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**Data Stewardship Maturity Report for NOAA/NSIDC Passive Microwave Sea Ice Concentration Climate Data Record (CDR), Version 2**

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**Cover Image: Generic mosaic image related to the dataset covered in this report (Content Editor could provide).**

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**NOAA Data Stewardship Maturity Technical Series**

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**Data Stewardship Maturity Report for**

**NOAA/NSIDC Passive Microwave Sea Ice Concentration Climate Data Record (CDR), Version 2**

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**Preface**

In response to the President's Open Government Initiative and related policies, NOAA has committed to providing improved public access to all of its environmental information, to enable research and commercial innovation through ease of data discovery and use [*Casey*, 2016].

OneStop supports NOAA's efforts by leveraging existing access technologies and infusing specific innovations to provide improved discover, access, and visualization services for NOAA's data. Also, OneStop is viewed by a NESDIS as a pathfinder effort with an initial focus on selected high-priority datasets from NESDIS and other program data meeting OneStop standards, but eventually scalable across NOAA's data. Lastly, OneStop is implementing the USGEO Common Framework for Earth Observation Data and leveraging/supporting the NOAA Big Data Project (BDP) and Big Earth Data Initiative (BEDI) [*Casey*, 2016].

As with any process of improvement planning, agencies need to find out where they are in terms of their compliance to the federal regulations and what they need to do if any areas of non-compliance are identified. To this end, a unified framework would be beneficial for assessing the current stage of stewardship practices applied to individual datasets and for providing a road map that will guide future investments towards enhanced stewardship of environmental datasets. The value and quality of a dataset depends in part on the stewardship practices applied after its development and production. Therefore, a unified framework providing a holistic view of the quality of stewardship practices applied to individual datasets is beneficial to data stewards and users [*Casey*, 2016].

The goal of defining the stewardship maturity matrix for data stewards is to provide a holistic, consistent, quantifiable, and scalable measure of stewardship maturity for data users and stakeholders including data providers and decision-support system users. It is our hope that this undertaking will help alleviate the burden that data stewards face in defining their own assessment models and reduce incompatibility of stewardship maturity assessment results from individually defined models. Effort was taken to generalize the maturity levels of this stewardship assessment model to be applicable to diverse digital environmental data products in various scientific and user communities. The underlying best practices and standards in the stewardship maturity matrix are intended to be community-accepted to allow the flexibility of its implementation [*Peng et al.*, 2015].

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**Data Stewardship Maturity Report for**

**NOAA/NSIDC Passive Microwave Sea Ice Concentration Climate Data Record (CDR), Version 2**

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to describe the results of stewardship maturity assessment for NOAA/NSIDC Passive Microwave Sea Ice Concentration Climate Data Record (CDR), Version 2, utilizing the Scientific Data Stewardship Maturity Matrix or *DSMM* [*Peng, et al*, 2016]. DSMM defines 5 levels of stewardship maturity stages for Preservability, Accessibility, Usability, Production Sustainability, Data Quality Assurance, Data Quality Control/Monitoring, Data Quality Assessment, Transparency/Traceability, and Data Integrity key components. Each of these components are ranked from ‘*Ad hoc’* to *‘Optimal’* (see Appendix I). This report is based on evaluation performed by NOAA OneStop metadata specialists working with Subject Matter Experts and utilizing the DSMM template [*Peng*, 2015].

**1.2 Scope**

Assessing stewardship maturity - the current state of how datasets are documented, preserved, stewarded, and made accessible publicly, is a critical step towards meeting U.S. federal regulations, organizational requirements, and user needs [*Peng et al*., 2016]. The goal of this document is to provide the consistent and transparent stewardship maturity information to data users and decision-makers.

**1.3 Dataset Outline**

A Group for High Resolution Sea Surface Temperature (GHRSST) global Level 4 sea surface temperature analysis produced daily on a 0.25 degree grid at the NOAA National Climatic Data Center. This product uses optimal interpolation (OI) using data from the Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) Pathfinder Version 5 time series (when available, otherwise operational NOAA AVHRR data are used), the Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer-EOS (AMSR-E), and in situ ship and buoy observations. A second similar product is available back to 1981 that includes only in situ and AVHRR Pathfinder data in its analysis. The OI analysis is a daily average SST that is bias adjusted using a spatially smoothed 7-day in situ SST average and is thus tuned to about 0.3 meter. Both day and night satellite fields are independently bias adjusted. More information is available at <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oisst>.

**1.4 Document Maintenance**

This document is generated and maintained by NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information. [More on policy here](https://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/).

**2. Results**

The information about dataset and stewardship maturity assessment is summarized in Table 1. The data stewardship maturity ratings are displayed as the scoreboard (Figure 1)and rating diagram (Figure 2) with the detailed justifications in Table 2.

