OFWIM 2002 - Evening Excursion to the National Aquarium

Amy Martin, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

I arrived in Baltimore on the morning of November 1, 2002, checked in to the Radisson Plaza Lord Baltimore Hotel located near the Inner Harbor and nervously headed upstairs to meet that lucky person who would be my roommate for the next 5 days. The first meeting with my roommate would set the tone for the rest of the meeting. Would we get along? Would we have things in common? Conferences and workshops are the same way. Is this where I belong? Will there be topics that I am interested in? What will I be able to offer? Will I get along with the other attendees? It can be an awkward, even unsettling adventure into the unknown, but typically it all works out in the end. And, in this case it did.

It turns out I was the lucky one. My OFWIM 2002 roommate's name was Samantha Horn-Olsen and she hailed from Maine. She was a lovely person who was kind and gracious and extremely interesting. After meeting her, I knew that the next few days spent with the rest of the OFWIM members was going to be a fun and memorable experience. I could start to focus on the fun I was going to have, and the knowledge I was going to gain, not the nervousness I was feeling. Later that day, after getting my assignments from our esteemed Summit organizers, listening to some interesting speakers and refreshing myself with a hot shower, it was off to our "Evening Excursion" at the National Aquarium. Having been there a time or two with family and school field trips, I didn't think I would really see much I hadn't seen before. Well, I was wrong.

We happened to make it to the aquarium during what I believe was the last month of the Seahorse exhibit - what a sight to behold! With both native and exotic seahorses and seadragons (yes, they exist!) on display, it was really something to see.

Amy Martin, Editor
OFWIM Newsletter
4010 W. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
www.ofwim.org

Although, you may have missed some of them if you weren't careful. Fighting over the other crowds of people also visiting the aquarium, I often had to search over coral, through seagrasses, under kelp and past pipefish to see these wonders of nature.

Being a bit wary of sea creatures myself (you should hear the jokes around the office as I cringe at the thought of the deep sea and the monsters that may exist there), I never would have thought that I would be awed at the sight of the seadragons camouflaged as kelp. They were nearly indistinguishable from the kelp in which they lived - amazing! I have seen many camouflaging techniques and strategies from various forms of wildlife, but a seadragon?

After leaving the seahorse exhibit, we followed along the walkways of the aquarium face to face with rays and sharks and other creatures of the deep. We went through passageways filled with all sorts of native and exotic aquatic life - stone fish, clown fish, scorpion fish, lookdown fish, pipefish, lion fish, bass, eels and anemones of all kinds - it truly was another world, one which up to that point I was a bit ignorant of, I must admit.

In This Issue......

Afterwards, it was on to the rainforest exhibit that I attended with, among others, our Watchable Wildlife biologist, Jeff Trollinger, who could not help but try to mimic the calls of the elusive birds of the rainforest. I believe he was actually able to elicit a return call after a try or two. Soon, I found myself peering into tanks of poison dart frogs (very cool) whose colors did not seem real - the blues, greens and reds were so vibrant that I still cannot believe they really exist in nature that way. Pictures do not do them justice.

There were some tanks that had multiple species of frogs, turtles and snakes. You had to perform a "hunt and seek" to find them all. It took me back to a time in my life where I would spend countless hours on Sunday finding all of the hidden items lost in a crowded picture from Highlights magazine.....Ahhh, those were the days.

After a hearty Maryland style seafood dinner, we were walking back to the hotel, passing some local wildlife along the way - some that would rival any sea creature - and the group was still discussing the majesty of the seadragons and the complexity of the displays. If you are ever in Baltimore, I highly recommend that you visit the National Aquarium - especially after 5:00pm on Friday when it only costs $5.00 to get in - what a deal. And yes, if you like, you can attend the dolphin shows with that same ticket.

The "Evening Excursion" turned out to be a great way to meet other OFWIM members and relax after a hard day of travel and planning. My first day in Baltimore set my goals for the rest of the meeting, which were to enjoy myself, meet new people, learn something new and expose meyself to something I may be wary about simply in hopes of educating myself to the wonder of it all. Thanks for the experience OFWIM!

National Aquarium, Baltimore

NatureServe Website Adds County and Watershed-Level Distributions of At-Risk Species

Rob Riordan, rob_riordan@natureserve.org

NatureServe, a conservation organization that is a leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems, has launched a completely redesigned website that is a major biodiversity information resource for those in the conservation, scientific, and education communities. The new website, www.natureserve.org, includes the popular NatureServe Explorer web product, a searchable database offering detailed information on more than 50,000 plants, animals, and ecological communities of the United States and Canada. NatureServe Explorer now provides county and watershed distributions for more than 5,000 at-risk U.S. species—information never previously available online.

 "NatureServe's new website organizes in one place our network's vast online data offerings. It's a rich trove of biodiversity data, particularly for scientists and natural resource professionals," said Dr. Bruce Stein, NatureServe's Vice President for Programs. According to Dr. Edward O. Wilson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Future of Life, "NatureServe has established an impressive record of accomplishments in the area of biodiversity information. There is no other information resource comparable to its authoritative database of species occurrences, compiled over 25 years by natural heritage programs."

