

**IWG-OCM Technical Workshop**  
**June 7-8, 2011**

**Consortium for Ocean Leadership, 1201 New York Ave, NW, 4th Floor**  
**Washington, DC**

*A quick, informal report to IWG-OCM on June 9, 2011.*

This workshop was the second of two meetings sponsored by the IWG-OCM in order to plan a new way of developing the OCM Inventory. The first workshop, held at NGDC in January 2011, featured presentations from major Federal OCM data centers and from related activities including the National Ocean Council and the R2R Program. The January workshop recommended a general approach and resulted in a Requirements Development Document that was the basis of this week's technical workshop.

This week's workshop developed a technical plan for the OCM Inventory that utilizes the features of the Geoportal Server, a flexible open-source technology that is supported by Esri. Geoportal instances are being built at NGDC and USACE Mobile District; similar functionality is being implemented using other technology at USGS. The workshop will result in two products: a guidance document for agencies that provide OCM data; and a prototype portal that will interact with the National Ocean Council prototype portal for CMSP. Workshop participants will work on these tasks through the summer to establish the portal on a public server by August 31 and publish the guidance by September 30.

The guidance document is intended to ensure that portal users will be able to discover all the relevant information with a single query. Agencies following the guidance will put comparable information in the same fields of their metadata records, will use standard formats to express time and location, and will use terminology from controlled vocabularies. Geoserver can match synonyms from different vocabularies by using an ontology, so data providers can write metadata using their preferred terminology.

Agencies can participate in the OCM Inventory by (1) registering Web services that contain metadata records and can be searched remotely by the OCM Geoserver, (2) registering collections of metadata that OCM Geoserver can harvest, or (3) creating metadata records directly in the OCM Geoserver collection. The metadata can be in multiple standards, including traditional FGDC, several varieties of ISO, and Dublin Core (possibly appropriate for data requests). The guidance document will advise agencies on these standards and protocols.

The prototype portal will test the plan by serving a limited amount of metadata selected to be useful for the CMSP prototype portal, which is also supposed to be built by the end of August. NGDC will be building the prototype portal. Agencies will contribute metadata records of a range of types, using several different protocols, in order to test and learn how to use the Geoportal technology.

***About the workshop itself:***

About 25 participants represented the usual agencies (NOAA/NOS, NOAA/NGDC, USGS, USACE, BOEMRE ) and also FEMA, NOAA/NODC, NOAA/Fisheries, and NOAA/CSC. In addition, people from EPA, FGDC, and Esri gave presentations.

Our facilitator, NOAA's Stephanie Kavanaugh, was strongly in favor of doing as much work as possible before the workshop, so we started the workshop with a draft workshop report. This was confusing to almost everybody, almost all the time, but it was an effective way to focus workshop discussions on the most important issues. It also means that the final workshop report should be ready in about 3 weeks.

Tuesday morning the building had a fire drill and we spent half an hour chatting under the trees in Franklin Square.

***Message from Fran Lightsom to IWG-OCM:***

In October or November, IWG-OCM should plan to evaluate the two workshop products to see if they demonstrate a good approach for creating the OCM Inventory. This evaluation should include estimation of the cost of maintaining a complete OCM Geoportal, as well as recommendations for improvement.

If the evaluation is positive:

- ❖ Data-provider agencies will need to allocate FY2012 resources to implement the guidance, which may require review of data and metadata holdings, new or modified procedures for generating metadata, and/or establishment of agency metadata repositories or Web data services.
- ❖ A long-term host for the OCM Geoportal will need to be identified and resources provided.