

Contact

Bob Simons, IT Specialist
NOAA NMFS SWFSC ERD
1352 Lighthouse Ave
Pacific Grove, CA 93950
bob.simons@noaa.gov 831 658-3205

Activities

NOAA's mission is "Science, Service, and Stewardship.
To understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts,
To share that knowledge and information with others, and
To conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources."

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is the branch of NOAA that focuses on fisheries.

My half of the Environmental Research Division (ERD) focuses on making it easier for researchers at NOAA and elsewhere to get access to environmental and fisheries data. The other half of ERD uses the data intensively for oceanographic and fisheries studies, notably models.

GIS Issues

My job is to make it easier for scientists to get scientific data from various sources into their favorite client software via the web. I have worked extensively with the DAP protocol from OPeNDAP and DAP data servers like THREDDS. I am the author of ERDDAP (<http://coastwatch.pfeg.noaa.gov/erddap/index.html>), a DAP and WMS server that has many additional features which make it easier for scientists to get data into their favorite client applications. I work with NOAA's Unified Access Framework project (UAF, https://geo-ide.noaa.gov/wiki/index.php?title=Overview_and_benefits_of_the_GEO-IDE_UAF_Grid_Project) which seeks to make all of NOAA's gridded data publicly available via THREDDS and related programs like ERDDAP.

Since ESRI's GIS products are widely used inside and outside of NOAA, I am very interested in improving the connections between the existing stores of data (especially the THREDDS and ERDDAP servers) and ArcGIS. I believe ESRI's new Mosaic feature can/will give ArcGIS users a great way to access DAP gridded data. Soon, I hope to explore adding support for ESRI's GeoServices REST Specification to ERDDAP to give ArcGIS users a way to access the tabular data sets (including point, time series, profile, and trajectory data) served by ERDDAP.