Development of NatureServe's new website was made possible through support from the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII), which is coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey. Online

access to county and watershed distributions was supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to greatly improved graphic design and ease of use, the website has a number of features that will make it a valuable online destination for the scientific and conservation communities, including:

- A portal to the online data offered by the 76 natural heritage programs and conservation data centers in the U.S., Canada, and Latin America that comprise the NatureServe network. These include numerous searchable biodiversity databases, local, state, and province-level data on at-risk species, and extensive information on ecological community classifications .
- A directory to the more than 800 staff working across the NatureServe network, with links to every Natural Heritage Program homepage
- Searchable databases providing conservation information for U.S. and Canadian plants, animals, and ecosystems and for the birds and mammals of Latin America. Distributions for at-risk species at county and watershed scales are now provided in text format; funding is being sought to provide the data through an Internet map server that can be directly queried and downloaded.
- A monthly feature providing biodiversity insights and analyses through informative maps and charts. The first feature is a state-by-state view of U.S. species at risk.
- Technical details of NatureServe's standards and protocols for biological inventory and information management, including system diagrams and data dictionaries for the network's core data management software, Biotics.

 NatureServe is a non-profit conservation group dedicated to providing the scientific information and tools that form the basis for effective conservation action. NatureServe represents a network of 76 natural heritage programs and conservation data centers in the United States, Canada, and Latin America that collect and analyze information on plants, animals, and ecosystems. NatureServe is a leading source for detailed scientific information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems. Visit us on the web at www.natureserve.org.

States Adopt New Species and Habitat Tracking Software - Biotics 4
Mary Klein, Lori Scott, and Rob Solomon, NatureServe

 As fish and wildlife information managers evaluate options for managing the data that will form the basis of their comprehensive wildlife plans, the Biotics 4 software is emerging as an important tool. Biotics 4 is the newest version of software used by the network of natural heritage programs and conservation data centers to map and track the status and location of species and their habitats throughout North America. In addition to its enhanced functionality, Biotics 4's standardized data model allows states and provinces to share information easily, and evaluate species status on regional, national and rangewide scales.

The implementation of this system represents the culmination of more than two years of intensive development and an investment of more than three million dollars by NatureServe, a non-profit conservation organization that provides the scientific information and tools needed to help guide effective conservation action.

 NatureServe's goal is to install Biotics 4 in 30 state natural heritage programs and provincial conservation data centers by the end of June 2003. Nearly all states and provinces in the U.S. and Canada will have the software installed by June 2004. Two pilot programs, Michigan State University and the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage, have been helping to test the system since June 2002. In January, Michigan was the first to complete a full installation and begin using Biotics 4 as its new production database. In addition, the conservation data centers in the British Columbia Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management and the Yukon territorial government both now have Biotics 4, and installations are underway at the Illinois Department of Natural

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> **"NatureServe's Biotics 4.0 will
> be an invaluable tool for
> developing our state's Comprehensive
> Wildlife Conservation Plan."**
> - Rick Schneider, NE Game and Parks Commission

Resources and Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Resources.

Biotics 4 incorporates several components that offer a fully integrated suite of data management products. They are: Biotics Mapper (custom ArcView GIS interface for spatial data management); Biotics Tracker (user interface for tabular data management); Biotics Exchanger (utilities for data import/export and bi-directional data exchange); and Biotics Administrator (interface for managing security, system options, and extensibility).

To see and learn more, visit the Biotics 4 website (http://whiteoak.natureserve.org/hdms/biotics-learn-more.shtml). On this page you will find links to learn more about the software, NatureServe's methodology, preparing for and implementing Biotics 4, and the implementation schedule.

Links to products from the National Fish and Wildlife Data Siummit/OFWIM 2002

Online Power Point Presentations:
   http://www.ofwim.org/docs/OFWIM_PPTs.html
Online Adobe Acrobat Reader Files:
   http://www.ofwim.org/docs/OFWIM_PDFs.html
Online Poster Presentations/Abstracts:
   http://www.ofwim.org/docs/
OFWIM_2K2_Posters.html

Hacker's Ball, OFWIM 2002

President's Message

Art Smith, OFWIM President

Greetings from the high (and dry) plains of South Dakota. When I started this message, the wind chill outside was -29. This was Fahrenheit, but to be honest if it was Celsius, it wouldn't have made any discernable difference. To make matters worse, my office building's heating system had something broken and there was so much hot air circulating that room temperatures were hovering around 85°F (29.44°C). But that was a week ago, and things are a little more normal now. I can pretty much guarantee this September at our annual conference in Rapid City we won't be seeing temperatures low enough to be measured with wind chills, nor should things be too hot either.

We have started some preliminary planning efforts for the 2003 conference already. What we do know now is that you should reserve 25-29 September for our 2003 conference. As more plans are established, information will regularly be posted on the OFWIM web page. If you have not been on our web page lately, you may want to take a quick visit. On the root page are links to the 2002 Proceedings as well as the final report we all worked so hard on during those break out sessions. Many thanks to Andy Loftus, Jake Faibisch, and Doug Beard for developing and/or writing the report. More thanks are due to Don Schrupp for not only formatting and posting those links, but additionally for his work in compiling the links to the presentations and posters also appearing on the OFWIM root page. These links will eventually be put back on the "meetings & events" page, along with the currently missing 2001 meeting information.

Many of our 2002 conference attendees were either partially- or fully-funded USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure travel grants. Since the conference, I am very pleased to report that relations between OFWIM and NBII have continued. An OFWIM representative was invited to attend NBII's All-Nodes meeting in Maui this past January. Don Schrupp was the lucky dog, and he took quite copious notes between slurping down some of those exotic drinks with the little umbrellas in them. From those notes we are intending to match where NBII's future projects and OFWIM's abilities coincide to initiate the development of a plan where both organization's efforts can best be utilized. Although

we are still searching for pictures of Don in a bikini that are rumored to be floating around, once they are found they will, of course, be posted on our web site. You have been warned.

