

ICAN Great Lakes 2010 Workshop

ICAN Business Meeting
Wednesday, September 14, 2010, 1:30 p.m.
Pyle Center
University of Wisconsin – Madison
Madison, Wisconsin USA

Attending:

Dawn Wright, chairing
Marcia Berman
Tanya Haddad
David Hart
David Healy (Stone Environmental Inc., but helping w/New York Coastal Atlas)
John Helly
Tony LaVoi
Josh Murphy
Liz O'Dea, recorder of minutes
Kathy Taylor, via conference call link

1. Comments/Reactions from Great Lakes Meeting

- *Regional focus was great. Nice to move from ideas to action, with practical regional partners involved. Made it easier to rationalize participation for some.*
- *Having a training was good to include and got a good turnout.*

2. High-resolution coastline/shoreline as an ICAN OGC Interoperability Experiment

- *John Helly raised the point (originally suggested in Trieste) that we need another tangible deliverable other than the prototype, and suggested creating a common, consistently high resolution coastline with a common projection, scale, resolution, etc.*
- *John's developed a way to analyze LIDAR data and written algorithms to extract coastline. He's written a paper on techniques he used in southern California which involve LIDAR interpretation and fieldwork for quality control.*
- *This would be very useful resource. NOAA is very interested.*
- *We would need to run this past people working on shoreline issues. Would require involvement from state/local partners and require LIDAR and ground truthing. John says you can do it low-cost, and have locals do surveys. (How feasible is this? Lack of LIDAR or funds for LIDAR, limited resources to process and do fieldwork, data ownership issues in some countries, developing countries.)*
- *It would also be useful to agree upon a common definition of coastal zone.*
- *Potential collaboration:*
 - o *OGC Interoperability Experiment was suggested as a potential way to begin this effort.*

- OGC would tie to standards and use cases. Would require some time investment and a little travel. OGC would provide free consultation as needed.
- OGC would also be great conduit for advertising the dataset
- Helly worried about OGC's copyright policy though. Dawn mentioned success of GALEON experiment fostered by Ben Domenico of UCAR with OGC, <http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/initiatives/galeonie>. Helly may contact him for more info.
- To get started, just need to contact David Arctur.
- ICAN Tech team would need to do the work.
- ESRI Community Basemap? Concern over ownership and interoperability issues, but another great avenue for advertising the dataset and its utility.
- Need to discuss this potential project with various Working Groups. Would begin with North American shoreline dataset.
- ** Need timeframe for working with John. Better description of what is being proposed.
- Regarding concerns over feasibility in various countries, given data access and financial restrictions, John says we would lead by example. He gave example of weather an atmospheric data being restricted access previously in some countries, but with enough push and wide acceptance, countries finally felt they had to participate.
- Tie in with Greg Reed, IODE – can we promote as emergency response/climate change angle for funding opportunities?
- Can we do formal assessment, formal recommendations? Of benefit to community.

3. Other Action Items/Outcomes from ICAN Great Lakes?

- Get a hold of the proposal that Roger Gauthier was going to put together that ties in with coastal atlases.
- Concern over potential funding competition between regions. Hope that the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) won't be encouraging competition.
- Need to talk to local representatives.
- NOAA has been working on the FFO language and it will be coming out soon. Don't know how big the money pot will be yet. How to spread the money across regions in the best way? Becky Smythe (NOAA) has been most involved in this.
- Some areas have regional governance bodies, others have somewhat active CMSP tools developing. What's the best balance?
- Tanya said that it is very important that the call for proposals requires interoperability, NOT tools. FGDC is like that.
- The call should encourage states to work together.

4. ICAN "branding" (internal issue to the US only)

“ICAN” a problematic name for some at CSC or in state CZM offices?

Suggest simply “Coastal Atlas Network” (subsidiary of ICAN) when, for example, seeking to request workshop travel funds from your agency.

- *ICAN isn't a problem in Europe – they are international. In the US, the term throws people off. It raises a red flag when getting travel support for ICAN events.*
- *ICAN-US excludes our North American neighbors.*
- *The name should stay ICAN, but we should agree to use a common alternative (such as “Coastal Atlas Network”) when we promote it to our agencies/organizations.*
- *Need to come up with some sort of taglines we can add to ICAN.*

5. US Funding for ICAN (Steering Group?)

No word on NSF DataNet so best option may be to shake trees of a foundation, next NSF Research Coordination Network RFP, or see if something comes from NOAA Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) for MSP

- *It's not looking good for the DataNet project as they have had no word. No one has heard about other competing DataNet grants awarded either, however, so there may still be hope.*
- *Dawn is looking into potential for foundation funding with colleague at OSU. Dawn and Kathy Taylor will also talk about foundation funding as per original ICAN action item from November (i.e., with Jena Carter of TNC).*

6. ICAN Special Interest Meeting (SIM), Coastal GeoTools 2011, 21-24 March, 2011, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, USA

