

6th Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission Meeting
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Canada

Proposal for ARHC Member States to Contact Respective National Contact Points in Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI)

Submitted by: United States of America

Executive Summary: This is a proposal for Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission (ARHC) Member States to establish contact with the National Mapping Agency of their nation represented on the Arctic SDI National Contact Points list in order to promote MSDI awareness and overall SDI collaboration for the Arctic.

Related Documents: ARHC 5 List of Actions - Action Nr. ARHC 5-10
ARHC 5: Report of the Marine Spatial Data Infrastructures Working Group (MSDIWG)

Related Projects: Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI)
<http://arctic-sdi.org/>
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group
<http://www.caff.is/>
Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Arctic Spatial Data Pilot (Arctic SDP)
<http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/initiatives/arcticsdp>

PROPOSAL

The Arctic Regional Hydrographic Commission members are invited to contact their nation's National Mapping Agency represented on the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure (Arctic SDI) National Contact Points list in order to establish a relationship for connecting future Arctic Marine SDI (MSDI) activities and promote a more complete SDI in the region.

The ARHC members are invited to:

- Take note of this proposal as an approach to raise MSDI awareness in the Arctic.
- Consider assigning representatives from the ARHC Member States to contact their respective National Mapping Agency in the Arctic SDI from the National Contact Points list found here:
<http://arctic-sdi.org/index.php/national-contact-points-3/>
- Consider Arctic MSDI information to be discussed in initial contact with each nation's Arctic SDI National Contact Point.
- Take action as seen appropriate.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

United States of America Report on Arctic SDI Contact

In February 2016, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) met with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to learn more about their involvement with the Arctic SDI. Currently, the USGS is the Chair and the National Contact Point lead of the Arctic SDI. In further discussion, it was clarified that the Arctic SDI is not under the Arctic Council, but that it is a separate group that operates under a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Mapping Agencies of eight Arctic nations. However, the Arctic SDI engages with the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group of the Arctic Council.

NGA and NOAA discussed the developing MSDI activities in the Arctic and other National SDI-related activities that lead to a better understanding of different initiatives and potential sharing/interoperability. All three organizations developed ideas for methods of easy information sharing to keep each of the representatives aware of Arctic SDI or MSDI activities moving forward.

USGS also conveyed their involvement in an interoperability pilot with the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) called the Arctic Spatial Data Pilot (Arctic SDP) which is sponsored by both the USGS and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and also involves participants from the Arctic SDI. The Arctic SDP seeks “to demonstrate the diversity, richness and value of providing geospatial data using International Standards in support of Spatial Data infrastructures.” As of early September 2016, this program has progressed through two phases: a concept development study supplemented by a Request for Information from interested contributors and stakeholders, and the pilot activity utilizing a Request for Quotation/Call for Participation based on the requirements from the first phase. NOAA and NGA have since been able to follow and contribute to this pilot (see *Related Projects* above for link to information).

Arctic SDI Contact

Making a connection between the Hydrographic Offices and National Mapping Agencies provides a great potential for moving forward with all SDI-related activities, especially related to enhancing marine awareness. As different organizations cooperate in a regional SDI (in this case the Arctic), the support, awareness, relevance, and reliability of geospatial data from all partners can be expected to increase as the MSDI connects and cooperates with the broader SDI.