

Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2013

Contract # FY13-C-VI-NOAA

To

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Meeting title:

Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership Data Managers Meeting

Date and time:

Wednesday, March 13th, 2013, from 9:00AM – 4:00PM AST

Location:

Double Tree Hotel by Hilton, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Hosts:

1. Mr. Ernesto Diaz, Director of Division of Coastal Zone Management, Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
2. Mr. Jean-Pierre Oriol, Director of the Division of Coastal Zone Management, U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources

Objectives of the meeting:

The purpose of this meeting was to gather geospatial data managers in Puerto Rico (PR) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) in order to solicit their input on the CROP, regional CMSP, and development of a regional geospatial data portal.

As stated in the meeting agenda and supplementary materials (see Appendix A), the meeting had the following objectives:

1. Inform CROP partners of CROP objectives, goals and vision.
2. Convene regional CMSP data managers to discuss geospatial data management and regional sharing mechanisms.
3. Solicit data manager input on CMSP data portal functionality.
4. Assess CROP partner organizations' collective technical capacity to support regional CMSP.
5. Identify data manager's needs and challenges for advancing CMSP in the US Caribbean.
6. Discuss means for developing technical CMSP community of practice.

Participants:

The meeting hosts recruited 14 individuals by email, all of which agreed to participate and 10 of which ultimately were able to attend. Including the meeting hosts, the two coordinators and TNC employees, 19 participants representing 10 agencies attended the meeting. Table 1 lists all participants.

Table 1 – Participant list

Name	Agency/Organization	Emails
Aaron Hutchins	TNC	ahutchins@tnc.org
Aurora Justiniano-Santos	TNC/PR DRNA	amjustiniano@drna.gobierno.pr
Avram Primack	VI EPSCoR	avram.primack@live.uvi.edu
Chris George	USVI LGO	chris.george@lgo-vi.gov
Collin Daugherty	TNC	cdaugherty@tnc.org
Coralys Ortiz	DNER – CZMP	cortiz@drna.gobierno.pr
Ernesto L. Díaz	PR DNER	ediaz@drna.gobierno.pr
Graciela-García Moliner	CFMC	graciela_cfmc@yahoo.com
Iván Santiago	OGPe	isantiago@ogp.pr.gov
Jean-Pierre Oriol	USVI DPNR	jp.oriol@dpnr.gov.vi
Julio Morell	CariCOOS	julio.morell@upr.edu
Kostas Alexandridis	VI EPSCoR	kalexan@uvi.edu
Lisamarie Carrubba	NOAA	lisamarie.carrubba@noaa.gov
Lynnette Roth	TNC	lroth@tnc.org
Luis Aponte	CaRA	luisd.aponte@upr.edu
Pedro Nieves	DPNR	pedro.nieves@dpnr.gov.vi
Peter Freeman	TNC/USVI DPNR	Peter.Freeman@dpnr.gov.vi
Raimundo Espinoza	TNC	respinoza@tnc.org
Richard Appeldoorn	CCRI	richard.appeldoorn@upr.edu
William Gould	CLCC	wgould@fs.fed.us

Materials presented and distributed

At the beginning of the meeting, participants were provided a supplementary information packet that included a meeting agenda (see Appendix A) and a worksheet of discussion questions (see Appendix B).

Ms. Roth gave a presentation titled, “Steps Towards a CROP Data Portal,” which covered the following topics:

- TNC’s role in the CROP
- Caribbean ROP Phase 1 – one of the principal objectives of the CROP is to improve collaboration between regional CMSP data managers.
- Goals for ROP Phase 1 – to establish regional data portal, to identify CMSP data gaps and to establish a workflow for key regional datasets.
- Goals for the Meeting:
 1. To assess the role of each organization in CROP Data Portal and data available for sharing.
 2. Discuss the shared standards that are needed for data and information used to support regional CMSP
 3. Discuss portal development and likely uses of this portal by managers and stakeholders for CMSP
 4. Discuss community of practice options
- Data Priorities – Ocean uses, habitat, administrative and cultural and physical and oceanographic.

Each of the meeting participants gave a presentation on their work with geospatial data. Table 2 lists all presentations.

Table 2 – Participant presentations

Name	Presentation Title
Konstantinos Alexandridis, Ph.D., and Avram Primack, Ph.D.	CROP: Proposed Geospatial and Project-related Metadata Protocols for Data Management Collaboration
Luis D. Aponte-Bermúdez, Ph.D., P.E.	CariCOOS - Marine Spatial Planning Initiative in Support to the Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership
Richard Appeldoorn, Ph.D.	Caribbean Coral Reef Institute
Lisamarie Carrubba, Ph.D.	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service in the Caribbean
Graciela García-Moliner	Help Advance the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning Program: Information Available at CFMC
Chris George	Street Addressing Initiative
Pedro Nieves	Coastal Zone Management Program Geospatial Capacity
Coralys Ortiz	Puerto Rico Coastal Zone Management Program Geospatial Data
Ivan Santiago	Geographic Information Systems at the PR Office of Management and Budget
William Gould	International Institute of Tropical Forestry - CLCC

Topics Discussed

Throughout and after presentations, participants discussed a number of topics, including:

1. The CROP and CMSP with respect to decision-making and public outreach
 - It was expressed that the CMSP data portal should be the first step to supporting complex decision-making. First, however, it is important to identify likely decisions and decision-making scenarios.
 - It was asked what are the decisions that need to be supported and what data does this require (e.g., species, ecosystems, socioeconomics, regulatory process, planning)?
 - The need to be pragmatic about how to present spatial data and analysis so that it gets incorporated into decision-making. Suggestions include increasing the readiness of analyses and products, ensuring models and analyses are quickly reviewed and accepted, and making science more accessible to decision-makers.
 - The potential for the CROP to identify and leverage financial synergies. For example, the GeoCAS Institute suggested cooperation with PR on issues like CMSP capacity training in order to further their NSF funding.
 - Strengthened cooperation between CariCOOS and other NOC agencies.
 - Having CMSP reach the public and reflect public concerns. For example, it was suggested that sensitive species/habitat information be nested and mapped for the public.
2. Existing data resources (not already outlined in participants' presentations)
 - CFMC's website has a large range of information, and will soon be bringing data online with the help of NOS.
 - NOS has a large database on Essential Fish Habitat, hi-res benthic habitat mapping, and other data.

- GeoCAS will soon be hosting all regional data from NOAA's Office of Biogeography (BioGeo) and the USGS.
 - NMFS' Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) has a Public Consultation Tracking System with lat/long for all NOAA consultations regarding EFH or Endangered Species Act habitat designations. It was suggested that these data could help understand the impacts of development on natural resources.
 - NOAA has a large amount of data available from programs such as NOS, NESDIS, NMFS, OAR, NWS and CRCP.
 - The USGS has many maps already digitalized and available to use.
 - The Southeast Area and Monitoring Program (SeaMap) has data from fishery independent surveys.
 - NOAA's socioeconomic data are available at the Coral Reef Information System.
 - U.S. Customs and HIDTA also have informative data.
 - NMFS has non-public data available to partners upon request.
 - CLCC has begun a portal and is seeking collaboration (interactive map, interactive atlas, data catalog, data to measure effectiveness of programs, and ecosystem governance).
3. Data and research needs, priorities, and sharing
- Some of the key data priorities mentioned by the participants were: human uses, biodiversity, connectivity issues, transmission lines, energy needs, and potential problems such as oil spills. Participants also expressed the importance of identifying traditional ocean uses, potential uses and potential conflicts.
 - The CFMC expressed a need to remove administrative bound for improving the delivery of data to managers and scientists, bringing existing databases up to date, and integrating existing data into planning.
 - VI DPNR and the VI Office of the Lt. Governor expressed a need for high-res surveying and monitoring to support development of resilience toolkits.
 - The CCRI expressed a need to improve the translation of observational data into management priorities.
 - The CROP data portal is the first step in providing a data to help advance the CMSP program and solving the problem of complex decision-making. It is important to identify these complex decisions.
 - The CLCC expressed a need for the expansion of species distribution data, a framework for merging PR and USVI data, linking CLCC data with other partners' data, MPA effectiveness, future scenarios modeling (climate and land use change), and downscaled climate data.
4. Data standards:
- All expressed the importance of ensuring that the CROP moves forward in accordance with the standards and requirements of relevant agencies and funding organizations.
 - The CROP will have to agree on a reference system and metadata before developing the portal.
 - The question was posed of how to reconcile existing standards, which include those of CoRIS (which sets the metadata standards for all NOAA data), DPNR, GeoCAS (which stipulates protocols to ensure metadata meets universal standards), and funding organizations.

- The idea of a “DOI-style” layer tracking numbers was proposed. This number could be updated through an annual user survey and enforced through obligations to move data back to providers.
5. CMSP data portal development
- Suggested first steps include setting up the human and technical infrastructure and capacity, making inventory of data, cataloging data, and determining hosting.
 - Another first step is determining who the end users will be, since they will drive portal development. The idea of a current and future uses/user survey was proposed as a means to characterize the end user.
 - Hosting is a topic that needs more discussion. GeoCAS has started developing its own portal and offered to host, which would help the USVI with bandwidth limitations. Another option is cloud hosting, which most agreed makes sense for backup but may not be operational and may face confidentiality and cost issues.
 - Participants expressed their concern about the confidentiality of the data: Who will be using the data? Who will have access to the data? For what purpose will the data be used?
 - It was recommended that portal development should be planned for in both the short and long term. The short-term vision should focus on necessary data and infrastructure, and the long-term vision should include functionality, DSS tools, products, etc.
6. Miscellaneous
- It was recommended that SECART be better involved in the CROP.
 - The USVI expressed optimism that a CMSP data portal would facilitate broader use of geospatial data across territorial planning agencies.