- a. Paper session too?
 - b. Also Coastal Zone 2011, 17-21 July, 2011, Chicago, Illinois, USA?
(abstracts due October 8, 2011)
- *Josh Murphy mentioned various SIMs (such as a Coastal Marine Spatial Planning SIM, whose goals seem very similar to ICAN). ICAN will be its own SIM.*
 - *Need to make sure the ICAN session would not compete with the CMSP SIM meeting.*
 - *With an ICAN SIM at NOAA's meetings, we need to ensure that advertising text makes it clear that it is applicable to the states – i.e., what can ICAN do for them?*
 - *Call for abstracts to both Coastal GeoTools 2011 and Coastal Zone 2011 are due in early October.*
 - *It was decided not to hold a business meeting after either of these conferences, given that we will be meeting in Oostende that same summer.*
 - *NOAA CSC is no longer organizing Coastal Zone – GeoTools is their thing.*
 - *Other opportunities:*

- *International FOSS4G in Denver this year (Tanya plans to attend).*
- *GeoWeb*

7. Governance

a. Revisit ICAN Action Items Spreadsheet

b. Working groups list and relationship between SG, MG, TG

- *Dawn briefly reviewed ICAN 4's spreadsheet of WGs and final action item spreadsheet.*
 - *TWG has carried forward, so no changes there.*
 - *Listservs were established, but not used much (except TWG)*
 - *Need to brainstorm about funding opportunities.*
 - *Steering and Management WGs were not as busy with projects.*
 - *List:*
 - *Funding section: Can still build on to-do list*
 - *Surveys – where to take them? Marcia: paper will be presented by Kathrin next week.*
 - *Use cases can be further developed. We discussed creation of a list of sample user profiles that would be useful for giving illustrations of how coastal atlases can be useful, as well as a resource for developers in considering user interaction with atlas design. These profiles would be posted on the web site in the resource section.*

c. Membership - Time to adopt formal MOU especially to position us well with those keeping an eye on us such as NOAA Digital Coast

- i. Couple MOU with a request for members to fill out info template so that we can be added to our directory
- ii. Firm up terms of reference, scope of duties, etc. - Dawn has template

- *Dawn has an informal 2-paragraph MOU and a more formal OSU MOU that could be used.*
- *ICAN needs to begin implementing an MOU or agreement of some type and getting official members at various levels. Once something's put together we need to send out invitations to all people who have been involved on previous meetings and workshops.*
- *Some people stated that it would likely be difficult for them/their universities/agencies to sign a formal MOU, and an informal agreement should be considered.*
- *There need to be agreements between atlases or atlases to ICAN to emphasize that atlases are committed. Tony mentioned that federal MOUs take 9-12 mos. just between groups within NOAA.*
- *It was suggested that we instead have atlases provide a statement of support/intention to collaborate. Need to minimize legal issues.*
 - *Tell what we expect in exchange for commitment. We should keep it informal, and be clear on what we ask of members.*

- *David suggested we have a web form that atlases/people can submit when they join.*
 - *This would include a form about their atlas/tool details, which would be used for their registration information and feed into a list of member resources.*
 - ***Dawn will ask campus Drupal folks how this can be implemented. Tanya says it's pretty painless.*
 - ***Need to get template from Kathy Taylor listing coastal atlas/tool details, which were used for the West Coast Coastal Atlases report.*
 - ***Dawn to talk to Ned about participation.*
 - *We need to consider members/liaisons who don't have atlases or tools to share/contribute, but can still belong. We need to be liberal in our definition (including OOSes and other tools). Plus people who want to build coastal atlases but have not developed any yet.*
- *Tanya mentioned a project that may be an interesting model for financial input for development efforts: Open Source Base (??). It asks members to agree to pay a certain amount of money (relatively small, like \$500) that goes to a contractor (also a member) to pay for the development of a tool that is then shared with all partners. The contractor simply sent invoices to the various partners. It resulted in excellent value for money for the project that Tanya mentioned. Could we do something similar? It may be problematic if people doing the work can't contract out.*
 - *Dawn's colleague Jeremiah Osborne-Gowey at Conservation Biology Institute in Corvallis works with DataBasin (<http://www.databasin.org>), which may be able to help with this. He'll be listening in on the west coast atlas call coming up.*

8. ICAN Tech Team business

- a. NETMAR
 - Ned: "We will have an update on NETMAR on Monday in London. Some of the NETMAR teams participates regularly in the Tech conference calls, so they should be able to update you at the next scheduled tech call."
 - *NETMAR is at the end of its background research phase and moving forward. We will get an update on their next directions after their meeting in London during the week of Sept. 20.*
- b. Interop Prototype or alternative activities
 - Ned: "Yassine [Lassoued] is now back and should be able to interact with tech team over coming weeks regarding various issues raised in recent tech calls."
- c. Other issues?
 - *** The Tech Team is redesigning their part of the ICAN web site to make it a richer, more user-friendly resource for people working with coastal atlases.*

