

**Federal Geographic Data Committee  
Marine Boundary Working Group  
July 16, 2002**

**Minutes**

The Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Marine Boundary Working Group (MBWG) met at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on July 16, 2002. 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**

Donald Campbell, FCC, welcomed everyone to the facility. Cindy Fowler, co-chair of the working group, called the meeting to order and participant introductions were made. This was the fifth meeting of the MBWG. The objectives of the meeting were to highlight some of the recent activities under way by members of the working group and to identify areas for collaboration.

**Agenda Items**

1. **A year in review and a look ahead.** Cindy Fowler, NOAA Coastal Services Center, presented the accomplishments of the working group to date, as well as priority work items for next year. The work item that has received the most amount of attention is the marine boundary best practices handbook, which falls under the working group's training strategy. The working group was in agreement that this should be a priority. The next step will be to develop a scope of work and outline of the handbook. Several people volunteered to help design and develop the handbook and will be called on to do so in the near future. It is likely that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center will be able to devote resources to the handbook and lead the effort. Contracting options were also discussed. The goal of the handbook will be to provide the technical and legal guidance necessary to effectively create and describe marine boundaries. The handbook will be a priority work item for fiscal year 2003.

The marine boundary Web portal was also demonstrated. The goal of this Web portal is to point users to digital marine boundary data. A disclaimer of some kind will have to be developed since the digital data are not considered the official legal source. Ole Varmer agreed to help draft this text. The site will be released to members of the working group for comment in early August.

It was also decided during this time that a marine boundaries list server would be created to increase communication among working group members. The NOAA Coastal Services center will host the list server.

2. **Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecological Reserve.** Mitchell Tartt, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, reported on the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecological Reserve. This presentation addressed the legal and technical issues associated with the creation of marine boundaries for the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve and associated Reserve Preservation Areas as defined within Executive Orders 13178 and 13196.
3. **Marine Protected Areas initiative.** Joe Uravitch, acting director of the NOAA National Marine Protected Area Center, reported on the Marine Protected Areas initiative and the National Marine Protected Area Center. Joe discussed the status of activities under Executive Order 13158, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including the status of the MPA Center and the National Inventory of Marine Managed Areas, now in its second year of development. It was noted after his presentation that there is opportunity for collaboration between the MBWG and the MPA inventory team on data dissemination issues.
4. **Coastal Mapping and Charting Study.** Terry Schaefer, National Academy of Sciences, Ocean Studies Board, gave a briefing on the Coastal Mapping and Charting Study being conducted by the Oceans Study Board and the Mapping Science Committee. The study will identify and suggest mechanisms for addressing national needs for spatial information in the coastal zone. By examining the major spatial information requirements of federal agencies, as well as the principal user groups they support (e.g., state and local coastal managers, urban planners, resource managers, maritime industry), the committee will identify high priority needs, evaluate the potential for meeting these needs based on the current level of effort, and suggest steps to increase collaboration and ensure that the nation's need for spatial information in the coastal zone is met in an efficient and timely manner. Specific results of the study could not be discussed at this point. The timeline of the project is as follows: interim findings, October 2002; prepublication, August 2003; final publication, October 2003.
5. **The State of Florida's perspective on marine boundaries.** Harry Norris, program administrator, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Marine Research Institute, reported on some of the marine boundary issues that Florida faces. Issues include the discrepancy between Department of the Interior (DOI) and NOAA federal/state water boundaries (Tortugas and South Biscayne Bay as examples), problems delineating county boundaries offshore because of geography (Big Bend), issues related to imprecise boundaries or turn points (e.g., depth contours), shared boundaries that are supposed to be spatially coincident but aren't due to the use of differing levels of precision, and jurisdiction problems related to not having an official state/federal boundary. Harry agreed that a best practices handbook would be useful and could help alleviate some of the marine boundary problems that exist.

