



WHOI CMSP Vocabulary Workshop, Dec. 2010

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WHOI Workshop Overview

- Hosted by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) on Dec. 1-3, 2010
- Participants mostly from USGS, NOAA, and WHOI, plus Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Marine Biological Laboratory, the OR Coastal Management Program
- Aim was to assist USGS and NOAA in sharing best practices and metadata tools in order to reduce the burden on programs and offices providing information for CMSP



WHOI Workshop Context

In response to the National Ocean Policy, all Federal agencies are required to participate in the process of coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP). A critical challenge will be populating data catalogs with appropriate metadata so that information assets can be more readily discovered, evaluated for suitability, integrated with data provided by other agencies, and used more effectively by planning bodies, resource managers and stakeholders across the country.



WHOI Workshop Details

- Tony LaVoi & Betsy Nicholson of NOAA Coastal Services Center presentation: “National Ocean Policy, CMSP Framework and its Data Management Requirements”
- Peter Fox of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute presentation: “Interoperable Data Catalogs and Discovery Vocabularies”
- Discussion of criteria and processes for evaluating vocabularies
- Recommendations forwarded to NIMS portal for CMSP



Recommendation I

- That the CMSP information system define a clear set of roles and responsibilities for people who work with CMSP discovery vocabularies in the realm of metadata handling, vocabulary development, and other related tasks.



Recommendation II

- That the CMSP information system include a standard process for adopting as ‘community-accepted’ mature and valid discovery vocabularies for use in CMSP efforts and that the process include testing with national and regional data repositories and discovery systems.



Recommendation III

- That a subset of workshop attendees be empowered to establish community presence within the Marine Metadata Initiative (MMI) to provide for ongoing community interaction and knowledge management related to the evaluation and recommendation of CMSP discovery vocabularies.



Recommendation IV

- That the CMSP information system include a strategy for educating and supporting those responsible for developing and managing repositories holding CMSP- related data to adopt mature and valid discovery vocabularies.



Recommendation V

- That the CMSP information system include best practices, documentation, cookbooks, and/or other explanatory materials to support understanding of the principles and the application of discovery vocabularies (generally and in the specific context of CMSP)



Suggestions for the NOC NIMS

- I: Define a relatively small number of key top-level concepts needed to enable smart and faceted discovery searches for CMSP information
- II: Design the information system to enable access to authoritative sources of data, at whatever geographic or institutional scale
- III: Avoid making the requirements for data sharing so onerous that small data providers opt out due to constrained resources
(i.e. Make it 'easy to do the right thing')



Suggestions for the NIMS (cont.)

- IV: Facilitate the development of vocabularies so CMSP information will have metadata sufficient to be discovered, evaluated, integrated, and used
- V: Two-way communication - between information producers, collection managers, portal managers, users
- VI: If possible, vocabularies for discovery should occur close to the source of the data (degree of federation of the information system affects the choice of vocabularies)
- VII: Draw on Federal Enterprise Architecture concepts (the Geospatial Platform)



WHOI Workshop Report

- Lots of valuable information in workshop summary
- Multiple appendixes covering topics of interest
 - Crosswalks
 - Repositories
 - Metadata Standards
 - Tools
 - Vocabularies
 - Other projects
 - Acronyms
- Online: <http://www.whoi.edu/sites/cmsspworkshop>



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