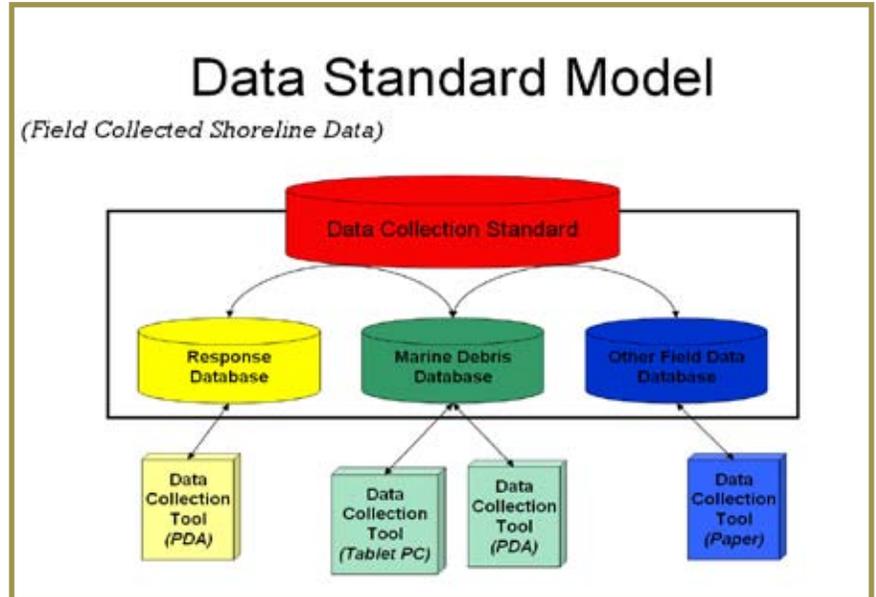


Marine Debris

NATIONAL

Emergency Response Field Data Collection: *Integrating marine debris and shoreline assessment data through a common data standard*

There is a basic overlap between some types of marine debris data collection and the data gathered by Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) teams while responding to oil spills. By generating a common language or data standard we can improve data integration and general communication between these two communities. The goal of this project is to lay the groundwork for developing such a standard, primarily by gathering a large selection of stakeholders from both communities together for a workshop to discuss needs, benefits and to develop consensus on next steps.



A data standard can provide a common language that allows different groups and data collection efforts to share information. It can be the rules of communication that help standardize the way data is collected and stored. Once critical commonalities exist then integration and the associated benefits are possible.

The workshop was sponsored by NOAA Emergency Response Division, NOAA Marine Debris Program and the Coastal Response Research Center and was held September 25-27, 2007. The group of participants was diverse and included federal, state, not-for-profit, and corporate representatives from the response and marine debris communities. Representatives from Canada and from the technical, data management fields were also present.

WHAT IS MARINE DEBRIS?

Marine debris is any persistent solid material that is manufactured or processed and directly or indirectly, intentionally or unintentionally, disposed of or abandoned into the marine environment or the Great Lakes.

MARINE DEBRIS SOURCES

Sources of marine debris include land-based sources, such as littering, dumping, and industrial losses. Ocean-based debris can come from fishing vessels, cargo ships, stationary platforms, and other vessels.

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MANDATES

Mandates supporting NOAA's marine debris efforts include the following:

- Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act of 2006, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1951 et seq.
- U.S. Ocean Action Plan
- Coral Reef Conservation Act
- Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1901 et seq.
- Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, (Title II) 33 U.S.C. §§ 1401 et seq.
- Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 et seq.

PARTNERS

- Coastal Response Research Center
- NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, Marine Debris Program
- NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, Emergency Response Division

BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

- Increase data integration between response and marine debris
- Improve data integration within the response community (broaden scope of project beyond SCAT to include other missions including NRDA, Monitoring, Wildlife, etc.)
- Increase awareness of marine debris issues within the response community.
- Move toward a common data standard for field collected response data.

Workshop Attendees:

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
California Oil Spill Prevention and Response
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Genwest Systems
Entrix
Environment Canada
Environmental Performance and Decision Support
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NOAA – Assessment and Restoration Division
NOAA – National Marine Sanctuaries
NOAA – Pacific Services Center
NOAA – Office of Coast Survey
Ocean Conservancy
Polaris Applied Sciences
Research Planning Inc.
Sheavly Consultants
Texas General Land Office
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
University of New Hampshire – Joint Hydrographic Ctr.
University of New Hampshire – Research Computing Ctr.

University of New Hampshire – Marine Debris Research
University of Wisconsin
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Coast Guard
Washington State (represented by WA Department of Fish and Wildlife)
Weston Solutions

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