

ISO Geospatial Metadata Standards Implementation

Category 2: 2012

NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program ISO Geospatial Metadata Standards Implementation Interim Project Report

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Project Title (Interim Report):

Promoting ISO Metadata Standards Through Application to Puget Sound Nearshore Data

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Executive Summary

Northwest Straits Commission (NWSC) preparations for, and creation and conversion of FGDC metadata to ISO standard is progressing on schedule. This process includes documenting technical and policy issues associated with the conversion/creation of metadata for the SoundIQ datasets developed by the Island County Marine Resources Committee (MRC), Island County, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Transportation, Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and NOAA. To identify and develop the best methods for accomplishing this work, we have focused our preliminary efforts as follows:

- 1.) Two quarterly FGDC Metadata Working Group (MWG) teleconferences
- 2.) Four NGDC ISO Standard metadata training webinars
- 3.) 2012 ESRI Conference metadata seminars
- 4.) A two day workshop on ESRI ArcCatalog and Geoportal metadata
- 5.) Demonstration and discussion at 14th Annual Northwest Straits Initiative MRC Conference

Project Narrative

We are creating ISO metadata for existing nearshore geospatial data in Island County, Washington, and documenting the process for use by interested MRCs in seven counties and other state natural resources agencies and groups. Specifically, we intend to:

- Create ISO Metadata for data posted to SoundIQ (data sources include Island County Beach Watchers, Island MRC, WDNR, WDFW, WDH, WDOT, and NOAA)
- Test and identify best available tools for transferring existing FGDC metadata standard data, as well as creating ISO standard metadata for undocumented data

- Document lessons learned and policy recommendations to assist state agencies in streamlining ISO update
- Publish the ISO metadata to Washington State Geospatial Clearinghouse (WSGC); and to SoundIQ (ArcServer ArcGIS 10)
- Present results at 3 conferences

Thanks to NOAA, EPA, and NSDI trainings we hold new expertise in CSDGM to ISO capabilities. Training, workshops and conferences attended this quarter provided in depth understanding and exposure to cost effective tools available for converting metadata to the ISO standard. NGDC ISO standard metadata training webinars provided useful information on the standards and on available tools. The 2012 ESRI conference metadata seminars connected us to the metadata software developers who shared many of the new metadata tools of ArcGIS 10.1. This combination of training revealed that many of the hurdles we anticipated at the beginning of this project are diminished due to major changes in how metadata is handled in the 10.1 release of ArcCatalog.

A special two day workshop on ESRI ArcCatalog and Geoportal metadata was offered in Washington state. This workshop provided help on workflows using ESRI tools to verify XML format, to check FGDC syntax, and remove remnant FGDC tags. Our project was described, with SoundIQ, to attendees at the annual Northwest Straits Initiative conference on November 2-3, 2012 in Port Townsend, Washington. In addition, we participated in two quarterly FGDC Metadata Working Group (MWG) teleconferences (June and September 2012) as part of this grant opportunity.

Anticipated outcomes and actual milestones of this project include creation of ISO metadata for all datasets hosted on the Northwest Straits web mapping application SoundIQ, and development of a workflow for users working with or without ESRI software. The advantage of import/export within ArcCatalog is that metadata can be kept up to date automatically using synchronization capabilities (i.e. projection and extent information auto-filled).

Our major challenges are to locate the disparate metadata sources, identify current standard and format, QA/QC of the metadata and exporting to format and projection information used in GeoPortal.

We have found the EPA Metadata Editor software useful, as it provides an Access database for repeated data entry - such as contact information. In addition, entry can be used in ArcCatalog to take advantage of auto synchronization.

Next steps:

- 1.) Document and identify obstacles to the transition for State agencies (i.e. using Geoportal)
- 2.) Prioritize WDOE datasets for conversion and test the functionality of the tools
- 3.) Cull GIS data from several years of reports provided to the NWS Commission by Island MRC
- 4.) Publish the ISO metadata to SoundIQ Geoportal (Fig. 1) and WSGC. WSGC is a node on the NSDI network of spatial information servers, harvested by Geospatial One Stop (GOS), and therefore the metadata will appear in the geodata.gov database.