OFWIM is also participating in a task force along with representatives from NBII and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to plan a federal appropriations request to help states develop their ability to contribute and use the opportunities available through the NBII Nodes. Although this task force will be operating behind the scenes, it is hoped that it can have a dramatic effect on individual states to participate in the exchange of data with other states and agencies that would not be possible otherwise.

My personal thanks to all OFWIM members, and especially to those of you who were able to attend the 2002 conference. I'm looking forward to a 2003 conference program that continues to help facilitate biologists and data managers with common data concerns. If you have any specific areas you'd like to suggest for the program, please don't hesitate to let me, your regional representative, or any of the OFWIM officers know your thoughts. Hope to see you in Rapid City!

National Fish and Wildlife Data Summit Report available via the Internet

The Final Report from the National Fish and Wildlife Database Summit is now available online at http://www.ofwim.org. You can also download all of the Summit Power Point presentations and other information. The Final Report is presented as a needs assessment and action plan for natural resources manager to address wide-scale data needs.

The Summit was held on November 1-5 in Baltimore, MD, and was hosted by OFWIM as part of its annual meeting. The International Association Fish and Wildlife Agencies was a sponsor, and the Summit was made possible with generous financial support of the USGS National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Summit was attended by more than 130 people from 31 state fish and wildlife agencies. Forty-six travel grants were awarded to state personnel attending the meeting.

Welcome New OFWIM Executive Committee

Elections were held in the fall of 2002 via mail-in ballot and by ballot at the Fish and Wildlife Data Summit in Baltimore and the following candidates were voted in as the new members of the Executive Committee. Congratulations to them and welcome to the ExComm!

President:　　　Art Smith
　　　art.smith@state.sd.us

Past-President:　　Stan Allen
　　　stan_allen@psmfc.org

President-Elect:　　Kathy Graham
　　　kgraham@dgif.state.va.us

Secretary:　　　Barb White
　　　barb_white@fws.gov

Treasurer:　　　Jake Faibisch
　　　jacobf@sso.org

Member-at-large:　Trina Innes
　　　trina.innes@forrex.org

Executive Committee Member Biographies

President: Art Smith

This is the first time I've been asked to create a biography when I'm not looking for a job or elected position. I like the idea, but am not sure exactly what to include. Here goes . . .

I think I'm an a-typical OFWIM member. I'm a Certified Wildlife Biologist by The Wildlife Society and started my wildlife career while earning a BS in Ecology and Systematic Biology from Cal Poly University, San Luis Obispo, California with about 10 classes in statistics and biometrics under my belt. That led me to the University of Wisconsin-Madison for graduate work with migratory waterfowl in the Department of Wildlife Ecology. My strong background in statistics and working on continent-wide population biological problems were the talents that got me hired for my first position in with the South Dakota Game, Fish and

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Parks. Game, Fish and Parks is one of the smallest, if not the smallest, state natural resources divisions in the US, and my first position was one of the few quantitatively-reliant positions. Therefore, I had few co-workers to learn from or to discuss my data concerns with. My main reason for originally joining OFWIM was to see how everyone else works with data coming from multiple sources. I quickly found that OFWIM gave me the contacts I was hoping to find. However, I felt that there were few OFWIM members who were basically statisticians like me.

Then my background got even more a-typical. After about 1 ½ years of happily deriving harvest statistics and answering research-oriented questions, I was promoted to administrator of the state's Wildlife Damage Management Program. If I thought being a wildlife statistician was a little different from the norm, now I found myself riding herd on a type of a program that is rarely concerned with data standardization, data sharing, and metadata. That is not to say that it isn't needed, this just hasn't been much of a concern in this field.

So now I find myself at an exciting place within OFWIM, at an exciting time in OFWIM. I think the future holds a great deal of interesting potentials for OFWIM and myself. Coming from where I did, I certainly did not expect to be where I am today. But as I look at the field of wildlife damage and game management, I am also excited at the potentials existing out there.

President-Elect: Kathy Graham

Kathy is the Manager of the Fish and Wildlife Information Services and GIS Section of the Wildlife Diversity Division in the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). In this position, she manages the day-to-day operations of the section, which obtains, compiles, computerizes, and disseminates textual and geographic information about wildlife resources. Many of their activities feed the online system of databases called the Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service (VAFWIS), which is available at www.vafwis.org. The Service has a broad user base of government agencies, private industry, environmental consulting firms, educators, researchers, and the general public. Agencies and consulting firms are the heaviest users of the system,

utilizing the geographic searching feature to determine whether resources such as threatened and endangered species, trout streams, or anadromous fish use areas, will be impacted by development projects. The section also has a highly skilled GIS staff that provides services ranging from map production to advanced GIS analysis to all divisions of the Agency. Kathy's staff is also leading the Aquatic GAP effort for Virginia, and developing a number of specialized database applications to support Agency staff research and management efforts.

Kathy has been an active member of OFWIM since 1996, and has held the office of Secretary and the post of Newsletter Editor. She has worked for Virginia government on and off for 10 years, holding such positions as: pollution control specialist (driving an enormous mobile lab around and doing bioassays), water quality regulation writer, and wetland permit specialist, before coming to VDGIF in 1995. Kathy received a B.S. in Biology from the College of William and Mary and a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University. She lives in Richmond, Virginia, with her new husband, Bob, and her children Kayla (14) and Devin (12).