Table 1. Dataset and Data Stewardship Maturity Assessment Metadata.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Dataset Title** | NOAA/NSIDC Passive Microwave Sea Ice Concentration Climate Data Record (CDR), Version 2 |
| **Dataset Information URL** | http://nsidc.org/data/G02202/ |
| **Data Provider POC (Name; E-mail: Affiliation)** | Walter Meier, Walt.Meier@nasa.gov, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) |
| **Dataset POC (Name; E-mail; Affiliation)** | Donna Scott, dscott@nsidc.org, National Snow and Ice Center (NSIDC) |
| **SMM Version (Document ID and Version Number)** | NCDC-CICS-SMM\_001\_Rev.1 |
| **SMM POC (Name; E-mail; Affiliation)** | Ge Peng, Ge Peng@noaa.gov, CICS-NC/NCEI |
| **SMM Template Version (Document ID and Version Numbers)** | NCDC\_CICS\_SMM\_0001\_Rev1\_template\_v4.0\_20150623 |
| **SMM Template POC** | Ge Peng, Ge.Peng@noaa.gov, CICS-NC/NCEI-NC |
| **SMM Assessment Version (v<nn>r<mm>, e.g., v01r00)** | v02r01 |
| **SMM Assessment Date (MM/DD/YYYY)** | 2015-06-23 |
| **SMM Assessment POC (Name; E-mail; Affiliation)** | Donna Scott, dscott@nsidc.org, NSIDC; Ge Peng, Ge.Peng@noaa.gov, CICS-NC/NCEI-NC |
| **Stewardship Maturity Ratings (each key component) (kc1/kc2/kc3/kc4/kc5/kc6/kc7/kc8/kc9)** | 4/2/3.5/4/3.5/2/3/3/4 |
| **SMM Original Assessment Date (MM/DD/YYYY)** | 2014-10-16 |
| **SMM Original Assessment POC (Name; E-mail; Affiliation)** | Donna Scott, dscott@nsidc.org, NSIDC; Ge Peng, Ge.Peng@noaa.gov, CICS-NC/NCEI-NC |
| **SMM Last Modified Date (MM/DD/YYYY)** | N/A |
| **SMM Last Modification POC (Name; E-mail; Affiliation)** | N/A |
| **SMM modified Date (MM/DD/YYYY)** | N/A |
| **SMM Modification POC (Name; E-mail; Affiliation)** | N/A |

Table 2. Stewardship Maturity Levels and Detailed Justifications for Each of Nine DSMM Key Components for the NOAA-NSIDC\_PMSIC\_CDR-v2 Dataset.

Table 1. Stewardship Maturity Levels and Detailed Justifications for Each of Nine DSMM Key Components for the NOAA-NSIDC\_PMSIC\_CDR-v2 Dataset.

| **DSMM Key Component** | **Stewardship Maturity Rating, Justification, and Comments** |
| --- | --- |
| ***Preservabilty*** *(The state of being preservable)* | **★ Level 4**  ***Justification:***  • Archived at NOAA’s NCEI-NC (formerly known as NCDC) • Following NOAA’s Climate Data Record (CDR) Research-2-Operation(R2O) transition process with the Initial Operation Capability (IOC) • Following ISO OAIS RM • Conforming to ISO 19115-2 metadata standards • Conforming to NetCDF CF metadata conventions • Conforming to CDR Program (CDRP) guidelines on coding and NCEI Archive Branch (AB) guidance on file and variable naming conventions per Submission Agreement (SA)  ***Comments:***  N/A |
| ***Accessibility***  *(The state of being searchable and accessible publically)* | **★ Level 2**  ***Justification:***  • Public ftp site (ftp://sidads.colorado.edu/pub/DATASETS/NOAA/G02202\_v2) • Collection searchable online  ***Comments:***  N/A |
| ***Usability***  *(The state of being easy to use)* | **★ Level 3.5**  ***Justification:***  • NetCDF CF-1.5 and CDRP data format guideline • Documentation (Algorithm description, source code package, data overview, data flow diagram, product maturity rating) online (http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdr/operationalcdrs.html) • Data paper online – user’s guide (doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.5194/essd-5-311-2013) • Some data characterization on the global scale (data paper see doi above and science papers- doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/polar.v33.21004) • No subsetting or aggregating on data server site  ***Comments:***  N/A |
| ***Production Sustainability*** *(The state of data production being sustainable and extendable)* | **★ Level 4**  ***Justification:***  • Under NOAA’s CDR Operation & Maintenance (O&M) • Update annually • Funding is allocated yearly • Product improvement process is in place  ***Comments:***  N/A |
| ***Data Quality Assurance*** *(The state of data quality being assured)* | **★ Level 3.5**  **Justification:**  • Agile development procedure in place with a defined/fixed set of analysis metrics • Master reference data are included in the source code package which is available online • Weather filters • SST mask • Cell data quality flag in each data file • No data quality assurance metadata implemented  ***Comments:***  N/A |
| ***Data Quality Control/Monitoring*** *(The state of data quality being controlled and monitored)* | **★ Level 2**  ***Justification:***  • DQC is done after each data processing • Sampling is regular in space but not automatic • Procedure not documented nor online  ***Comments:***  N/A |
| ***Data Quality Assessment*** *(The state of data quality being assessed)* | **★ Level 3**  ***Justification:***  • Sea ice concentration retrieval algorithms (NASA Team and Bootstrap) have been validated extensively with many published peer-reviewed papers • So are research products (Goddard products) for this dataset • Verification of the dataset is done and described in Science paper which is online (doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/polar.v33.21004)  ***Comments:***  N/A |
| ***Transparency*** *(The state of being transparent, trackable, and traceable)* | **★ Level 3**  ***Justification:***  • C-ATBD assigned unique documentation ID (CDRP-ATBD-0107) and online (http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/sds/cdr/CDRs/Sea\_Ice\_Concentration/AlgorithmDescription.pdf) • Source code package online (http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdr/operationalcdrs.html) • DOI for dataset is assigned (http://dx.doi.org/10.7265/N55M63M1) • Dataset assigned NCEI-NC dataset ID (DSI-3628-02) • Source code package and documentation package are assigned a unique documentation ID including version number. • Both dataset and documentations are under configuration management at NCEI-NC.  ***Comments:***  N/A |
| ***Data Integrity*** *(The state of data integrity being verifiable)* | **★ Level 4**  ***Justification:***    • Checksum is created by NSIDC for each monthly tar file staged for NCEI-NC • NCEI-NC ingest validate each file based on check-sum before archive • NSIDC generate the check-sum for each data file and online for users to verify data integrity.  ***Comments:***    N/A |



