, other...?)
3. Data access – non-technical issues
 - a. Confidentiality
 - b. Proprietary data
 - c. Attribution
 - d. Validity & Liability
4. Data and Metadata standards in use
 - a. Inventory FGDC, other...?
 - b. Interoperability of standards
5. Technical goals & Demonstration projects
 - a. Existing – OBIS, GoMAP, other, etc.
 - b. Proposed -- Data Partnership project...?
6. Implementation
 - a. Documentation & best practices guidance for data providers
 - b. Making data available –
 - i. Projected cost estimates
 - ii. Possible funding mechanisms

1. Philip provided a technical overview for the purposes of ensuring that we were all on the same page as to the progress of the project to date
2. Discussion on tech issues associated with this project
 - a. Duplication of effort - data served by multiple agencies in different ways
 - b. Institutional issues
 - i. Data quality control
 - ii. Working with internal data owners
 - iii. Myriad of data sets
 - c. Misuse of data
 - i. Communicating sampling protocol or survey design so that datasets don't get misused
 - ii. Proper documentation, proper use of data
 - d. Partnership is a good follow-up to the FGDC project
 - i. Many of these partners were involved
 - ii. Used OGC specifications for data sharing/publication for data that are amendable to GIS display, format and analysis
 - e. Additional standards
 - i. OBIS
 - ii. DiGiR
 - iii. OPeNDAP

- f. Bob B. – BIO used only the mandatory elements of the FGDC protocol to get started on the discovery project. Used OBIS metadata standard via the DiGiR provider standard to the OBIS portal. This was a practical approach given the reality of limited resources, enabling the organizations to live within the spirit of their data publishing policies. We start by using international standards to tell the public what is available. If the public see something that appears useful and they need more than what we have published, then they contact us with a meaningful question and a true collaboration starts. Collaborations could range from : a one off ad-hoc extraction (e.g. spreadsheet) , to reviewing a publication, to development of a standards based operational system (e.g. GoMOOS). In all cases data are authoritative and attributable as to its origin.
 - g. Use of standards is a significant element of the strategy. Constrains what the general public sees. Benefit of the partnership – opens the door to collaboration, allows people to see what is available through standard data. Need to enter into collaboration with the data provider to go beyond the standard. We are not enabling a pipeline directly to the base data.
 - h. For buoy data, general oceanographic community, there are no standards to transmit data. Currently involved in marine metadata initiative – to create some best practices to move toward standardization.
 - i. OBIS is likely to engage in a technology exchange initiative on marine data. Pat Halpin, Duke University, SeaMap project, leading the effort. Working to create a Marine GIS, expanding the standard system of polygons, etc. to include such things as buoys, or the data required to display the track of an animal. GoMODP could participate in this technology exchange.
 - j. OGC provides the interoperability piece to the partnership. MapServer, ESRI, etc. enable the combining of data from different disciplines as long as it can be displayed as map layers.
 - k. Place names need to be authoritative, data must be discoverable. Mandatory elements of the FGDC protocol (40) are sufficient to define data content. OBIS portal is available for discovery.
3. Inventory
- a. Inventory – who has what – short term, cursory.
 - b. Discovery - Use GeoConnections site as a registration site – use “Gulf of Maine Ocean Data Partnership” as a keyword?
 - i. FGDC registration can be daunting
 - ii. Not necessarily turnkey for those that have not done this yet – need some demonstration examples of metadata for various types of datasets
 - c. BIO has gone through the data inventory process several times, started with a list, went to a database, finally went to GeoConnections/FGDC portal
 - i. One organization could be created – GoMODP
 - ii. Administrator can be assigned to enter data
 - iii. This would be a service that the partnership could provide to partners that would make it so that individual providers don’t have to learn the site
 - iv. Using the mandatory elements only simplifies the process
 - v. Key is to start out as we plan to continue
 - d. Ecological metadata language (XML) – provide forms for entering data
 - e. Connections need to be made between FGDC clearing house (NSDI) and GeoConnections

- f. Develop a draft set of instructions for the work plan that will be used to bring partners on board
 - i. Identify disciplines/standards being utilized by various institutions

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