Past President: Stan Allen

Stan Allen is currently a Program Manager for the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. Stan has been a part of fish and wildlife data and information management for over 20 years now, 10 years of which has been working with the Commission on multi-state/coastwide data programs. Before his current work with the Commission, he worked for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game where he was responsible for and involved in state/regional and national level data efforts.

Stan was one of the founding members of OFWIM and has held the offices of Member-at-Large, President-Elect (hosted the 2001 OFWIM meeting in Portland, OR), and served as President of OFWIM in 2002.

Secretary: Barb White

Barb White works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Lakewood, CO. Her current position is leader of the Data and Application Support Team in the Branch of Data and Systems Services, Division of Information Technology Management. Team

responsibilities include defining, developing, and administering data standards for Service-wide implementation; reviewing and developing national policy and guidance on issues that pertain to Service data and information systems; and managing help desk and administrative support services for Service information systems and applications.

Barb's previous experience includes 15 years of managing geographic information system and remote sensing projects for the Service and the U.S. Geological Survey's Fort Collins Science Center.

Treasurer: Jake Faibisch

Jacob (Jake) Faibisch currently serves as the NBII Coordinator for the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. He holds a Bachelor of Science in wildlife and fisheries biology from the University of Vermont, and he is certified as an Associate Wildlife Biologist by The Wildlife Society.

Before coming to IAFWA, Jake created the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation Educational Web Directory, a large, database driven website, and other conservation oriented websites, as an independent contractor. Jake was an I&E Manager for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources from 1995-1999, and he served as a natural resources educator for the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Jake has also worked on wild turkey telemetry in Arkansas, and served as a wildlife biologist for the Peace Corps in the Republic of Congo working on forest ungulate surveys.

Jacob Faibisch, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 444 N. Capitol St, Suite 544 Washington, DC, 20001

Member-At-Large: Trina Innes

Trina Innes has 12 years of experience in the management of natural resources, natural resource knowledge, and extension. An extension specialist with FORREX-Forest Research Extension Partnership, Trina works to improve access, exchange, and organization of British Columbia's natural resource information. She is the project manager for the Natural Resources Information Network, an on-line service that connects natural resource organizations and their information holdings. Trina is also the founding editor for the BC Journal of Ecosystems and Management and the Member-At-Large for the Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers.

Previously, Trina enjoyed positions with the British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and Jacques Whitford Environment Limited. She served as the chair of two planning committees, coordinated audits of forest inventories, and participated in projects involving environmental impact assessment, land-use planning, growth and yield, geographic information systems, biodiversity, archaeological values and terrain stability. She realized a love of technology, working with British Columbia's Forest Inventory Reporting System and developing the first District-scale intranet.

NBII Metadata Program for State Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Vivian Hutchinson, NBII

The NBII is interested in forming partnerships with State Fish and Wildlife Agencies with a goal of identifying their metadata needs, assisting in the progression of their metadata program, and ultimately providing a common area for metadata to be accessed. The purpose of the program is to provide support for states' metadata activities in exchange for the ability to provide access to the state's records through the NBII Clearinghouse for the biological community.

The NBII has been working with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) to develop a NBII Metadata Clearinghouse node. The DGIF has identified data sets in need of metadata creation assistance, for which NBII is providing creation support. Existing records at DGIF are being

reviewed for compliance with current Federal Geospatial Data Committee (FGDC) standards. The node will be a registered FGDC/NSDI Clearinghouse node and will be clearly identified as DGIF metadata records.

The NBII recognizes that states are in many different stages of their metadata creation programs. Therefore, this program is designed to be flexible based on the needs of the individual states. The NBII will work with interested states to assess their metadata needs. This may involve a variety of activities such as asking states to create an inventory of both legacy and current data sets in need of metadata creation and to identify persons in need of metadata training. The NBII could then provide metadata training in the FGDC standard and the Biological Data Profile, and assistance for metadata creation and quality control for new and legacy data sets. The NBII will create an individual State Fish and Wildlife Node on the Clearinghouse for the contributing state. The node will also be registered in the FGDC/NSDI Clearinghouse. Within the NBII Clearinghouse, state metadata will still be credited to the state organization and segregated from that of other Clearinghouse partners. NBII will not modify the content of states metadata, but will simply apply consistent formatting rules as with all partners in the Clearinghouse. Users will continue to be referred to the state's website for access to state data.

The NBII is a broad, collaborative program to provide increased access to data and information on the nation's biological resources. It operates as a distributed information system, linking diverse, high-quality biological databases, information products, and analytical tools maintained by NBII partners and other contributors in government agencies, academic institutions, non-government agencies, and private industry. NBII partners and collaborators also work on new standards, tools, and technologies that make it easier to find, integrate, and apply biological resources information.

If your organization is interested in participating in this program or for more details, please contact Jake Faibisch, IAFWA / NBII Coordinator at (202) 624-7744 or jacobf@sso.org or Vivian Hutchison, NBII

BLM and USFS Implement Enterprise GIS

Ginny Pyles, BLM

Managing survey and land records information is a challenge faced by local jurisdictions everywhere. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service (USFS) have this responsibility for nearly 500 million acres of public lands, with the BLM managing an additional 300 million acres of subsurface mineral resources. In an era of smaller budgets, increasing workloads, and shrinking workforces, keeping up with this workload is an ominous proposition for any organization. To meet this challenge, the BLM and USFS have joined together with a consortium of state, county, and private organizations to develop several applications, which combined, constitute the National Integrated Land System (NILS).