Figure 1. Data stewardship maturity scoreboard for NOAA-NSIDC\_PMSIC\_CDR-v2, highlighted with 5-level progressive green scales for each of the nine key components (across), representing Ad Hoc, Minimal, Intermediate, Advance, and Optimal stages (vertical). If more than two cells are highlighted, it denotes that the dataset has completely satisfied the criterion for the lower level but not yet so at the current level.



Figure 2. Data stewardship rating diagram for NOAA-NSIDC\_PMSIC\_CDR-v2. One to five stars are used to represent Level 1 to 5 ratings, denoting Ad Hoc, Minimal, Intermediate, Advance, and Optimal stages for each of the nine key components, respectively. The dark filled stars indicate that all the practices are completely satisfied. The light filled ones indicated that not all the practices are satisfied. And the non-filled ones indicated that the practices are not satisfied**.**

**3. Summary**

The stewardship maturity of NCEI data product, NOAA-NSIDC\_PMSIC\_CDR-v2, is assessed based on a reference stewardship maturity framework. The current maturity ratings of NOAA-NSIDC\_PMSIC\_CDR-v2 are at Level <minimum of all> or higher for all nine key components with <NN> Level 2, <NN> Level 3, and <NN> Level 4 key components.

**4. Acknowledgment**

This work is supported by NOAA OneStop Project. We thank beneficial input from dataset POC(s) and collaborative effort by OneStop Teams, especially the Metadata Team. Guidance from Ge Peng on DSMM was beneficial.

**5. References**

Peng, G., J.L. Privette, E.J. Kearns, N.A. Ritchey, and S. Ansari (2015), A unified framework for measuring stewardship practices applied to digital environmental datasets, *Data Science Journal, 13*, 231 – 253, doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2481/dsj.14-049>.

Casey, K. (2016), The NOAA *OneStop* data discover and access framework project, <https://ioos.noaa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/OneStop-IOOS-DMAC-03-June-2016.pdf>.

[The reference section will be created automatically including the ones listed here.]

Peng, G. (2015) The Scientific Data Stewardship Maturity Assessment Model Template, Version: NCDC-CICS-SMM-0001-Rev.1 v4.0 6/23/2015. doi:10.6084/m9.figshare.1211954.

Peng, G., J. Lawrimore, V. Toner, C. Lief , R. Baldwin, N. Ritchey, D. Brinegar, and S. A. Delgreco (2016) Assessing Stewardship Maturity of the Global Historical Climatology Network-Monthly (GHCN-M) Dataset: Use Case Study and Lessons Learned. *D.-Lib Magazine.* **22***,* doi:10.1045/november2016-peng.