- *Another potential practical deliverable that the Tech Team has briefly discussed is the creation of an embeddable tool/widget which atlases could insert on their web sites to enable searching of neighbors' atlases that meet OGC standards used for the interoperability prototype, and potentially return relevant metadata and/or allow display of data in their atlas.*
 - o *Look at Abu Dhabi atlas. Are there examples of plugins that work for others? Are already CSW clients.*
 - o *There needs to be a means of registering atlases.*
 - o *Can point to individual atlases. Where does semantic interop go?*
 - o *Tanya mentioned 4 technical steps for interoperability:*
 1. *Creating MD*
 2. *Creating a catalog (CSW)*
 3. *Semantic Interoperability*
 4. *Delivering results to users.*
 - o *We need to at least be able to query catalogs.*
 - *Jeremiah at OSU may be able to help. They are using CSW in DataBasin.*
- *How can we target regions clearly? What resources could we provide to make regional collaboration easier? They are the same issues as ICAN prototype, just at a smaller scale. How can an atlas tie in with different nodes? We want to show how regions can talk together. This is low hanging fruit.*
 - o *Can Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) help us to drive those regional efforts? They will be looking for quick implementation – need to make sure those administrators know about ICAN and the work we are doing. We need to educate them that these resources exist. Emphasize that interoperability is end goal.*
- *Low hanging fruit is encouraging atlases to make sure that they do first 2 items: Metadata development and OGC compliant catalogs. We can provide recommendations for atlases to implement these.*
 - o *Phase 3 is semantic interoperability, which can be postponed.*
 - o *Develop regional central harvesters such as what the OGC person discussed in his presentation, where we cascade 8 catalogs into 1 – a smaller scale version of our global interoperability prototype. That meets the same standards. These would be very beneficial for regional efforts.*

9. News/Events Since ICAN 4

- a. American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, Dec 2009
 - *ICAN Interoperability Tool poster was presented*
- b. EBM-Tools Network Webinar, March 2010
 - *Dawn, Liz, Tanya presentation*
- c. ICAN Handbook
 - *Much work went into it, with great result! It would be nice to link to whatever online chapters get permission from the publisher.*

- d. First ODINAFRICA/ASCLME Coastal and Marine Atlases Workshop, hosted by the Kenya Marine & Fisheries Research Institute in Mombasa Kenya, from 26 July to 6 August 2010
 - i. Themes were: identifying, preparing and processing data products to be included in the atlases; introduction to metadata, metadata management using GeoNetwork,
 - ii. Yassine gave a presentation on the technical capabilities of MIDA
 - e. Marcia in St. Lucia at Caribbean Marine Atlas Review and Planning Workshop, August 2010
 - f. Ned has provided feedback to the European Commission the European Atlas of the Seas, which can be accessed at http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/atlas/index_en.htm
 - g. IODE has asked to use the MIDA "Engine" for the African national atlases.
 - i. CMRC will attend UNESCO IODE workshop in November in Ostend to present how the Engine can be used, how to write map files, etc.
 - h. Others?
- 10. Littoral 2010, London, 21-23 September**
- a. ICAN half-day workshop on 20 September
 - b. EuroICAN business meeting on 20 September
 - c. Littoral 2010 paper presentation on user interaction with atlases (authors: Kathrin, Ned, Marcia, David, Marcia, Dawn)
 - d. Ned: "We will have an update on PEGASO in London, so will be an opportunity to see where we can link with ICAN."
- 11. ICAN 5 at UNESCO IODE Headquarters, 31 August to 2 September 2011, Oostende, Belgium, in advance of CoastGIS 2011**
Activities, ideas welcome; EuroICAN group will generate ideas in London too
- *Think about agenda and communicate offline. No firm ideas at this point but will wait for Littoral 2010 group, and then discuss. Dawn also needs to make sure that the agenda includes things that meet the goals of the NSF proposal. Ned, Kathy B., Roger and Dawn are the ICAN 5 agenda committee for now.*

12. Quick Revisit of Structure of ICAN Portal

- *Site needs to be restructured a bit. One suggestion was to create a section for Atlas Resources that is high level and easy to find (and be a key deliverable).*
 - o *Currently this is starting to be built in the ICAN Tech section with technical recommendations, but it should include non-tech resources as well. We can add various themes of importance.*
- ***Should we form a form a Communication Group to work on web site?*
- *Many atlases target similar user groups. It would be useful for some atlases if we provide a list of sample user profiles which include descriptions of potential atlas users and how each might use a coastal atlas.*
 - o *Information would include list qualities, goals, data of interest.*
 - o *This is useful for:*
 - *Atlas developers designing user interaction with a web site. It can help them to more quickly develop targeted tools.*
 - *Providing practical examples of how atlases meet the needs of the coastal community.*
 - *Providing guidance within atlases.*
 - o *This could be useful for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP).*
 - o *We can pool together existing resources from partners (OR, WA, Digital Coast, etc). Potentially have tangible story form. Digital Coast in Action is a good example.*
 - o *By providing lists of tasks for each user profile, it can help atlas developers prioritize features to include based on who the atlas/tool are targeting.*
- *Time to create list of downloadable code, tools, resources that atlases are willing to freely share. Can provide download link or email address of person to contact.*
- *Book chapters: Need to add email link alongside each chapter and inform people they can contact the author for a copy of the chapter.*

13. Other Business??

Adjourn 4:00