NILS is comprised of several applications including Survey Management, Measurement Management, Land Survey Information System, GeoCommunicator, and a yet-to-be-released application called Parcel Management. The GeoCommunicator application was deployed in 2001 and the Land Survey Information System was deployed in April of 2002. These two applications www.geocommunicator.gov and www.geocommunicator.gov/lsi/ provide web access to BLM data and GIS resources.

In October 2002, the BLM announced the first deployment of the Survey Management and Measurement Management modules of NILS.

BLM's Survey and Measurement Management Applications

The BLM has contracted with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) to design and implement the NILS enterprise GIS solution. The project began with an in-depth analysis of the BLM's business processes required for managing survey and land records data using an integrated field-to-fabric approach. Upon completion of the initial user needs analysis, a system architecture design was developed based on these requirements and the expected user loads. A centralized architecture employing Windows Terminal Server and Citrix technology was designed

to maximize performance, while minimizing bandwidth requirements from the BLM's distributed user base.

The release of the Survey Management and Measurement Management applications will serve as the foundation for the entire NILS application, by providing new COTS products, custom NILS applications, a land records Geodatabase, GIS architecture and a managed work environment. These applications include a set of custom components that work on top of ESRI's ArcGIS and Survey Analyst technology for importing the BLM's survey data into the geodatabase and for the creation of legal land descriptions. "We are very excited about the release of NILS Survey and Measurement Management," said Bob Anderson, the BLM's Acting Assistant Director for Minerals, Realty and Resource Management. "About 85% of our requirements went into the development of ESRI's new ArcGIS Survey Analyst and other ESRI software. This is a huge savings to the government and a benefit to everyone to be able to leverage COTS products that are available to everyone."

The NILS Geodatabase model is based upon ESRI's ArcGIS Parcel Data Model and meets the requirements of the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) Cadastral Data Content Standard. The implementation of the model will include conversion of the data from the NAD27 to the NAD83 datum, as well as the development of a seamless national dataset. The survey and parcel data will serve as the foundation for a national multipurpose cadastre.

Several innovative custom software capabilities have also been incorporated into the applications. Among the custom applications is a workflow management framework.

Workflow Management

The workflow management application allows the BLM to standardize and automate many of their land management activities. The Workflow Manager application is browser-based and provides the main entry point to the NILS application for the majority of NILS users. The *Workflow Manager* tool guides users through all the necessary GIS and non-GIS tasks

required to complete an entire business process. "Managing the workflow of an entire business process is important to the success of NILS," said Leslie Cone, BLM's NILS Program Manager.

In addition to standardizing workflows, it serves as a guide for staff in their day-to-day activities while also providing a mechanism for tracking a job's status and providing accountability and control in BLM work processes. Once an active job has been selected, users are provided with a series of tasks that must be completed to finish a job. The framework supports the assignment of responsibility for each task within a job to a specific individual or user role – only surveyors can do survey tasks, realty specialists are assigned specific tasks, and so on.

What's Next

The final NILS module, Parcel Management, is scheduled for initial release in September 2003. The parcel management components will eventually be linked to BLM's existing Land and Mineral Records System allowing users to create and manage land ownership information spatially. The parcels created with the parcel management tools will be defined from the survey data developed and maintained using the Survey Management and Measurement Management modules. The survey and parcel data will be vertically integrated to maintain and synchronize spatial and topological relationships between the two in real time. "The beauty of NILS is that it provides the tools to allow professional surveyors and GIS technicians to work together in an integrated system to improve the accuracy and the value of mapping data that will allow for better decision making and management of our national forests and public lands", says Jack Craven, Director of Lands for the US Forest Service.

For more information on NILS visit the National Integrated Land System Web site at http://www.blm.gov/nils or contact Leslie Cone, BLM Project Manager leslie_cone@blm.gov or Jim McGinnis, USFS jmcginnis@fs.fed.us.

The ACCSP facilitates real-time data collections for the Rhode Island DEM

Rhode Island becomes the first state to implement web-based harvest reporting for the seafood industry

Abbey Compton, ACCSP

On Jan. 6, 2003, the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), a partnership of 23 state and federal coastal resource management agencies, enabled the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to become the first state agency in the nation to offer a web-based data collection system to its seafood industry.

When Rhode Island finishes implementing the new system, that state will meet the ACCSP's commercial fisheries data collection standard of trip-level reporting of all species commercially harvested. The ACCSP staff began working with Rhode Island to build a web-based reporting system in the summer of 2002, with the input of a panel of Rhode Island seafood dealers. The Maryland DNR staff was impressed by the results, and asked that the ACCSP staff assist in modifying the system for Maryland's data collection needs. The ACCSP staff quickly agreed, and dubbed the system "Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS)" to reflect its expansion to multiple Atlantic partners.

With the opening of SAFIS in Rhode Island, that state's seafood dealers will be the first to utilize a free online application for real-time reporting of lobster, finfish and shellfish landings. Mandatory trip-level reporting is a new requirement for Rhode Island dealers, who have been reporting using a semi-weekly telephone system for some quota-managed fisheries. Dealers licensed by the National Marine Fisheries Service are continuing to use the federal telephone system and weigh-out slips during the SAFIS implementation, for benchmarking purposes.

"We are looking forward to the implementation of the new system," says Phil Jones of the Maryland DNR. "It has great potential to reduce the reporting burden on the fishing industry, and provide better data."

"We are very pleased that Maryland will follow Rhode Island's lead in implementing SAFIS for its commercial fisheries," says Maury Osborn, ACCSP Director. "My staff and I are eager to help Maryland modify and offer this dynamic system to their seafood industry in the near future. I'm sure both states will enjoy the cost-savings SAFIS provides."

