FGDC CSDGM Misinterpreted Elements and some helpful hints

Section 1: Identification Information

1.1 Citation Information (section 8)

Originator: agency / person who produced the described data set

Title: This is what is returned in a search. Fill it with info! Example – "*Raster Coastal Map Series Showing Hydrography and Topography Found on NOAA's Charted Nautical Charts for All Near-Shore Geographic Areas of the U.S., 2001- Present*"

Geospatial_Data_Presentation_Form: How the geospatial data are represented. Example – "atlas, diagram, document, map, model, remote-sensing image, spreadsheet, video, etc." More applicable to hard copy maps.

1.2 **Description**

Abstract: Place to record a summary of "*what*" information is in the data set.

Purpose: Place to explain "*why*" the data set was created and for "*whom*"

1.3 **Time_Period_of_Content (section 9)**

Currentness_Reference: Place to identify whether the Time_Period_of_Content dates and times refer to the "ground condition" or if they refer to the "publication date." "Ground condition" would be used if you recorded the Time_Period_Information (dates and times) with respect to the date the "ground" actually looked like at that point in time. "Publication date" would be used if you recorded the Time_Period_Information that referred to some later time when the information was recorded (i.e., when the data was published).

1.7 **Access_Constraints:** Any restrictions and/or legal prerequisites required to access the data. Example – "Password protected."

1.8 **Use_Constraints**: Any restrictions and/or legal prerequisites required to use the data. Example- "not for navigational purposes."

1.10 **Browse_Graphic**: Thumbnail or sample to show geometry, file name could be URL, etc.

1.14 **Cross_Reference**: If someone finds this data set useful or interesting, what are other related data sets they may be interested in?

Section 2: Data Quality Information

2.1 **Attribute_Accuracy:**

Attribute_Accuracy_Report: Complete descriptions of accuracy including identification of tests used, testing methodology, and results obtained. Note: This is NOT the place to record positional accuracy.

Quantitative_Attribute_Accuracy_Assemssment:

Attribute_Accuracy_Value: A number value chosen (or assigned) to represent the accuracy of your specific entities and their associated values, Example – a statistic.

Attribute_Accuracy_Explanation: The place to identify, by name, the test used to get the Attribute_Accuracy_Value and an explanation of what the statistic means.

2.2 **Logical_Consistency_Report:** The extent to which geometric problems and drafting inconsistencies exist within the data. For example, if it has topology, explain any inconsistencies that may exist. Describe the associations assumed by the GIS (L- Polygon, R-Polygon, Adjacency, etc.); How was it changed (projection, etc.)? Note- this does not just relate to spatial data; It is also applicable to observational data as well.

Completeness_Report: What decisions where made to determine what would or would not be included in the data set? What was omitted from the data set that might normally be expected, and the reason for exclusion (i.e. Mapping Rules that were/were not used)?

Positional_Accuracy: How closely do the coordinate descriptions of the feature compare to their actual location? Place to make assessments of vertical and horizontal coordinate values; Usually includes information about digitizing, surveying techniques, GPS triangulation, image processing or photogrammetic methods. Note - You may use deductive reasoning here if you do not know the “exact” accuracy.

2.2 **Lineage:**

Source_Information:

Source_Citation:

Source_Scale_Denominator: What is the scale of the source data?

Type_of_Source_Media: What type of format is the source? Example- chart, paper, CD-ROM, video, online, etc.

Source_Time_Period_of_Content:

Source_Currentness_Reference: Qualifier to the time period of content. Example - “ground condition” is often used for the date assigned to a source that reflects the date that the information corresponds to the

ground; however, if this date is not known, then "publication date" can be used.

Source_Citation_Abbreviation: An abbreviation created for the source citation and to be used in the Process_Step(s).

Example- "*NOAA Technical Memorandum NOS OMA 40: National Status and Trends Program for Marine Environmental Quality: Benthic Surveillance and Mussel Watch Projects Sampling Protocols*" could be abbreviated as "*Tech Memo 40*."

Process_Step: Describe the process of data manipulation in which the source(s) contributed. This is the place to include those people or organizations that helped in the data collection or data analysis process, but are not necessarily the authors.

Process_Contact: The contact information for those who helped in the data collection and/or the data analysis process; often, not the author.

Section 3: Spatial Data Organization Information

3.1 **Indirect_Spatial_Reference**: Anyway to describe a location without using coordinates. Example - address, county, town, road, FIPS code, etc.

