

Salmon Ontology Meeting Agenda

MINUTES

DATE	March 4, 2011 1:00 pm PST
TYPE OF MEETING	Coordination
CALL IN	WebexURL (Number: 579 865 360, Password: Ont010gy)
NOTES	Chris Jones
ATTENDEES	Brodie Cox, Sam Elmore, Chris Jones, Matt Jones, Cathy Kellon, Mark Schildhauer, Mara Zimmerman

Initial Agenda

1. Introductions (5 minutes; all)

Brodie Cox: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); Biological Data Systems Manager scoping JMX; Migrate all systems into modern db systems

Sam Elmore: Sitka Tecnology Group

Chris Jones: National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) Software Engineer

Matt Jones: NCEAS; Director of Informatics Research and Development

Cathy Kellon: Ecotrust, State of the Salmon; Project Coordinator; Salmon populations; Interest to make use of data from natural resource agencies and across jurisdictions; Help increase capacity of agencies to manage and share data

Mark Schildhauer: NCEAS; Director of Computing

Mara Zimmerman: WDFW; Juvenile and abundance modeling

Matt Kungle: WDFW; field biologist

2. Overview of the WDFW/NCEAS collaboration and the high level project goals. Discuss project timeline and deliverables. (10 minutes; Matt)

Matt & Mark: Within this project we intend to help clarify the entities, attributes, and relationships within salmon biology. We are also exploring the effectiveness of ontological approaches. Developing an ontology is the main activity of the project, however, although unfunded, enabling a data discovery and subsetting system that leverages ontology is desirable.

Specifically, we plan to:

- 1) Clarify the semantics of data being collated in JMX program;
- 2) Develop a formal ontology that integrates into existing software tools

To this end we need to:

Work with the WDFW group and others to understand the status of JMX.

Create a draft ontology based on the discussions.

Electronically review the ontology for correctness, completeness.

Review and critique the ontology at a later meeting.

Then, when we are happy with the results from this iterative process, we would then annotate real world JMX data using the ontology, which will likely be very illuminating.

Chris will be working 7-8 months @50% time.

Cathy: State of the Salmon could potentially bring funding to have a regional workshop to bring management perspectives and communicate results of the project.

Mara: Question about ontologies: What is it?? What's the product?? How does it compare to a data dictionary?

3. Coordination on workshop in WA. Discuss goals for the trip, materials that will be needed prior to and during the visit, who will participate, and solidify dates (tentatively Mar 21-25, 2011). (10 minutes; Chris, Brodie, Mara)

Brodie sent example JMX files via email; Brodie is available both weeks of and on.

Mara is available Tuesday March 22, but not other days; Week of April 4 is better

Matt and Justin are available March 21-25, week of April 4

Mara: the JMX project includes both primary data and derived data. What do we focus on? Provide Chris with 1) similarities, and 2) highlight the hotspots of controversy.

Decision: Chris will travel March 21 to WDFW in Olympia. On March 22, Mara will provide initial direction. March 23, 24, Chris will work with Justin Miller & Matt Kungle, and will conference call with key people from other regional groups.

Brodie: Max created the JMX XSDs with input from other groups.

Brodie: Comment: Knowledge engineer won't have domain expertise ...

Matt: Chris will try to capture relationships.

Mara: Focus on WDFW smolt monitoring data first: not NW Indian Fisheries Commission/individual tribes.

Cathy: Sure, focus on a subset of the data for pragmatic reasons. Then at the regional workshop, test data from other groups.

Matt: Part of the goal is to deal with the data heterogeneity; we don't want to be taking already-integrated data, because that defeats the purpose.

Mara: It complicates the process dramatically. 20 individual tribes, different personalities, etc. Maybe focus on juvenile data at WDFW.

Cathy: Where are there places in the process where it makes sense to bring in other groups to partner with?

Matt: Concentrate on WDFW data to produce the ontology, then test ontology with other data sets from other groups.

Cathy: SOTS can bring others to the table.

Matt: Get one data set example from each group, and the same data represented in the JMX formats.

Brodie: Windsor and Associates are making the XML Schema XSD files. We should be in contact with them.

Cathy: Monitoring methods integration: How does it fit in? Chris will work with Sam on this.

4. Housekeeping. Quick discussion on the shared code and documents repository, and coordination with the other semantic tools projects at NCEAS. (5 minutes; Chris)

Chris: We will set up a Subversion repository to store shared files for the project. Ontology code will be integrated in with other semantic tools work currently underway at NCEAS.

Matt: Are there any data access issues due to proprietary data?

Brodie: Regarding data access: public data could be abused, however abundance estimates samples are fine.

Cathy: To her, the definition of proprietary: do the data fall under FOIA or not? The answer, in this case: No - the data are not proprietary.

Mark: We can set up a private area within the shared folders to hold documents for just the group to see.

5. Meeting Adjourned around 2:10 pm