

**Federal Geographic Data Committee
Marine Boundary Working Group Meeting
May 5, 2004**

Minutes

The Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Marine Boundary Working Group (MBWG) met at the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, DC on May 5, 2004. An agenda is included at the end of the minutes, as is a list of items that were distributed at the meeting. Individuals who wish to request copies of these items should contact David Stein at *Dave.Stein@noaa.gov*.

Highlights

Lee Thormahlen, DOI MMS, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. This was the eighth meeting of the MBWG. The objectives of the meeting were to highlight some of the recent activities by members of the working group and from representatives from the United Nations, identify areas for collaboration, and discuss current and future work items. Special guests included Vladimir Jares and Robert Sandev, from the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs.

Agenda Items

1. Marine Managed Areas Inventory and Mapping Efforts – Joel Murray; NOAA's Special Projects Office (SPO). Joel Murray gave an overview of the efforts underway to develop a comprehensive inventory of Marine Managed Areas for the United States. The inventory is part of the Marine Protected Areas Initiative led by NOAA and the Department of Interior. For further information, Joel's presentation can be downloaded at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/htm/outreach.htm>.

2. Minerals Management Services Marine Cadastre Initiative – Lee Thormahlen; Minerals Management Service. Lee Thormahlen gave a presentation entitled "Developing a Multipurpose Marine Cadastre from a Natural Resource Perspective." For further information, Lee's presentation can be downloaded at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/htm/outreach.htm>.

3. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, Maritime Boundary Requirements – Robert Sandev and Vladimir Jares, United Nations, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs. Robert Sandev and Vladimir Jares gave a presentation on maritime boundary requirements as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. They reported that there will be a maritime boundaries data base available for download by the end of the summer, which will include baselines and limits for the countries that have submitted their boundaries. There was also some discussion about the need for guidance with regard to developing

boundaries. For further information, Robert and Vladimir's presentation will be made available at <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/hm/outreach.htm>.

4. Group discussion on future direction of the MBWG Work Plan and future direction. David Stein distributed the current workplan and reviewed some of the MBWG accomplishments to date. Questions for the group included:

- Are we heading the right direction?
- Do we want to add work items to the work plan?
- What can we do to bring more people to the table?

The general consensus was that we don't need to take on any more work at the moment. A major work item is the handbook, which should be completed before we undertake other work items. It was also noted that we should revisit the idea of a data content standard for marine boundary data. David Stein agreed to work with Meredith Westington and a subset of the working group to continue this dialog. Robert Sandev, U.N, noted that he would like to be included in the correspondence on this subject. Robert Sandev and Vladimir Jares also noted that the Marine Boundaries Best Practices Handbook would be useful guidance for the international community.

5. Short Updates

- **Baseline committee update**

Bob Smith reported that the inter-agency Baseline Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis this year as NOAA and MMS are going state by state and reviewing all the nautical charts on which offshore limits are depicted.

- **MBWG Web site**

David Stein reported that the Web site will be getting a makeover in the next couple of months to fit into the NOAA Coastal Services Center Web template.

- **Maritime Boundary Project**

Meredith Westington reported that the NOAA Office of Coast Survey (OCS) is seeking approval for NJ, DE, and MD on May 19. The rest of NE has been approved, but subsequent questions about various law of the sea issues have prevented anything from being finalized and posted to the web. So far, PR, U.S. VI, and the Hawaiian Islands, including NW HI, are available on the Web. Changes to the EEZ have also been posted for these two areas. NOAA OCS anticipates posting ME, NH, MA, NY, RI, NJ, DE, and MD shortly. The baseline points will also be posted, but there is no set rollout date at the moment.

- **Marine Boundaries Best Practices Handbook**

David Stein reported that the Best Practices Handbook is moving along slowly but progress is being made. Since the last meeting in June 2003, drafts for the handbook were submitted and Jerry Esch (NOAA CSC Editor) was brought on board. Jerry reformatted the handbook and incorporated the original chapters throughout an 11-step process. It is anticipated that a draft would be ready for working group review later in the calendar year. A handbook working group meeting was held on May 6, 2004.

- **Other agency updates**

Doug Vandegraft reported that the inventory of Marine Protected (Managed) Areas now includes 170 National Wildlife Refuges, up from 164. FWS (Doug) has been working with NOAA (Joel Murray) to have the refuge boundaries reflected on the NOAA MPA website. Doug also reported that the Office of the Solicitor for the Department of the Interior has completed a draft opinion defending the jurisdiction of the FWS to the extent of the territorial sea (12 nautical miles) at Midway Atoll NWR.

Trent Palmer (NGA) reported that NGA's (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency) Maritime Division has a contract with EarthSat to provide NGA with a global shoreline (except Antarctica). This data will be derived from Landsat and theoretically at MHW and 1:50K scale. The expected data delivery is fall 2004. Trent also reported that he is working to generate shapefiles for agreed maritime boundaries worldwide. These will be posted to a NGA web site, but only on SIPRNET and JWICS. The data is unclassified and available if anyone is interested.

- **FGDC and other relevant activities**

David Stein reported that the 2004 FGDC Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) Grant announcement was out and proposals are due on June 4.

6. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held in the fall timeframe. Donald Campbell (FCC) offered his facilities again. Harry Norris (FMRI) offered his facilities in St. Petersburg, FL as well. The meeting place will be determined at a later date. We also discussed holding the following meeting during the Coastal GeoTools Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC in March 2005.

Action Items

Action 1: Circulate latest thinking on a marine boundary data content standard.

Action 2: Work on bringing EPA, NPS, Navy, and Coast Guard back to the table.

Handouts

1. Agenda
2. Workplan
3. List of attendees

Agenda

FGDC Marine Boundary Working Group Meeting
Wednesday, May 5, 2004
Federal Communications Commission, Room 6-B516
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC

- 8:30 Continental breakfast
- 9:00 Welcome and introductions
- Welcome from co-chairs and short introductions from working group
 - Review agenda
 - Highlights from last meeting
- 9:30 Marine Managed Areas Inventory and Mapping Efforts – Joel Murray, NOAA
- 10:00 MMS' Initiative to Implement a Marine Cadastre - Lee Thormahlen, MMS
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 UNCLOS Briefing on Maritime Boundary Requirements – Robert Sandev and Vladimir Jares, U.N.
- 12:00 Lunch (on your own)
- 1:30 Priority Work Items – Future Direction of MBWG - All
- 2:15 Short Updates from Agencies and Committees
- Baseline committee update
 - MBWG Web site
 - Maritime Boundary Project
 - Baseline development
 - Marine Boundaries Best Practices Handbook
 - Other agency updates
 - FGDC and other relevant activities
- 3:15 Next meeting, action items
- 3:30 Adjourn

Minutes Submitted by

David Stein, NOAA Coastal Services Center
Executive Secretary/Working Group Coordinator
FGDC Marine Boundary Working Group