**Appendix I**: The Scientific Data Stewardship Maturity Matrix (DSMM)

Table A1: This matrix (Version: NCDC-CICS-SMM-0001-Rev.1. 12/09/2014) describes the criterion used to evaluate data stewardship maturity for each of the nine DSMM key components (Peng et al., 2015).

| **DSMM Maturity Component** | **Level 1 *Ad hoc***  Little or no management | **Level 2**  ***Minimal***  Limited management | **Level 3**  ***Intermediate***  Defined management, partially implemented | **Level 4**  ***Advanced***  Well-defined management, fully implemented | **Level 5**  ***Optimal***  Full management, audited, measured, controlled |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Preservability*** *(The state of being perservable)* | Any storage location  Data only | Non- designated repository  Redundancy  Limited archiving metadata | Designated archive  Redundancy  Community- standard archiving metadata  Conforming to limited archiving standards | Level 3 +  Conforming to community archiving standards | Level 4 +  Archiving process performance controlled, measured, and audited  Future archiving standard changes planned |
| ***Accessibility***  *(The state of being searchable and accessible publicly)* | Not publically available person-to- person | Publically available direct file download (e.g., via anonymous FTP server)  Collection or dataset level searchable online | Level 2 +  Non-standard data service  Limited data server performance  Granule/file level searchable  Limited search metrics | Level 3 +  Community-  standard data service  Enhanced data server performance  Conforming to community search metrics  Dissemination report metrics defined and implemented internally | Level 4 +  Dissemination reports available online  Future technology and standard changes planned |
| ***Usability***  *(The state of being easy to use)* | Extensive product-specific knowledge required  No documentation online | Non-standard data format  Limited documentation (e.g., user’s guide online) | Community standard-based interoperable format & metadata  Documentation (e.g. source code, product algorithm document, processing or/and data flow diagram) online | Level 3 +  Basic capability (e.g., subsetting, aggregating) & data characterization overall/global, e.g., climatology, error estimates) available online | Level 4 +  Enhanced online capability (e.g., visualization, multiple data formats)  Community metrics of data characterization (regional/cell) online  External ranking |
| ***Production Sustainability***  *(The state of data production being sustainable and extendable)* | Ad Hoc or Not applicable  To obligation or deliverable requirement | Short-term  Individual PI’s commitment (grant obligations) | Medium-term  Institutional commitment (contractual deliverables with specs and schedule defined) | Long-term Institutional commitment  Product improvement process in place | Level 4 +  National or international commitment  Changes for echnology planned |
| ***Data Quality Assurance***  *(The state of data quality being assured)* | Data quality assurance (DQA) procedure unknown or none | Ad Hoc and random  QA procedure not defined and documented | DQA procedure defined and documented and partially implemented | DQA procedure well documented, fully implemented and available online with master reference data  Limited data quality assurance metadata | Level 4 +  DQA procedure monitored and reported  Conforming to community quality metadata & standards  External review |
| ***Data Quality Control/Monitoring***  *The state of data quality being controlled and monitored* | None or Sampling unknown or spotty  Analysis unknown or random in time | Sampling and analysis are regular in time and space  Limited product-specific metrics defined & implemented | Level 2 +  Sampling and analysis are frequent and systematic but not automatic  Community metrics defined and partially implemented  Procedure documented and available online | Level 3 +  Anomaly detection procedure well-documented and fully implemented using community metrics, automatic, tracked and reported  Limited quality monitoring metadata | Level 4 +  Cross-validation of temporal & spatial characteristics  Physical consistency check  Conforming to community quality metadata & standards |
| ***Data Quality Assessment***  *(The state of data quality being assessed)* | Algorithm/  method/model  Theoretical basis assessed (methods and results online) | Level 1 +  Research product assessed (methods and results online) | Level 2 +  Operational product assessed (methods and results online) | Level 3 +  Quality metadata assessed  Limited quality assessment metadata | Level 4 +  Assessment performed on a recurring basis  Conforming to community quality metadata & standards  External ranking |
| ***Transparency/ Traceability***  *(The state of being transparent, trackable, and traceable)* | Limited product information available  Person-to-person | Product information available in literature | Algorithm Theoretical Basis Document (ATBD) & source code online  Dataset configuration managed (CM)  Unique Object Identifier (OID) assigned (dataset, documentation, source code)  Data citation tracked (e.g., utilizing Digital Object Identifier (DOI) system) | Level 3 +  Operational Algorithm Description (OAD) online, OID assigned, and under CM | Level 4 +  System information online  Complete data provenance online |
| ***Data Integrity***  *(The state of data integrity being verifiable)* | Unknown or no data ingest integrity check | Data ingest integrity verifiable (e.g, checksum technology) | Level 2 +  Data archive integrity verifiable | Level 3 +  Data access integrity verifiable  Conforming to community data integrity technology standard | Level 4 +  Data authenticity verifiable (e.g., data signature technology)  Performance of data integrity check monitored and reported |