## 6. Short Updates

**Legal update.** Ole Varmer, NOAA General Counsel, and his staff have been developing summaries of the legal authority for the various boundaries that are referred to on the U.S. marine cadastre Web page <[www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/hm/cadastre.htm](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg/hm/cadastre.htm)>. He distributed summaries for the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and the Coastal Zone Management Act. The working group indicated it was a worthwhile effort and could be added to the Web site.

**Offshore/onshore cadastre coordination.** Lee Thormahlen, Minerals Management Service, updated the group on the offshore/onshore cadastre coordination. The states of Washington, Oregon, and Florida seem to be interested in extending the offshore cadastre landward to the mean high water line (MHL) for planning and water resource management.

**National Park Service GIS Web page.** Frank Sannino, National Park Service (NPS), made the group aware of a Web site that serves as a repository for NPS boundary information <[www.nps.gov/gis/available\\_data.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gis/available_data.htm)>.

**NOAA Coast Survey offshore boundary development.** Meredith Westington, NOAA Office of Coast Survey, gave the working group an update on the progress of developing their office's baseline and offshore boundaries. The focus has been on the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. The baseline for the Northwest Hawaiian Islands will be presented at the Baseline Committee meeting on July 17 at the State Department.

**Baseline Committee update.** Ash Roach, State Department and chair of the U.S. Baseline Committee, announced the Baseline Committee's meeting scheduled for July 17 and invited all interested parties to attend. He indicated that the meetings are not closed. They are open to anyone who is interested.

**Geospatial One-Stop.** David Stein, NOAA Coastal Services Center, gave an update on Geospatial One-Stop. He indicated that the call for participation for standards and models for the seven National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) framework themes went out. Anyone who is interested in participating should register by July 29. Information on Geospatial One-Stop can be found at [www.fgdc.gov/geo-one-stop/](http://www.fgdc.gov/geo-one-stop/).

**Shoreline Change Conference.** Cindy Fowler, NOAA Coastal Services Center, distributed a handout summarizing the Shoreline Change Conference held in Charleston, South Carolina, in May.

5. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting is scheduled to coincide with the Coastal Geotools Conference scheduled for the week of January 6, 2003. This will be a joint meeting

with the Cadastral Subcommittee and the Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Subcommittee.

### Action Items

1. Create marine boundaries list server.
2. Develop disclaimer for digital data.
3. Develop scope of work for the best practices handbook.
4. Identify someone from the Department of Justice and the National Marine Fisheries Service to serve on the MBWG (standing item).
5. Coordinate with the MPA inventory team on data dissemination issues.