ACCSP partners have traditionally employed staff to do much of the data entry associated with commercial fisheries. SAFIS was designed to be more cost-effective, empowering dealers to enter data directly, and giving them immediate access to their own data, updated quota information, and other management news. SAFIS allows dealers to instantly check that their data of record are correct, a first for any fishery data collection system. SAFIS is designed to protect sensitive financial information, and still download easily onto most Windows operating systems. It also offers the dealers business management tools, including receipt and report functions.

Coordinators who understand the states' needs are integral in the implementation of SAFIS. John Lake, the ACCSP's Rhode Island Coordinator, is spending the early months of 2003 visiting each of the state's 120 fish houses to assist seafood dealers with the new system. He will provide hands-on support and be available to answer questions as dealers get started. Rhode Island expects to have all dealers reporting trip-level landings data online by June of 2003. As Maryland plans development and implementation of SAFIS, they also require an onsite coordinator, supported by the ACCSP.

About the ACCSP

The ACCSP is a cooperative state-federal program to design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and to integrate those data into a single data management system that will meet the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fishermen. It is composed of representatives from all of the marine resource management agencies along the Atlantic coast,

including the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the three Atlantic fishery management councils, the 15 Atlantic states, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the D.C. Fisheries and Wildlife Division, NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. For further information please visit www.accsp.org.

Thank you to the following organizations who graciously provided raffle and door prizes for the 2002 OFWIM Meeting in Baltimore:

Colorado State Division of Wildlife

2 Colorado River Watch T-shirts
2 one-year subscriptions - "Colorado Outdoors"
Video – "Colorado Fishing Hot Spots"
Video – "Colorado Elk Hunting"
Video – "Trout Fishing in Colorado"
Video – "Wildlife Viewing"

Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Denver , CO

CD's – "Serving Maps on the Internet"

Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Washington, DC

Book - "Undersea with GIS"
Book - "GIS in Schools"
Book – "Dictionary of GIS"
Book – "Modeling Our World"
Book – "Managing Natural Resources with GIS"

National Biological Information Infrastructure

1 NBII Baseball Cap

North Dakota Game and Fish Department

1 2000 ND Duck Stamp Print
2 2001 ND Duck Stamp Prints
4 ND "Fishing, a ND Heritage" Baseball Caps
1 ND "Watchable Wildlife" Baseball Cap
1 ND "Watchable Wildlife" Polo Shirt
1 ND Outdoors Magazine CD Collection

Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

1 Oregon Chapter AFS T-shirt
1 Oregon Chapter AFS Tote Bag

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission

2 PSMFC Golf Shirts
1 PSMFC Denim Shirt
2 PSMFC T-shirts
3 PSMFC Logo Golf Type Shirts (S, M, L)
2 PSMFC Pacific Salmon Posters (suitable for framing)

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

1 2001 SD Migratory Bird Restoration Cert. Stamp and Print (Limited Edition)
1 2002 SD Migratory Bird Restoration Cert. Stamp and Print (Limited Edition)
2 SD No-Spill Coffee Mugs

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

1 Limited Edition "Virginia Wildlife" knife and sheath
1 Limited Edition "Coastal Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail" Notecards
2 VA Wildlife "Preserving the Diversity" T-shirts
2 VA Wildlife "Coastal Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail" T-shirts
2 VA Wildlife "Coastal Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail" Caps

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

2 Wisconsin DNR denim shirts

Glenn Gravatt (Personal Donation)

1 USFWS National Wildlife Refuge "NWR – 100 Years" Cap
1 USFWS – NCTC Sweatshirt

Barb White (Personal Donation)

Cookbook – "Simply Colorado"
2 Prime Hook NWR T-shirts
1 African Elephant T-shirt

Organization of Fish and Wildlife Information Managers Annual Business Meeting

Baltimore, Maryland
November 3, 2002

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m., at the Radisson Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. The president was in the chair.

II. Determination of Quorum

It was determined that there was a quorum of Organization members.

Mr. Art Smith moved to approve the minutes from last year's meeting. Ms. Becky Wajda seconded.

III. President's Message

Mr. Stan Allen delivered the President's message. The President discussed many of the positives from a year filled with negatives. He thanked several people who assisted with the funding and organizing of the meeting.

iV. The Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was submitted by Mr. Jeff Trollinger (Attachment B). Mr. Trollinger reported that the budget is in good shape this year. The Organization has an interest-bearing savings account. There was a total balance of $24,445.58 (with $7,320.00 in outstanding purchase orders) available November 1, 2002 in the OFWIM account. Mr. Don Fago made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Ms. Becky Wajda seconded the motion. Motion carried. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

V. The Secretary's Report

The minutes of the Organization's annual meeting held in November 2001 in Portland, Oregon were approved as written.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Outreach: Mr. Stan Allen reported that outreach through IAFWA, NBII, and regional representatives have been the main outreach effort this year. Outreach has been greater than any other year in the past.

B. Technical Trends: Mr. Don Schrupp noted that there was outreach in networking through the Hacker's Ball and the XML presentations.

C. Membership: Mr. Jeff Trollinger reported on the implementation of the regional representatives this year. The organization is still looking to fill positions for various regions. Membership is at all time high with 6 government memberships and 131 individual memberships at this point.

