

SNPWG Report to TSMAD 12

David Acland

Eivind Mong

29 November - 3 December, 2010

SNPWG had its 12th meeting in Tokyo Japan, hosted by JHOD and JHA in June of this year. A number of reports were presented on the work done by the working group members during the period since the last meeting. The highlights of these are below, as well as outlines on the additional work done since this meeting.

Modelling the data

The data dictionary in the SNPWG wiki continues to evolve. As consideration is given to real data, existing features and attributes have been revised and new features and attributes have been created to improve re-usability and relationships. We are using Wikipedia technology. Essentially every feature and every attribute have their own chat rooms. This enables a rapid exchange of views, hopefully leading to agreement, but sometimes to scrapping the idea.

Populate the NPUBS Register

There has been no change to the NPUBS the state of the Feature Concept Dictionary so far as it is considered the SNPWG model is still changing too frequent.

Test data-set

Textual test data-sets have been produced for the approaches to Micklefirth in the S-64 test ENC. So now for this imaginary area we now have a small set of Nautical Publications:

- Sailing Directions for a port and for a number of waterways;
- Radio signals for the S Indian Ocean, for coastal waters and for port approaches;
- And some climatic environmental data.

We then tried to map this old style paper data to our digital data model. To make this clear, we looked at each fact in the imaginary nautical publications and tried to fit it into a feature and its attributes.

Our key finding was that well structured data will fit easily into this data model but where we have long textual paragraphs it becomes increasingly difficult to do anything other than capture the whole paragraphs as "Textural description". Some Regulation can be summarised into simple instructions for Masters of vessels, but in many cases it will remain necessary to provide lengthy text.

Marine Protected Areas

At SNPWG12 the group had an initial discussion of the new work item given by HSSC1, this led to a realization that Marine Protected Areas (MPA) provide a very useful stepping stone. MPA vector data already exists; it is provided by many nations represented here; and it is publicly available. We therefore decided to use this data as a first test data set. We decided to display it against S-57. And we decided to produce it, initially at least, in GML. And therefore request that GML encoding be added to S-100. The draft MPA Application Schema is attached to this report as Attachment 1.

Since June this work item sub-group has moved ahead quickly. We now have a first draft application schema in UML. Doing this work has stimulated further development on the NPubs data model and that is still going on.

Problems Encountered

It has been found that it is too early to populate the NPUBS Feature Concept Dictionary. As the MPA work has shown, when detailed consideration is given to a new subject area, careful revision of the model is required. This is reflected in the paper requesting changes to the S-100 GFM.

