

**Technical Workshop for Climate Services Portal Development**  
**NOAA's National Climatic Data Center,**  
**Climate Prediction Center,**  
**Coastal Services Center,**  
**Climate Program Office**  
**Asheville, NC August 13-15, 2008**

**Introduction**

This workshop has emerged as a collaborative effort involving the NESDIS National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center (CPC), the National Ocean Service's Coastal Services Center (CSC), and the NOAA Climate Program Office (CPO). These organizations have a shared heritage of developing and providing environmental data services to a wide variety of constituents. The workshop also includes participation from other organizations that will be involved with the overall Climate Services Portal effort. The Agenda for the workshop was developed by a committee comprising David Herring (CPO), Jason Marshall (CSC), Viviane Silva (CPC), and Neal Lott (NCDC).

With the rapid rise in development of Web technologies and various climate services across NOAA, there is an increasing need for a working level discussion to focus on National Climate Services (NCS), including two technical areas: Portal Technologies and GIS Services (to be used in the NCS Portal). The reasons involve 1) an interest in enhancing websites in response to customer requests; 2) emerging user information and sectoral needs; and 3) ongoing discussions across the NCDC, CPC, CSC, and CPO in the area of climate products and services.

Responding to this need, NCDC, CSC, CPC, and CPO will hold a three-day workshop in Asheville, NC on August 13-15, 2008. The objectives of the Workshop are: 1) detailed technical discussions of the NCS Portal; 2) enhance the accessibility and usability of NCDC (and other NOAA) climate data, products and services by a variety of customers; and 3) allow more leveraging and interoperability of software development at various locations and enhance consistency in web-based climate services delivery across NOAA.

There will also be a closing discussion involving program and center directors, who will be briefed by the technical team members regarding results of the workshop. The bulk of the workshop will be devoted to detailed discussions of critical interoperability challenges and opportunities by technical staff from participating organizations. Prior to the workshop, attendees should be considering the key products and services from their respective Centers that should be highlighted in Phase 1 of the NCS Portal.

## Agenda

<b>August 13th</b>	
8:30 – 8:45	Overview of workshop goals & objectives
8:45 – 10:00	Brief review of possible products & services for Phase 1 of NCS Portal (focus on readily available prods/svcs)
10:00 - 10:15	<i>Break</i>
10:15~11:45	Brief review of users and users' needs for climate data, products and services (focus on specific climate data - easily useable for short turn-around project)
11:45~1:00	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00~2:30	Review relevant Web technologies to adopt in portal (ie: GIS Services, WMS or other map services, analytic tools, browse data probe widgets, etc.)
2:30~2:45	<i>Break</i>
2:45~4:30	Discuss NCS Portal design, layout, & contents — with emphasis on search & retrieval methods for content
4:30~5:00	Document (if possible) general system framework from discussions. Identify needs, obstacles, dependencies and questions/concerns.
5:00	Adjourn
5:15 ~ ??	Informal gathering, Barley's Taproom (42 Biltmore Ave)
<b>August 14th</b>	
8:30 – 9:00	Brief review of results from yesterday
9:00 – 9:45	Short presentation (E. Shea) on guiding principles for NCS Portal design
9:45~10:00	<i>Break</i>
9:45~11:15	Discuss NCS Portal features & functions to include in Phase-1 (document definitions of features/functionality)
11:15~11:45	Document key areas of work for NCS Portal
11:45~1:00	<i>Lunch</i>
1:00~2:30	Discussions around key areas of work and focal points
2:30~2:45	<i>Break</i>
2:45~4:30	Define project plan, roles required and responsibilities of roles through Phase-1
4:30~5:00	Rough out team composition needs around key areas of work
5:00	Adjourn
6:00 ~ ??	Dinner outing, Bistro 1896 (7 Pack Square)
<b>August 15<sup>th</sup></b>	
8:30~10:30	Determine final areas of work for Phase-1 and initial timeline
10:30~10:45	<i>Break</i>
10:45~12:00	Prepare report materials for afternoon management briefing
12:00~2:00	Working Lunch & Management briefing (VTC available)
2:00~5:00	Open time – discussions as needed

**Participants (1-3 technical representatives/IT developers from each)**

- NWS Climate Prediction Center
- NWS Climate Services Division
- Regional Climate Centers
- NCDC, including the IDEA Center
- NOS Coastal Services Center
- NOAA Climate Program Office
- NOAA CIO and Office of Education
- Information Architect, Office of the Under Secretary

**Venue**

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/about/ncdcvisit.html>