



Alaska SeaLife Center
w i n d o w s t o t h e s e a

NSDI Metadata Implementation and Creation Project

Final Report to USGS

USGS Award 03HQAG0161

Reporting Period: September 16, 2003 through September 16, 2004

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**NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program
Don't Duck Metadata
Project Report: Final**

Agreement Number: 03HQAG0161

Organization: Seward Association for the Advancement of Marine Science dba. Alaska SeaLife Center

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1. **Number of Metadata files created as a result of this project:** 34

2. **Clearinghouse address:** <http://gismetadata.alaskasealife.org>

Comments: The clearinghouse node will be globally available when the firewall is upgraded at the Alaska SeaLife Center allowing for the creation of a secure area (DMZ) for Internet access to these metadata records.

3. **Number of individuals that received training:** 1

Is metadata documentation and creation a part of your organizations workflow?

Yes, Existing spatial products have been updated with FGDC compliant metadata and new GIS files are required to contain compliant metadata records before inclusion into the spatial geo-database. A GIS user group was formed within the Alaska SeaLife Center and the information garnered from the metadata training shared with these users as well as the standards adopted as a result of this project.

4. NA

5. NA

6. **Project Narrative:** Prior to receiving the *Don't Duck Metadata* award spatial data at the Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC) was held by the individual researchers in a variety of formats with no associated metadata. The main accomplishment was the centralization of this GIS information into a secure location and attachment of FGDC compliant metadata records to the datasets. Now, this valuable data is easily accessed and can be shared among the many research projects being conducted here as well as with other organizations. We decided to leverage our investment in ESRI's ArcGIS software by implementing metadata storage and retrieval utilizing ArcCatalog, ArcIMS Metadata Services, and ArcSDE. ArcCatalog stores metadata in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) representation of the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata. The metadata documents stored in an ArcIMS Metadata Server can then be accessed using a client that communicates utilizing Z39.50 protocol.

7. **Feedback on Don't Duck Metadata:** The largest difference this program made was the motivation to centralize and document the spatial data at the ASLC. The training in the value of metadata, and the practical approaches to implementation, eased the process and allowed the ASLC to have a functioning infrastructure for geographical information system storage and sharing. The training was very valuable to the success of this project. An allowance in the budget, for the purchase of hardware directly related to the storage and remote access of metadata, would have also been valuable. The FGDC program management was very supportive and issues were quickly resolved leading to the success of this project.