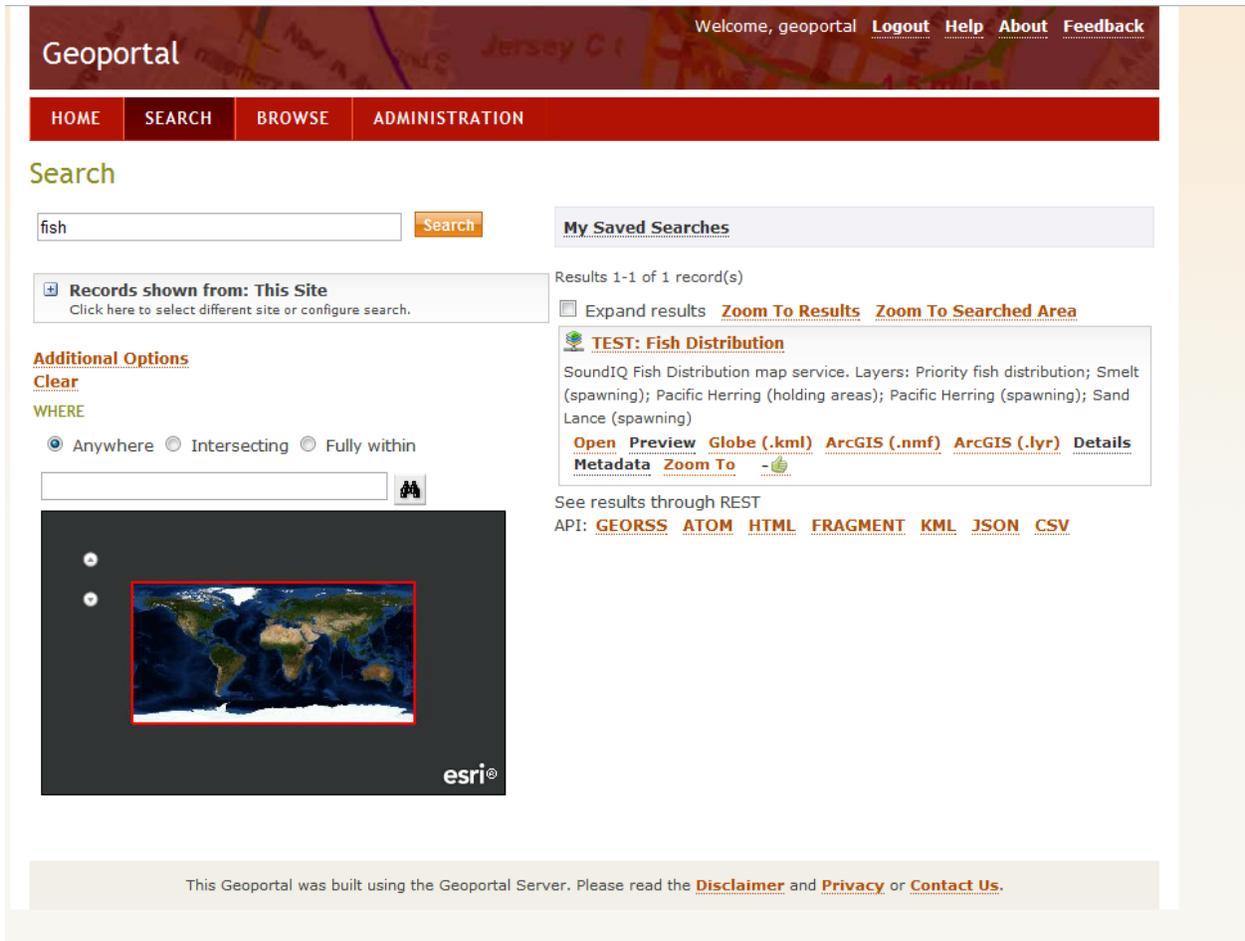


Figure 1. Preview of SoundIQ Geoportal currently under construction.