D. Communications: Ms. Karen Reay thanked Ms. Kathy Quindlen for filling the duty of Secretary at last year's meeting. Ms. Reay reported that Ms. Amy Martin, newsletter editor, published more than 3 regular newsletter issues, as well as various special publications this year in a very attractive electronic format. This newsletter was sent to a much larger recipient list than in the past. It would be appreciated if articles could be sent in timely manner and "ready-to-roll" format since there is little time for Ms. Martin to edit content. Ms. Reay also mentioned that email is the main avenue of communication with members and to please keep their email addresses up-to-date. It takes much time trying to track down new email addresses.

E. Subcommittee: Mr. Art Smith reported that the subcommittee is working on planning for the Rapid City, South Dakota meeting. Mr. Jake Faibisch is also an integral part of this group. They will be looking at various social and field trip activities in the area.

F. Data Standards: Ms. Barb White reported on some online research regarding standards. She found that data standards are available internally, but that it is difficult to find them on the web. EPA is one of the best sources for standards examples. Ms. White requested a link to websites that might assist in this topic be posted on the OFWIM website.

G. Continuing Education: Mr. Art Smith, reported on the use of XML as a data language. This topic was developed into a full session for the Baltimore meeting. He asked for interest on any topics that the members want to discuss. Mr. Kirk Keller played an important role in this effort. Mr. Jeff Waldon reported that CMI and NCTC would provide training at a reduced rate for OFWIM members. Courses can also be delivered on site. There continues to be opportunity for metadata training through USGS. Ms. Lila Wills is also involved in metadata training and is a point of contact for metadata training.

Ms. Becky Wajda motioned that we accept the committee reports. Mr. Jeff Trollinger seconded the motion. The committee reports were accepted as presented.

VII. Old Business
A. Ballots were handed out for the election of President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-At-Large. A motion was made to take a short break while ballots were being counted.

B. OFWIM Award: Ms. Becky Wajda reported on the OFWIM Award (Attachment C). This award recognizes excellence and outstanding contribution in the dissemination and delivery of wildlife, habitat, and related information via the Internet. This award differs from many other Internet awards. The

nominated site should be under the direction and control of a governmental entity. The nominated site does not have to be under direction or control of the OFWIM organization. There needs to be clear goals and objectives with the intended audience. Nominations are accepted from April 1 through June 15 annually. The Organization is positioned to make its first award presentation. Recognition would include a framed plaque, a formal letter to the Agency's director, and news releases to professional organizations. Mr. Kirk Keller asked a question regarding the difference of this award from others. Ms. Wajda explained that this award focuses on biological and habitat information. Ms. Trina Innes asked why there was the focus on government agencies. Ms. Wajda said it is because the organization is made up of mainly governmental organizations.
There were no motions related to this business item.

C. OFWIM Budget: Mr. Stan Allen reported that OFWIM is considering having a formal planning budget since it is now beginning to accumulate funds. This first OFWIM operating budget will probably take effect next year. No discussion was made regarding this topic.

D. OFWIM Student Scholarship: Ms. Becky Wajda reported on this information. This would be a travel scholarship to support student attendance at the OFWIM meeting. Actual expenses up to $1,000 would be reimbursed after the meeting. The student should be in pursuit of a career in information management and GIS. This award would be funded by an interest bearing account. The total balance at this point is $600 so we will probably have enough for a student award for next year. Mr. Jeff Trollinger asked about a

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financial hardship of the student having to provide the money up front and should there be a waiver of registration fee? Mr. Leo Rose asked if recipients would need to be full-time students? Ms. Lila Wills asked if the funding is for college or graduate students? Mr. Wayne Richter asked about the money being submitted up-front and the student doesn't attend the meeting. Ms. Samantha Horn-Olsen suggested we make payment during the conference. Travel could be arranged to pay the hotel bill and then the student could submit a reimbursement form. Ms. Kathy Quindlen suggested a per-diem per meal.

E. Professional Development Scholarship: Ms. Wajda continued on the same topic with an opportunity for the professional scholarship. This is beneficial because out of state travel is being cut for many members. The member should be involved in a career in implementing information management, GIS and actual expenses would be made up to $1,000. Ms. Samantha Horn-Olsen asked about transfer of funds. Mr. Tom Lupo suggested that the June 1 date was a bit awkward for some. Ms. Wajda explained the timing of the meeting forces us to make the June 1 date so that they have ample time to make the travel plans. Ms. Quindlen asked about the selection process. The awards committee would handle all awards on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Don Fago suggested that a date for notification be made firm (i.e. July 1).

Mr. Don Fago made a motion to accept development of these scholarships with the amended wording and Ms. Lila Wills seconded. A question was asked regarding the additional $25 membership fee not to exceed the last year by $25. Mr. Jake Faibisch asked if there could be several applicants and what was the evaluation process. Mr. Bruce Schmidt suggested that this might lock it in tightly but the hotel bill could be handled on site

as well as other expenses. There needs to be approval of the concept and have the committee report back. However, we will go to 2004 without this being passed. Current motion was tabled, Mr. Fago made the motion to table, Mr. Eric Haney seconded.

F. Wildlife Capture and Transport Meeting: Ms. Lila Wills gave a report of this meeting with about 10-12 people in attendance. Dr. Mark Johnson is the director of the World Wildlife Resources group in Montana. This project creates databases on wildlife capture and transport. This was a planning meeting to see if there was interest in this topic. NBII, IAFWA, USGS, CMI and various states were represented. A prototype was developed.

