Building Capacity for Implementation of Distributed Online Metadata Catalogs in the Oregon Coastal and Marine Data Network

An FGDC-endorsed Standards Implementation Training and Outreach Project
NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program 2012 - Interim Project Report

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Collaborating Organizations:

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- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, marine Division (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/mrp/)
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- Institute for Natural Resources, Oregon State University , (http://oregonstate.edu/inr/)
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- Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems, (http://www.nanoos.org/)
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- and other members of the Oregon Coastal and Marine Data Network (http://www.coastalmarinedata.net/)

Executive Summary

This effort seeks to reach out to members of the Oregon Coastal and Marine Data Network (OCMDN) community and introduce them to the capabilities and benefits of sharing data catalogs using open standards. Since receiving CAP funding in June 2012, the OCMDN has established a Catalogs working group that has met monthly in July, August and September 2012 in preparation for the primary activities of the CAP work plan.

In October we conducted a full day introductory workshop on standards compliant catalogs in Corvallis, OR. Publicity for the workshop was conducted primarily via network listservs, at the Oregon framework and west coast regional levels. The workshop was well attended both in person and online with 33 registrants from 25 distinct organizations ranging from local county government to federal agencies, and representing 3 different west coast states. This initial workshop was intended to be informational and designed around demonstrations, rather than training-based.

After our October workshop, a small subgroup of the working group met in November and December 2012 to finalize recruitment plans for the internship portion of our CAP project. DLCD is executing an intergovernmental agreement with network partners Institute for Natural Resources and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for this purpose. Initial recruitment for intern candidates before the Christmas break did not yield sufficient qualified candidates, so the recruitment will be renewed in winter term. Once Internship plans are finalized, we will turn our planning efforts to organizing training opportunities for our network members in the spring.

Project Narrative

Accomplishments and Successes

The Catalogs working group of the OCMDN met monthly in July, August and September 2012 in preparation for the primary activities of the CAP work plan. In October we conducted a full day introductory workshop on standards compliant catalogs in Corvallis, OR. Publicity for the workshop was conducted primarily via network listservs, at the Oregon framework and west coast regional levels. The workshop was well attended both in person and online with 35 registrants from 20 distinct organizations ranging from local county government to federal agencies, and representing 3 different west coast states:

State of Oregon

- Oregon Coastal Management Program (4)
- Oregon DAS GEO (1)
- Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (5)
- Oregon Department of State Lands (1)
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (2)
- Oregon Military Department (1)

Other West Coast state agencies

- California Ocean Protection Council (2)
- Washington Department of Ecology (1)

Federal Agencies

- National Ocean Service, NOAA (3)
- US Environmental Protection Agency (2)

OOS Programs

- Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) (2)
- Oregon Coastal Ocean Observing System (OrCOOS) (1)
- Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS) (1)
- Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) (1)

University

- Active Tectonics and Seafloor Mapping Lab, Oregon State University (1)
- Institute for Natural Resources, Oregon State University (2)
- Oregon Sea Grant (2)
- Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Ocean (PISCO) (1)

Non-Profit

- Ecotrust (1)

This initial workshop was intended to be informational and designed around demonstrations, rather than training based. Presentations from the workshop demonstrations are available online as PDF files at the following links:

- Terminology: Catalog Services for the Web – Tanya Haddad, OCMP
- Elements of of Successful Catalogs
    - Oregon Spatial Data Library- Marc Rempel, OSU
    - NOAA Geoportal Server & Catalog examples – Kim Jenkins, NOAA/NOS
    - Coastal catalogs and Data Management – Kevin Kirby, EPA
- Overview of Catalog Technology – Tim Welch, Ecotrust

More information:

- Participants in the workshop, and their affiliations maybe viewed at the registration page: http://ocmdn3b.eventbrite.com/
- Presentations from the demonstrations are available online as PDF files at the following link: http://www.coastalmarinedata.net/?p=144

Challenges

After our October workshop, a small subgroup of the OCMDN Catalogs working group met in November and December, 2012 to finalize recruitment plans for the internship portion of our CAP project. Early on it was evident that various partners wanted to slightly adjust their roles surrounding the internship portion of the project.

