

Access to environmental data

*Roy Mendelsohn and Lynn Dewitt
Southwest Fisheries Science Center
Pacific Grove, CA*

In the first part of this talk, we reviewed some emerging standards for transparent data browsing and sharing that are being developed by the Data Management and Communications (DMAC) subcommittee of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). Most important for NOAA Fisheries are OPeNDAP, a middleware solution to serve data and data products in a consistent form via the Internet without having to reformat them; the Live Access Server (LAS) for on-line browsing and visualization of data; and the DMAC Transport (Semantic Data Model) Working Group 5, which will be developing semantic (use) metadata, defining items such as units, dimensions, and attributes of data that are used by visualization and analysis programs to understand the data. It is especially important for NOAA Fisheries to get involved in the latter, or else it will have to live with the definitions decided by others.

The second part of the talk showed a variety of the Pacific Fisheries Environmental Laboratory's Live Access Servers, with the emphasis on how they have been used to integrate data from a variety of biological and environmental data sources, and how the LAS allowed for transparent subsetting, visualization, and downloading of the data in a variety of formats.

The third part of the talk identified several key web sources for environmental data relevant to the mission of NOAA Fisheries.

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