

Participants:

- Matt Armsby, Andy Lanier Co-Chairs of the MRFD ACT
- Todd Hallenbeck, RDF ACT POC
- Miho Umezawa, MD ACT POC
- Chair Eben Schwartz, California Coastal Commission, MD ACT Chair

Background:

- Outreach to the Marine Debris ACT, who recently release an [RFP for the development of an online database](#)... described in the RFP as such....
 - Numerous entities along the West Coast have been working hard for years to address marine debris, and many of them have their own database as well as a variety of other useful documents. These databases contain useful information, but are not uniform in design and function. Furthermore, data collection protocols among the groups are not uniform, and neither are the data quality assurance and control. Data-yielding activities are also different: some data is collected from cleanup of marine debris on the shoreline, while other is collected from survey and assessment activities. Yet, other completely different set of data is collected by entities addressing derelict fishing gear. To be effective, the database would have to relate to these sets of data, as well as allow for future data to be entered into the database in a uniform and standardized way that will assist in temporal and geographical comparison of marine debris location and density. A GIS functionality to generate maps of debris locations is also needed. Therefore, this comprehensive database will be used to establish a West Coast marine debris baseline, help policy and management decision makers and serve as an educational tool for the general public.

Discussion

- The background and scope of work in the RFP related to the Marine Debris ACT.
 - Development of the database to be modeled after the two sources:
 - <http://www.healthebay.org/about-bay/pollution-101/marine-debris-database>
 - <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/projects/nwsi.html>
- The role and intent our our newly established ACT. To establish a data catalog and registry.... Among other goals.
- The potential overlaps in work that would be sensitive for ensuring consistency with our work plan.

- Ways in which we as an ACT can provide assistance and guidance to the Marine Debris ACT as it moves forward.

Conclusion

- This effort (The release of the RFP) should not be rescinded...we as an ACT would be over-reaching if we suggested such a thing.
- The development of an online database for the purposes of tracking and mapping marine debris is an complementary effort to what we as an ACT are doing. What we should strive to do is to make sure that their work, when completed will have the connective network links that will enable it to function in concert with our development of a registry.
- A good analogy would be that we do not want to stop or limit the work that NANOOS is doing on the development of their NVS system, only serve to strengthen the connection between their system and other regional data tools.

Action Items

- Todd will provide the Marine Debris ACT with our contractor scope of work to assist in reviewing the proposals submitted from the contractors.
- To coordinate a follow-up call (or 2) with the Marine Debris ACT once they have selected a contractor to help in the development of their work plan.
- Have completed our two page introductory outreach materials for presentation to the Marine Debris ACT on the next call.
- A suggestion that might come from us is the phased work products that would result from the RFP that would be targeted as candidates for our regional data framework network and registry.

Misc

- One of the issues that came up on the call was whether or not we as an ACT should be providing advice to the other ACT's on best practices for setting up, maintaining, or implementing databases or websites?
 - This was something we identified as Co-Chairs to currently be outside of our scope of work, and that we as an ACT should be aware of (as mission creep) that we need to be careful about.
 - This was a topic we felt we should bring up on the next call, to get confirmation on from other ACT members.