G. OFWIM Logo: Mr. Kirk Keller suggested that OFWIM investigate a new logo with more than one color and in a file format that could be used in multiple media. An open contest was suggested and the approval of the chair and outreach committee would be needed. This would need to be developed before the web award. Ms. Trina Innes volunteered to assist with this. Entries would be the actual logo and in the file format that is appropriate. We could make it open to anyone or starving undergraduate art student. This would need to be approved by the Executive Committee. A call for submissions should be run through the Ex Comm. Submissions would be made after this approval. Ms. Becky Wajda made a motion to proceed with development but with ExComm approval with solicitation from the members. Mr. Art Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

H. Professional Development was revised: (see attachment C). Ms. Becky Wajda explained if we purchased airfare prior to the meeting and the person did not attend, it would be a loss for the organization. Is there a sense that the recipient would

accept this? Mr. Wayne Richter thought it was dangerous to hand out money ahead of time. Mr. Jim Hirsch said he had experienced this and suggested they submit a receipt and then have the Treasurer present a check before the award recipient left the meeting. We have to assume they are a professional and have a credit card so if they have time to get reimbursed. Mr. Bruce Schmidt suggested they make a claim at the end of the meeting. Mr. Don Fago was concerned about $1,500 cost. The purpose was to cover 100% of the participant's meeting. Mr. Kirk Keller asked if we have someone spending much less, could we have more than one recipient and what is the limiting factor? The money is the limiting factor. Ms. Trina Innes proposes that we accept the $1,500 scholarship at no more an increase per year of $25 per delegate and let the committee decide. Ms. Kathy Quindlen seconded the motion. Motion was modified to drop the $25 increase per delegate.

VIII. New Business

A. New Officers: Mr. Art Smith assumed the position of OFWIM President as outlined in the Organization bylaws and received the official <u>Robert's Rules of Order</u>. Mr. Smith thanked everyone for their support and the ExComm. Ms. Kathy Quindlen was installed as President-Elect, Mr. Jake Faibisch was installed as Treasurer, Ms. Trina Innes as Member-at Large and Ms. Barb White was installed as Secretary.

B. OFWIM Regional Members: Southeast, Ms. Sue Marden; Great Lakes and Mid-East, up for position; Northwest, Mr. Stan Allen; Southeast, Mr. Don Schrupp; New England, Ms. Samantha Horn-Olsen; Mid-Atlantic, Ms. Becky Wajda; and Canada, Ms. Trina Innes.

C. Suggested Change to the OFWIM Charter: Mr. Art Smith explained that the membership begins at the beginning of the meeting and goes until the next meeting. Mr. Smith suggested that we suspend the decision until the whole group was in attendance.

D. Rapid City 2003: Sept 25-29, 2003. These dates don't conflict with other major fish and wildlife meetings. Mr. Jack Erickson and Mr. Art Smith will be working on this program in addition to the planning committees. Results of this meeting are from comments from last year's meeting. Ownership of data and privacy issues are going to be major issues. Data standardization is also a concern among members and is a potential topic. This is a good time to be a part of OFWIM since there will be a real budget and the meeting location is already established.

E. 2004 Annual Meeting. Mr. Stan Allen presented some information about this. The location of the 2004 meeting will be in the west in California or Denver as potential meeting sites. These places were chosen because of the facilities and affordability to fly into these locations. Regionalized hosting of the meetings, good accessibility, and low cost were a priority. This information will be submitted for an upcoming newsletter.

F. Awards Committee: Mr. Art Smith opened the floor for forming a recognized committee that will require a by-laws change so it will remain an ad-hoc committee for now. Any volunteers for the awards committee? Ms. Barb White volunteered. Ms. Wajda mentioned transferring money from the general treasury to the scholarship fund and recognized that the amount will be based on what the treasury supports. We would like to support a transfer of $1,000 from the general fund to the scholarship fund. Mr. Don Schrupp made the motion to transfer this money and Mr. Stan Allen seconded. Mr. Schrupp suggested we transfer $1,500.

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Mr. Don Fago suggested we submit more however; the funds have not been transferred to cover the cost of this meeting. Mr. Allen reminded everyone that we also have the raffle funds. This would cover $500 per year. The motion was amended to $1,500 by Mr. Schrupp and seconded by Mr. Allen. The motion carried.

G. Mr. Don Fago was recognized for his contributions to OFWIM and congratulations on his retirement.

H. People who are interested in discussing the 2004 meeting will meet at the end of this meeting.

The meeting was temporarily suspended to reconvene the next day with all members to vote on a change for the by-laws regarding change in date of membership from the first day of the conference until the first day of the next year's conference.

The business meeting was reconvened at 1pm November 4, 2002. At that time, members were distributed ballots to vote on the change in bylaws. Ballots were collected and tallied.

Past membership ran from August 1 – July 31 causing a problem since their membership had expired on 1 August and until the annual meeting was held there were no active OFWIM members. A proposed change in the by-laws was recommended to change membership to run from the beginning of the OFWIM Annual Meeting of one year to the day before the OFWIM Annual Meeting of the following year. There were 11 votes over the 2/3 majority choosing to accept the change in the by-laws needed to pass this proposal. The change to the by-law was passed.

IX. Mr. Don Fago motioned to adjourn. Ms. Trina Innes seconded the motion. The business meeting was officially closed at 9:14am on November 4, 2002.

OFWIM 2003 Pre-Announcment

(Tentative Plans)

September 25-29, 2003

Rapid City, SD

Holiday Inn Rushmore Plaza

For more information on the hotel, visit www.jqhhotels.com/htmlsite/hotels/sd/rapidcity/

For more information about South Dakota, visit www.state.sd.us

Mt. Rushmore, Photo courtesy of www.travelsd.com

The Badlands, photo courtesy of The National Park Service, www.nps.gov

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