

# **Addressing Federal Ocean and Coastal Mapping Coordination and Data Accessibility Issues**

## ***IWG-OCM Executive Summary***

In response to findings of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan and the 2004 National Research Council assessment of national coastal zone mapping and charting activities, the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) established the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IWG-OCM). This interagency working group seeks to avoid duplication of mapping efforts and facilitate the coordination and leveraging of mapping resources across the Federal sector and with State, industry, academic and NGO mapping interests.

As a first step, the IWG-OCM sponsored a three-day workshop in Charleston, SC, in September 2007 to begin the development of a comprehensive ocean and coastal mapping data and activities inventory. This Ocean and Coastal Mapping Inventory will offer a clearinghouse for data and interpretive information, and a registry of completed and projected mapping activities via a single web portal. The inventory will reduce duplication of mapping efforts and facilitate cooperative mapping activities and data accessibility.

Although not all Federal agencies within the OCM community sent representatives, the 35 workshop participants represented NOAA, USGS, USACE, MMS, FWS, as well as NSGIC and CCOM-JHC. They identified key user requirements and reviewed existing data systems and inventories before reaching consensus to use Geospatial One-Stop (GOS) as the tool to build the OCM Inventory.

The workshop participants also developed concrete recommendations to move this effort forward. Concurrent working groups, focusing on technical, metadata, and management issues and requirements, outlined a short-term strategy and a detailed list of actions for the next three months. In addition, representatives of each agency met to recommend individual agency contributions and discuss commitments to this effort.

Recommendations and actions emerging from the workshop include:

- Establishing a small Interagency Project Team to manage the initiative and develop the long-term project plan
- Encouraging the use and testing of the GOS portal to identify needed enhancements for the OCM Inventory
- Identifying the technical requirements and features needed to enhance the GOS portal
- Using all seven sections of FGDC-compliant metadata
- Requesting an OCM representative on the GOS Technical Team
- Adopting and using the GOS Oceans and Coasts Community as the primary communication vehicle for the OCM Community of Practice
- Getting other agencies and academia involved and engaged in this initiative
- Reporting individual agency decisions and actions to support the development of the inventory by mid-December to the IWG-OCM

For more information and specific results of the workshop, visit

<http://www.iocm.noaa.gov/iwg/>