

TITLE

Report on the Metadata Working Group (MWG)

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document summarizes the Metadata Working Group activities since the previous GEBCO meeting in January 2021

Action to be taken: See paragraph 3

Related documents: .xls of the Metadata schema and guidelines available here
https://www.gebco.net/about_us/contributing_data/

1. Overview on the working group activities

- MWG membership was updated with the addition of one new member, Burca Mihai from OGS (Italy)
- Jennifer Jencks from NOAA reported a request from IHO to have a metadata template ready to use, to share with the ISA and to be potentially hosted in the IHO DCDB.
- The Metadata Working group revised the Metadata template prepared for Seabed2030 and presented at the last GEBCO meeting to collect further inputs from the members with the aim to have a final schema to be published.
- The final schema with related guidelines is now available in the GEBCO website at the following link: https://www.gebco.net/about_us/contributing_data/
- The MWG considered the schema flexible if there is a need of integrations in the future.
- The WG is in a position to advice on different approaches to managing the storage, processing and analysis of metadata in the Global Center and making this available to the Regional Centers.

Issues and challenges

- Establish more strict links with the Seabed2030 regional data centres to provide effective support in analysing problems and issues together and to share experiences and best practices. An opportunity could be to participate to some of the Seabed 2030 meetings dealing with the metadata.
- Understand if the new final metadata schema has been used by all Seabed 2030 regional data centres and find a way to make this outcome more visible and usable.
- Feedback on the schema are needed from users, so it is extremely important that the schema is in use in order to test its efficacy and usability in different contexts and for different organisations.
- Further revision of the TID is foreseen. An issue reported by the group is related to the TID field "*Combination of direct measurements*" that does not allows the user to know the origin of the dataset. Furthermore the TID is a raster data while a vector format could store more information and create a relation with the metadata.

2. **Action**

- Improve the communication with the Seabed 2030 data centres in order to be able to provide a better support regarding the metadata and to understand the effective usage of the schema.
- Start a joined discussion about the TID with TSCOM and SCRUM reporting the issues and proposing solutions.
- Start a debate on different approaches to managing metadata within the Global Center.

3. The GGC is requested to:

- a. **Note** the contents of this report;
- b. **Take** any other action deemed appropriate.