

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)
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Report of the MarineXML Steering Group

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Agenda Item 6.2.7

1. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT DURING THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD

Vocabulary Governance Activities

The joint MarineXML/SeaDataNet vocabulary governance group has been working to develop vocabularies covering two facets of data discovery:

- Water body names
- Data production tools

The 'SeaVoX Salt and Fresh Water Body Gazetteer' (<http://vocab.ndg.nerc.ac.uk/list/C191/current/>) launched just prior to IODEXX has undergone further population extension with the addition of a number of 'local' water bodies in European waters. The policy of only including water body names for which spatial extent geometries (enclosed polygons) based on the World Vector Shoreline (WVS) has been maintained. Further work funded by the UK Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN) has been commissioned to specify geometries for sea areas in UK coastal waters.

SeaVoX accepted an invitation from BODC to take over governance of a data production tool vocabulary (<http://vocab.ndg.nerc.ac.uk/list/L221/current/>) under the title of 'SeaVoX Device Catalogue'. The concepts in this vocabulary are sample collecting tools or in-situ instruments described at the manufacturer plus model level such as 'Sea-Bird SBE 25 Sealogger CTD'. The concepts are mapped to concepts from the 'SeaDataNet Device Categories' vocabulary (<http://vocab.ndg.nerc.ac.uk/list/L05/current/>), thereby forming a hierarchical oceanographic instrumentation thesaurus.

MarineXML Steering Activities

The MarineXML Steering Group was created primarily to oversee the recommendations of the XML Study Group (SGXML), which operated under joint IODE/ICES auspices from 2001-2004. In the IODE XX report it was proposed that a strategy meeting be held between IODE and ICES to consider joint activities to further the MarineXML SG mission. This meeting took the form of participation by the MarineXML SG chair participating in the ICES Working Group on Data and Information Management (WG-DIM) meeting

(Copenhagen May 25-27 2010).

A presentation was given to remind WG-DIM of the history of SGXML and of the recommendations entrusted to MarineXML SG. This was well received and in the following discussion WG-DIM recognized that standards development was within its strategic Terms of Reference. The WG-DIM co-chairs agreed that they would endeavour to find resources for specific standards development activities brought to their attention and deemed to be of specific interest to ICES.

The discussion with ICES and subsequent discussions with the IODE co-chair prompted by the mission report pointed out a functional overlap between MarineXML SG and the Ocean Standards work reported in 6.2.1. Further discussions are required to ensure that there is no duplication of effort between these activities.

2. PROPOSED WORK PLAN AND TIME TABLE FOR THE NEXT INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD

Vocabulary Governance Activities

The 'SeaVoX Salt and Fresh Water Body Gazetteer' will continue to be developed in two ways:

1. Addition of further local sea areas. Work is underway for UK coastal waters, but IODE data centres and co-ordinators are encouraged to submit names and polygon co-ordinates for water bodies in their local region to SeaVoX. Anybody interested in doing this should contact rkl@bodc.ac.uk in the first instance.
2. Replacing the 'bounding box' geometries currently served by access through OGS Web Services to the polygons as images and co-ordinates.

Further development of the 'SeaVoX Device Catalogue' will be directed towards expanding the coverage of devices catalogued. In particular, the work of the GE-BICH group cataloguing plankton sampling devices and water sampling devices will be incorporated into the vocabulary and mapped to the SeaDataNet device categories.

The first phase of the SeaDataNet project comes to an end in March 2011. An application has been submitted to the EU for a second phase to commence in January 2012. There is a large number of controlled vocabularies under SeaDataNet governance that need to be brought under SeaVoX governance to ensure they are maintained between the two phases of the SeaDataNet project and to assure their long-term stewardship should SeaDataNet 2 not be funded. It is considered to be particularly important that the following vocabularies be brought under SeaVoX governance during 2011.

- SeaDataNet Device Categories
- SeaDataNet Parameter Disciplines
- SeaDataNet Agreed Parameter Groups
- SeaDataNet Parameter Discovery Vocabulary
- SeaDataNet Measurement Periodicity Classes
- SeaDataNet Measurand Quality Flags

SeaVoX is a moderated e-mail list discussion forum for vocabulary governance. Further IODE participation in these discussions is strongly encouraged. Anybody interested in joining the group should contact rkl@bodc.ac.uk.

MarineXML Steering Activities

It is felt that the degree of overlap between this activity and the Ocean Standards activity is so great that these activities should be rolled together under the Ocean Standards banner.

There is also a clear requirement for the governed vocabularies to be developed into Ocean Standards (6.2.1). However, the only commitment that can be given to taking this forward is to make efforts to find the resources to prepare standards submissions.

3. REQUESTED FUNDING FOR THE NEXT INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD

The proposed activities are based on electronic communication and therefore have no costs associated with them.

4. TEXT FOR THE ACTION PAPER

Dr Rickards will introduce this Agenda Item by referring to Document IOC/IODE-XXI/21 (Report of the MarineXML Steering Group)."

The joint MarineXML/SeaDataNet vocabulary governance group has been working to develop vocabularies covering water body names and data production tools. The 'SeaVoX Salt and Fresh Water Body Gazetteer' launched just prior to IODEXX has undergone further population. The 'SeaVoX Device Catalogue' has been initially populated and published.

A presentation was given to ICES Working Group on Data and Information Management (Copenhagen May 25-27 2010) on the history and role of MarineXML SG. This was well received and in the following discussion WG-DIM recognized that standards development was within its strategic Terms of Reference. The WG-DIM co-chairs agreed that they would endeavour to find resources for specific standards development activities brought to their attention and deemed to be of specific interest to ICES.

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