After much consultation and deliberation, it was decided that the workshop planning and facilitation subcontract to INR be merged with the DLCD/ODFW internship as INR was willing and capable of being mentor and host to the intern from within its offices, which are also home to the Oregon Spatial Data Library. This is a deviation from the original CAP proposal. Previously, these 2 line items were separate with INR facilitating workshop and training material design, DLCD being the host organization for the intern, and ODFW contributing the host of the sandbox catalog and Nearshore Ecological Data Atlas test case materials.

Due to INR's location on campus at Oregon State University it seemed logical to co-locate the intern in close proximity to the knowledgeable staff of the OSDL. In return for INR assuming the internship hosting duties, DLCD will take on the primary workshop planning role, and since ODFW encountered difficulty, DLCD will also host the sandbox environment for the NEDA catalog for the duration of the internship. ODFW will continue to provide the raw metadata materials and guidance for the NEDA aspects of the internship, and will test the training materials developed with an eye to long term usability for catalog maintenance.

Initial preliminary recruitment for intern candidates before the Christmas break did not yield sufficient qualified candidates, so the recruitment will be renewed with the onset of winter term. We do not expect this delay in recruitment to significantly impact the timeline of the project completion or deliverables.

Collaboration Activities

As CAP lead within the OCMDN Catalogs working group, DLCD is in the midst of formalizing 2 collaboration agreements with OCMDN partners for the purposes of hosting the intern to help network members with implementing standards based catalogs and creating training materials. As part of this collaboration:

- DLCD is executing an Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) with INR for the purpose of recruiting and hosting the CAP project intern, and for creation and posting of the CAP project deliverables in a freely available online space.
- DLCD is also executing a Letter of Agreement (LA) with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife marine program to formalize their co-mentorship on the intern as they work to deploy a standards-based catalog of the ODFW Nearshore Ecological Data Atlas collection (NEDA).

We expect internship recruitment to commence during winter semester 2013, on the Oregon State University Campus. The Intern will be housed at the Institute for Natural Resources, also home to the Oregon Spatial data Library, and benefit from close proximity to OSDL staff.

Next Steps

We anticipate the above collaboration relationships to continue with some strength beyond the end of the CAP funding in fall 2013. In addition, via our relationships in the wider west coast coastal and marine data community, we expect to continue to be involved in standards compliant catalog activities for the foreseeable future beyond the end of the CAP project, and we intend to continue to link to relevant materials from that effort when they become available.

Once CAP internship plans are finalized, we will turn our planning efforts to organizing training opportunities for our network members in the spring. We hope to organize 2 distinct events in March and May of 2013.

Our original plans were to target the annual URISA GIS in Action (GIA) conference which typically takes place in Portland, OR in March. This year the GIA conference has been unexpectedly pushed to the April 29-May 2nd, 2013 timeframe, so in order to keep with our original timing idea we would like to schedule:

- one training in March, on the ESRI GeoPortal product (http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/geoportal),
- a second training in May, on the newly OGC certified pyCSW product (http://pycsw.org/). This training may still take place in conjunction with the GIS in Action conference.

We have already spoken and received training information from ESRI for the GeoPortal workshop, and are awaiting similar information from pyCSW project participants.

Project Needs

It is likely that due to the changes made to our internship hosting configuration, and also to the moving of the GIS in Action conference, that we will have to make some adjustments to our originally submitted budget. The changes would amount to combining certain line items and re-configuring the hired training funds. We do not anticipate any change in total costs, rather, simple adjustments to the overall distribution across line items. We may need FGDC assistance to complete this in a manner that conforms to the expectations of CAP program funding administrators. We anticipate that we will have the necessary information for making these adjustments by the end of January, 2013.