Appendix A – Meeting Agenda



Agenda
 Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership
 Data Managers Meeting
 March 13, 2012 (9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
 Double Tree Hotel by Hilton, San Juan



Meeting Objectives:

- Inform CROP partners of the CROP objectives, goals and vision
- Convene regional CMSP data managers to discuss geospatial data management and regional sharing mechanisms
- Solicit data manager input on CMSP data portal functionality
- Assess CROP partner organizations' collective technical capacity to support regional CMSP
- Identify data managers needs and challenges for advancing CMSP in the US Caribbean
- Discuss means for developing technical CMSP community of practice

Facilitators: Peter Freeman and Aurora M. Justiniano Santos, Ph.D.
 Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership Coordinators

TIME SCHEDULE	ACTIVITY	ROOM
9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Ernesto L. Díaz (PR DNER) Jean Pierre Oriol (USVI DPNR)	Welcome Remarks from PR and U.S. Virgin Islands	Galería
9:15 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. Lynnette Roth (TNC)	Toward a CROP Data Portal for CMSP	Galería
9:40 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. 9:50 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. 10:10 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. 10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. 10:40 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. 10:50 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. 11:10 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. 11:20 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Data Provider Presentations Graciela-García Moliner (NOAA CFMC) Lisamarie Carrubba (NOAA NMFS) Avram Primack (VI EPSCoR) Kostas Alexandridis (VI EPSCoR) Iván Santiago (OGPe) Coralys Ortiz (DNER CZMP) Pedro Nieves (DPNR) Chris George (USVI Office Lt. Governor) Eric Linzey (VITEMA) Miguel Canals/Julio Morell (CaRA) Richard Appeldoorn (CCRI) William Gould (CLCC)	Galería
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Discussions: data management and sharing for the CROP	Galería
3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Coffee Break	
3:15 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.	CMSP Community of Practice	Galería
3:40 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Remaining Discussions and Closing Remarks	Galería

Appendix B – Worksheet of discussion questions on data management and sharing



Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership
Data Managers Meeting, March 13, 2013



DISCUSSION ON DATA MANAGEMENT AND DATA SHARING

OBJECTIVES

1. Engage participants in a discussion about managing and sharing geospatial data relevant to regional CMSP.
2. Strategize the integration of data so it can be more readily accessed, evaluated and used effectively by regional partners, resource managers and stakeholders.
3. Solicit input from participants on the development and design of the CROP CMSP data portal.
4. Strategize mechanisms for networking data managers and developing a CMSP technical community of practice.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

I. THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL OCEAN PARTNERSHIP AND COASTAL AND MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

1. How can your organization contribute to the CROP?

2. How do you view your organization's role in the CROP?

II. DATA SHARING AND INTEGRATION

1. a. What types of data and information do you have available to share to support regional CMSP?

- b. What types of data and information you envision the CROP and CMSP will need in order to achieve desired goals and objectives?

2. What are some of the shared standards that you think are needed for data and information used to support regional CMSP? What sort of standards do we want to set as a group for data sharing? What projections should we use? What naming conventions? Others?

III. DATA PORTAL DEVELOPMENT

1. How do we see data managers and stakeholders using this portal? How can we tailor it the needs of the territories?

2. What recommendations would you give for developing a regional data and information management system?

IV. OCEAN PLANNING COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

1. What is the best mechanism for the CROP to communicate things to you (i.e., email updates, a listserv, social media, etc.)?

2. What are some human elements that can add value to the data, their interpretability, their use, and resulting products?

3. What is the best structure and mechanism for open discussion within the community?

4. How can a community of practice facilitate the sharing and integration of data into the portal?

5. What other information should a community of practice provide? Lessons learned? Best practices? Technical specifications?

6. What other elements should this community have? A network directory? Educational materials? Webinars?

7. What will persuade you to participate?

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of your organization's needs and challenges related to advancing the CROP and regional CMSP?
2. Where are the data and capacity gaps and hurdles? How can we fill those gaps and address those challenges?
3. What state are these data in? How much processing will be necessary to prepare them for integration into the CROP CMSP data portal?
4. How can we share and provide access to appropriate CMSP data from different sources, including Federal and Commonwealth governmental agencies, academia and the research community?
5. Do our data reveal common themes or priorities that can inform portal development?
6. Is it best to have one storage place for these data or just link in to where data are already stored?