3.2 **Direct_Spatial_Reference_Method:** The system of either "point," "vector," or "raster" that represents your data. Note: You must choose one of these 3 for your answer.

3.3 **Point_and_Vector_Object_Information:**

SDTS_Terms_Description: Comes from the "Spatial Data Transfer Standard," Department of Commerce, 1992. Used only for point and vector objects.

VPF_Terms_Description: Comes form the "Vector Product Format," Department of Defense, 1992. Used only for point and vector objects.

Section 4: Spatial Reference Information

4.1 **Horizontal_Coordinate_System_Definition:**

Geographic: Latitude and Longitude description of your data

Planar: Defining data with a flat representation

Local_Planar: A type of planar coordinate system for which the relationship between the geographic (Lat/Long) and the planar coordinates is not known. If this is the case, then you should describe the orientation of the axes, and any possible way to link the local system to geographic coordinates.

Local: A system that is not aligned with the surface of the earth (non-planar)

Section 5: Entity and Attribute Information

5.1 **Detailed_Description:** The place to describe and define the non-spatial attributes of your data.

Entity_Type: Varies, but an example is what your database describes, for example "Rks.dbf"

Entity_Type_Definition: Place to define what "rks.dbf" stands for, i.e. – "Rocks"

Entity_Type_Definition_Source: "User defined" if you labeled it; or "software defined" is another example.

Attribute_Domain_Values: The type of values that can be assigned to an attribute in your data set. You must choose one of the following four types:

- **Enumerated_Domain**: The data values of the attribute are from a list of choices. Example - Say you have "*rock type*" as an attribute of your data set. "*Rock type*" would have an Enumerated_Domain with values, "*Igneous*," "*Metamorphic*," or "*Sedimentary.*"
- **Range_Domain:** The data values of an attribute are comprised of a sequence, series, or scale of (usually numeric) values between limits. Example - Say you have "rock age" as another attribute of your data set. Well, "rock age" would have a Range_Domain with values of "0-200," "201-400," or "401-600" million years old.
- **Codeset_Domain:** The values of an attribute are defined by an "established" set of codes, those that are well known or can be looked up for reference. Example - If you have an attribute, "*wetland classification*" then your Codeset_Domain name would be the "*USFWS-NWI wetland classification code set*" and the Codeset_Domain source would be "*Photointerpretation Conventions for the National Wetlands Inventory, March 1990*."
- **Unrepresentable_Domain:** The data values of an attribute cannot be represented or they do not exist in a known, predefined set. Example- the value for an attribute of people's names.

Overview_Description: When the entities and attributes of your data set have already been described in existing documentation. This element provides a place for you to summarize the existing sources that a user could reference in order to get the detailed information (and you not have to replicate it in the Detailed_Description section).

Section 6: Distribution Information

6.2 **Resource_Description:** The title by which the data distributor knows the

data set.

6.3 **Distribution_Liability:** A statement of liability assumed by the distributor. Example – "Although these data have been processed successfully on a computer system at NOAA, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made by NOAA regarding the utility of the data on any other system, nor shall this act of distribution constitute any such warranty."

Sections 8, 9, and 10 – The supporting sections

Section 8: Citation Information

(Note: This section is a supporting section that is never used alone. It is incorporated into sections 1.1, 1.14, and 2.5)

8.6 **Geospatial_Data_Presentation_Form:** How the geospatial data are represented. Example – "atlas, diagram, document, map, model, remote-sensing image, spreadsheet, video, etc." More applicable to hard copy source maps.

8.9 **Other_Citation_Details:** Any other information required to complete the citation.

8.11 **Larger_Work_Citation:** The larger work in which the data set is included. Example – when a data set is published as part of a larger volume of work.

Section 9: Time Period Information

(Note: This section is a supporting section that is never used alone. It is incorporated into sections 1.3, 2.5, and 6.7)

Section 10: Contact Information

(Note: This section is a supporting section that is never used alone. It is incorporated into sections 1.9, 2.5, 6.1, and 7.4)

Heads up with the various "Contacts" found throughout the standard:

Contact_Organization within Point_of_Contact
- answers "who do I ask about these particular data?"

Contact_Organization within Distributor
- answers "who can I get these data from?"

Contact_Organization within Process_Contact
- answers "who did this stuff to the data?"

Contact_Organization within Metadata_Contact
- answers "who is telling me about these data?"

Data_Set_Credit
- answers "who else was in on it?"