

Recommendations/Action Plan for the June 2003 NESDIS Data Users Workshop

Web Access

Constituent Recommendations		Government Action Plan				
Recommendations for the Category: Web Access	Freq. of Recommendation	Action Status	Responsible Data Center	Data Center Point of Contact	Action Plan	Implementation Date
Web Access: Improve web interfaces for easier access	9	Continuing	All	Joint	A core principal of NESDIS is to implement the five principals of the the President's Management Agenda, one of which is to expand E-government. The data centers are committed to providing access to all data and metadata through web interfaces that provide simplified access	12/31/2006
Web Access: Create different levels of access available for different levels of users	7	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Create online tutorials on how to acquire data	6	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Create web-based trouble ticket system with feedback on problem status and web based satisfaction survey	6	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Post a summary of changes/additions to web sites at periodic intervals (e.g., What's New or What's Coming Up)	4	Complete	All	Joint	Changes and additions to the NOAA web sites are posted in What's New , What's Hot or spotlight sections on the web sites. As the items become old, they are placed in on an archive page.	6/15/2004
Web Access: Create "data" button on NOAA homepage and other offices to discover data	3	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Create FAQs for web site	3	Continuing	All	Joint	FAQs are available for many web systems. These FAQs will be expanded and added to for existing systems and also as new systems come online	12/31/2006
Web Access: Develop focused portals for NESDIS data subjects	3	Continuing	All	Joint	NCDC has developed NOMADS which provides web access to weather and climate modelled data. Focused portals are being developed or are planned for other data sets such as NEXRAD. CLASS will provide focused portals for large array satellite data sets such as GOES and POES.	12/31/2006
Web Access: Develop map search capabilities for NESDIS data in addition to lat/lon searches	3	Continuing	All	Joint	NESDIS has made great strides in migrating its environmental data holdings to GIS. Notable examples include work in developing NOSA, work in the NVDS area, and work in providing climate data accessible via the Climate Atlas and Climate Data Online System. This will continue to be a high priority activity for the data centers.	12/31/2006
Web Access: Investigate data warehousing/mining tools that will aid in data discovery	3	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Partner with library scientists to develop searchable layers of metadata	3	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Create online subscription service to notify users of data and metadata updates	2	Complete	NCDC	Anders	The NNDC Online Store has been augmented to include additional subscription services for data. NESDIS is committed to expanding its e-government efforts to include other subscriptions.	4/15/2004
Web Access: Develop an inventory that lists offline data availability; move more data online	2	Continuing	NCDC	Elms	As part of the Climate Data Modernization Program (CDMP), historical data are being made more accessible either through scanning of records or digitization. Inventories of these older and important data sts are being created as part of this access effort	12/31/2006
Web Access: Ensure that emphasis is placed on K-12 educational outreach	2	Complete	All	NCDC-Houston	A educational climate outreach page will be developed that focuses the K-12 group. In addition the K-12 domain is now granted free online access to all data available from the data centers.	6/30/2004

Web Access: Ensure that users are queried for the period of data requested	2	Complete	All	Joint	All new web systems allow period of record queries for data. Older web access systems will be migrated or merged with CLASS to allow this capability	1/30/2004
Web Access: Identify data expert for major data bases or subjects for each web page; every web page has a contact	2	Complete	All	NCDC-Smith	A phased approach has been developed. All new web pages and all web pages that are updated will not be placed online unless there is a web contact. Older pages will be systematically reviewed over time and a web contact added or the page taken offline.	1/31/2004
Web Access: Investigate natural language search and discovery capabilities	2	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Create "status of download" bar	1	Complete	All	Joint	Status of download bar is functioning for large data transfers that take place via FTP. For small file size transfers, a download bar is not considered practical	11/17/2003
Web Access: Create metadata search for data by ZIP code	1	Complete	NCDC	Fleming	NCDC's web Cliserv system allows numerous search capabilities, such as ZIP code, to find http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/stationlocator.html .	10/21/2003
Web Access: Create metadata search to find closest weather station to a given site	1	Complete	NCDC	Fleming	NCDC's web Cliserv system allows numerous search capabilities to find http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/stationlocator.html . In addition, NNDC Server has capabilities for other data sets	10/21/2003
Web Access: Develop a rules based search mechanism to enable users to find data	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Develop a showroom or exhibit space maproom to highlight data sets and how they are used	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Develop capability to update old marine climatic atlases and also produce on-demand summaries by location (Marsden Square)	1	Complete	NCDC	Joint	On-demand summaries for marine data have been develop and are available online at http://navy.ncdc.noaa.gov/products/smgcgrib/smgcfields.html Although these are not in exactly the same format as the old atlases, the majority of the information is available for online access	11/17/2003
Web Access: Develop globally distributed and centrally located master directories containing NESDIS data	1	Complete	All	Joint	NESDIS currently has the NOAA Master Directory and NNDC Server. Both of these systems allow searches of NESDIS data according to FGDC standards. There is emphasis on improving the quality of the FGDC information which is addressed as a separate recommendation under the Metadata category	10/21/2003
Web Access: Develop stronger connections between data access and data discovery systems	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Develop user feedback process for NGDC's spidr data delivery	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Implement "google-like" search of metadata	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Include expert web page designers as part of the team when developing online systems	1	Complete	Joint	NCDC- Veasey	NCDC is in the process of redesigning its homepage. A graphic artist was involved with developing the overall layout of this new page	2/15/2004
Web Access: Investigate streaming data mining algorithms for attaining knowledge for real time data	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Investigate THREADS protocol (IRI project) in regard to handling of time.	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Investigate artificial intelligence techniques to aid in data discovery	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Partner with agencies already doing online tutorials on how to acquire data	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Provide a registration service for NESDIS users	1	Continuing	NCDC	Joint	NCDC is in the process implementing a prototype registration for users to complete. The registration service will allow users to identify their customer type. It is hoped that knowing the categorization of our web customers will allow the government to provide better service.	9/30/2004

Web Access: Provide a web tracking capability so that users can return to a site and jump to where they left the web or review their activity	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Provide access to literature searches to determine what data sets have been used for projects	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Provide better image browsers for radar and satellite data	1	Continuing	SDPD/NCD	Joint	OSDPD is developing a complete upgrade of the GOES browser web server that will allow for easier access to all GOES data, better looping capabilities, better browsing capabilities (with assistance from NGDC), and increased access to more timely image data. NCDC is also working on better browse capability of its NEXRAD holdings	6/1/2005
Web Access: Provide more timely updates of web outages	1	Complete	All	Joint	Data Centers post planned web outages on their web site prior to the outage. This procedure will continue	1/30/2004
Web Access: Standardize the delivery of NOAA and non-NOAA satellite data.	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Web Access: Standardize the delivery of NOAA and non-NOAA sites to meet the needs of space weather researchers; emulate the solar side of NGDC.	1	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD