



Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) NSDI CAP Award

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CMECS Objectives

- Develop a national standard for consistent terminology for coastal and marine ecological features.
- Include biological, geological, physical, and chemical aspects of the seascape.
- Be compatible with existing FGDC standards (wetland, soils, vegetation) and build on other existing systems
- Meet planning, inventory, restoration, monitoring, and protection information needs.



Benefits of a CMECS Standard

- “Uplands to sea floor” continuity
- Common terminology and framework for data from different sources
 - Across scales
 - Across geographic regions
 - Across institutions
- Built on existing classification approaches
- Based on ecological principles
- Responsive but stable
 - Dynamic content standard
 - Expands with knowledge
- Flexibility to meet individual program needs



Implementation Group

- Becky Allee, Mark Finkbeiner, Garry Mayer - NOAA
- Kathy Goodin, Chris Madden - NatureServe
- Giancarlo Cicchetti – EPA
- Larry Handley – USGS
- +35 Members of the CMECS workgroup



Partner Roles

- *Implementation Group (IG)* provides tools, support and guidance to Working Group and Issue Teams.
 - steers CMECS development
 - calls and leads WG meetings
 - develops processes for comment review and revision
 - integrates Issue Team solutions
 - oversees final products
- *Working Group (WG)* provides oversight and technical guidance on revisions to the standard and responses to comments
 - Works by consensus to approve revisions proposed by the Issue Teams.
- *Issue Teams (IT)* provide specific revisions to the document based on the public and peer comments for one or more related technical issues



Project Objective

- Advance the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) from the review draft stage to the final draft stage of the FGDC Standard Approval Process.



NatureServe's Project Role

- Chair the CMECS Implementation Group
- Coordinate the work of the CMECS Working Group
- Participate in WG Issue Teams to solve technical issues that arise from the public and peer reviewer comments
- Produce the final draft of the CMECS Standard (with input from all teams and IG)
- Produce the official response to comments
- Participate in the implementation of the CMECS outreach strategy



Deliverables and Outcomes

- Final Draft of the CMECS standard, agreed upon by the WG, that incorporates comments from the public review process.
- Response report that summarizes the comments from the public review and documents how they were addressed during the comment review and revision process.
- Outcome is a final FGDC approved CMECS classification that can be used for a number of conservation, planning, mapping, and inventory needs

Process and Timeline

- *January –February 2011 – Organization Phase – Pre-Award*
 - *IG Prepares Comments and Begins discussions with WG*
- *March – September, 2011 – Active Research and Revision Phase*
 - NatureServe and IG develop process for review and revision
 - framework for capturing and reporting on responses
 - process for communication of revisions and sign-off
 - identify priority issues for teams
 - WG Issue Teams address comments, update standard, respond to individual comments
 - IG and NatureServe address the non-content related issues (style, typos, inconsistencies, etc.) and general comments.
 - IG and WG meet to finalize and sign off on all changes proposed by ITs
- *October-December 2011 – Final Draft Production Phase*
 - NatureServe with help from IG compiles language to complete final draft
 - NatureServe with help from IG produces response report
- *December 2011– Publication Phase*
 - IG provides FGDC with final document for consideration for Step 10 approval
- *Throughout 2011 – Outreach Phase*
 - IG and NatureServe develop a publication and outreach strategy and begin to implement
 - NatureServe, IG and WG members give presentations about CMECS and CMECS pilot application