### Items Distributed at Meeting

1. Agenda
2. A year in review presentation
3. One-pager on the MBWG
4. Work plan
5. Shoreline Change Conference summary

### Attendees

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
David Stein	NOAA Coastal Services Center	<a href="mailto:Dave.Stein@noaa.gov">Dave.Stein@noaa.gov</a>
Cindy Fowler	NOAA Coastal Services Center	<a href="mailto:Cindy.Fowler@noaa.gov">Cindy.Fowler@noaa.gov</a>
Craig Alvord	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	<a href="mailto:Alvord.craig@epa.gov">Alvord.craig@epa.gov</a>
Bob Dahl	Bureau of Land Management	<a href="mailto:Robert_w_dahl@blm.gov">Robert_w_dahl@blm.gov</a>
Ash Roach	Department of State	<a href="mailto:roachja@ms.state.gov">roachja@ms.state.gov</a>
Meredith Westington	NOAA Office of Coast Survey	<a href="mailto:Meredith.westington@noaa.gov">Meredith.westington@noaa.gov</a>
Donald Campbell	FCC Office of Engineering and Technology	<a href="mailto:Dcambel@fcc.gov">Dcambel@fcc.gov</a>
LouRae Langevin	Department of Defense	<a href="mailto:Langevinlr@hq.navy.mil">Langevinlr@hq.navy.mil</a>
Steve Kopach	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<a href="mailto:Steve_kopach@fws.gov">Steve_kopach@fws.gov</a>
Ole Varmer	NOAA General Counsel	<a href="mailto:Ole.Varmer@noaa.gov">Ole.Varmer@noaa.gov</a>
James Hubbard	NOAA National Ocean Service	<a href="mailto:James.hubbard@noaa.gov">James.hubbard@noaa.gov</a>
Curtis Loy	NOAA Office of Coast Survey	<a href="mailto:Curtis.Loy@noaa.gov">Curtis.Loy@noaa.gov</a>
Mitchell Tartt	NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries	<a href="mailto:Mitchell.Tartt@noaa.gov">Mitchell.Tartt@noaa.gov</a>
Mary Margaret McLeroy	NOAA General Counsel	<a href="mailto:mmmcleroy@yahoo.com">mmmcleroy@yahoo.com</a>
Lee Thormahlen	Minerals Management Service MBB	<a href="mailto:Leland.Thormahlen@mms.gov">Leland.Thormahlen@mms.gov</a>
Suzanne Bass	NOAA General Counsel	<a href="mailto:Suzanne.bass@noaa.gov">Suzanne.bass@noaa.gov</a>
Barbara Poore	U.S. Geological Survey	<a href="mailto:bspoore@usgs.gov">bspoore@usgs.gov</a>
Harry Norris	Florida Marine Research Institute	<a href="mailto:Henry.Norris@fwc.state.fl.us">Henry.Norris@fwc.state.fl.us</a>

Milo Mason	Minerals Management Service	None now
Martin Freeman	NOAA General Counsel	<a href="mailto:Martin.Freeman@noaa.gov">Martin.Freeman@noaa.gov</a>
Doug Vandegraft	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<a href="mailto:Doug_Vandegraft@fws.gov">Doug_Vandegraft@fws.gov</a>
Renee Orr	Minerals Management Service	<a href="mailto:Renee.orr@mms.gov">Renee.orr@mms.gov</a>
Joseph Uravitch	NOAA Marine Protected Areas Center	<a href="mailto:Joseph.uravitch@noaa.gov">Joseph.uravitch@noaa.gov</a>
Terry Schaefer	National Academy of Sciences Ocean Studies Board	<a href="mailto:Tschaefer@nas.edu">Tschaefer@nas.edu</a>
Frank Sannino	National Park Service	<a href="mailto:Frank_Sannino@nps.gov">Frank_Sannino@nps.gov</a>

**FGDC Marine Boundary Working Group Meeting  
Tuesday, July 16, 2002  
Federal Communications Commission Building  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC**

- 8:30 Continental breakfast
  - Federal Communications Commission opening remarks
- 8:45 Welcome and introductions
  - Welcome from co-chairs and short introductions from working group
  - Review of meeting minutes and action items from February 12, 2002
- 9:15 Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecological Reserve – Mitchell Tartt
  - Group feedback
- 9:45 Marine Protected Areas Initiative – Joe Uravitch
  - Group feedback
- 10:15 Snack break
- 10:30 A year in review and a look ahead – Cindy Fowler and Lee Thormahlen
  - Accomplishments, priority work items, communication
- 11:45 Lunch
- 1:00 National Needs for Coastal Mapping and Charting Study – Terry Schaefer
- 1:30 Florida’s perspective on marine boundaries – Harry Norris (tentative)
  - Group feedback
- 2:15 Short Updates
  - Marine boundary legal update
  - Offshore/onshore cadastral coordination

- Coast Survey update on maritime boundaries data development
- Baseline Committee update
- Web site update
- Geospatial One-Stop
- Report back on Cadastral Subcommittee meeting and Shoreline Change Conference
- Updates from other members - open

3:30 Next meeting – joint meeting with the FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee

- Discuss date, place, and agenda

4:00 Adjourn

Minutes Submitted by

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