

Highlights of the 1999 Coastal Resource Management Customer Survey

- The use of a geographic information system (GIS) is a basic skill in the coastal resource management community. GIS is used primarily for general and project-specific mapping.
- Over 45 percent of the respondents have one to two staff in the office who are trained in GIS, and almost 40 percent have one to two staff who regularly use GIS. Combined GIS expertise in the office is at the beginning to intermediate level, although one-third of the respondents classify their staff at the advanced GIS level.
- Database management and remote sensing are emerging skills in the coastal resource management community. Sixty-five percent and 42 percent of the community use database management software and remote sensing software, respectively.
- Nearly 40 percent of the offices surveyed have one to two staff trained in remote sensing software use, and nearly 30 percent of the respondents have staff who regularly use remote sensing software.
- Over half of the respondents create metadata, with one-third creating metadata using Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards.
- Eighty-nine percent of the offices that responded to the survey have Internet access.
- When not available in-house, respondents rely mostly on partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies for access to GIS and remote sensing.
- The respondents primarily use spatial data that have been collected, derived, or managed by others.
- Respondents take a lead in management techniques such as technical assistance and public outreach and education and more of a coordinating role in other techniques such as land use planning and GIS.
- Interagency coordination is the most common management technique employed by the community in managing habitats.
- Respondents see themselves primarily in a coordinating role when managing coastal issues.
- Habitat issues are the most common issues where spatial data are collected and managed and where agencies take a lead in management.
- Respondents are generally interested in both technology and process-skill training; this interest increases when the training is available locally.
- Primary data set needs include bathymetry, habitat, and human use.
- Respondents identified many resource needs, including resource inventories and assessments, environmental monitoring technologies, GIS, enhanced ability to interpret and apply spatial data and imagery for decision making, greater funding, additional human resources, greater public support, access to information from other offices, and enhanced interagency coordination.