

GCOOS-RA GIS/Products Specialist Position Description and Performance Indicators

The GCOOS-RA Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist is a member of the GCOOS Data Management Team reporting to the GCOOS Data manager. The primary function of the GIS Specialist is to display data that have strong geographical content on top of base maps (geographic, political, etc.) through web pages. This is achieved using specialized proprietary or open source GIS software that supports data fusion, provides interactive layer control, and stores data in standards-based structures that facilitate data exchange.

Currently, the GIS Specialist also maintains the GCOOS Products Portal which, together with the Data Portal and the main GCOOS website comprise the GCOOS-RA web presence. In GCOOS, the term “products” refers to data-based displays such as maps, graphs, and tables or data collectives such as climatologies, bathymetry/coastline, model forecasts and historical data. Data assemblages may be stored locally or remotely and referenced through URL links. The display of GIS data side-by-side with other types of products requires that the GIS Specialist has some web programming skills.

Responsibilities:

1. Respond to directives from the GCOOS Data Manager
The GCOOS Data Manager is responsible for the activities and direction of the Data and Products Portals staff. The GIS Specialist will keep the Data Manager apprised of significant events and issues related to the development and maintenance of products and services made available through the Products Portal.
2. Maintain the computer hardware and software systems of the Products Portal.
The Product Portal system is comprised of software applications running on several computers. Some of these computers are devoted exclusively to Product Portal tasks such as the ESRI ArcGIS Server. The GIS Specialist is responsible for maintaining the hardware and software systems of those systems over which s(he) has exclusive use and control. This includes system administration tasks, system data and software backup, software upgrades and software licensing.
3. Work cooperatively with other members of the GCOOS staff and Stakeholders.
Often products are produced in support of other activities of GCOOS-RA. For example, assisting the Outreach and Educational Coordinator with the development of Citizen Scientist web sites, or developing web pages for the Hypoxia-Nutrient Data Portal or for external stakeholder groups like The Nature Conservancy. The GIS Specialist will work cooperatively with these groups with the goal of building rapport and good will through good service.
4. Keep abreast with technology and techniques in GIS community.
The GIS Specialist is encouraged to engage in scholarly pursuits and continuing education related to the application of GIS technologies and best practices in

oceanographic and marine sciences. This includes consideration of new or alternative software frameworks and toolkits for the development and deployment of client-side and server-side applications used to produce or display products. The GIS Specialist is encouraged to publish, present talks and posters at professional conferences and attend technical workshops.

5. Work with the Products and Services Advisory Committee and the Outreach and Education Council to identify potential new products

Key Performance Indicators:

The performance of the GCOOS GIS Specialist should be judged by the following measures.

1. The development of significant new products during the year. The complexity of the products will also be evaluated.
2. The number of significant products maintained during the year and the degree to which the Products Portal is online and functional.
3. The consensus opinion of the regional data providers and stakeholders of how well the Products Portal and staff are meeting the communities needs for products and support.
4. The consensus opinion of the GCOOS Data Manager and Executive Directors as to the performance and responsiveness of the GCOOS Products Portal.