



# Metadata

## What is Metadata?

Metadata or ‘the documentation of data’ makes data discoverable, usable and understandable. Metadata can be represented in number of different standards and formats including Directory Interchange Format (DIF), Ecological Metadata Language (EML), Sensor Model Language (SensorML), Climate Science Modeling Language (CSML), and NetCDF Markup Language (NcML).

The Federal Geographic Data Committee’s (FGDC) Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM), was developed a commonly used in support of the coordinated development, use, sharing, and dissemination of geospatial data on a national basis. In addition, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) developed a series of standards to describe geographic information. The use of metadata to document environmental data is described in NOAA Administrative Order 212-15 in its outline for the Management of Environmental Data and Information.

NOAA’s Environmental Data Management Committee’s (EDMC) Data Documentation Planning Directive “establishes ISO 19115 Parts 1 and 2 and a recommended representation standard (ISO 19139) for documenting NOAA’s environmental data and information.”

NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) provides metadata support and training to coastal data managers to help them document their data using standard metadata.

## INTRODUCTION TO ISO 191\*\* SERIES METADATA TRAINING

- The course presents the concept, principles, and value of metadata utilizing the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) metadata. It provides the content and structure of the ISO 191\*\* series metadata in detail, along with methods for writing quality metadata.
- The concept of different levels of metadata for discovery, for access and for understanding is emphasized in the course, as different amounts of metadata content may be desirable during a data’s lifecycle.
- The course format is a webinar-style presentation, and is typically taught in six one-hour modules.

## For more information:

[www.ncddc.noaa.gov/metadata-standards/metadata-training](http://www.ncddc.noaa.gov/metadata-standards/metadata-training)  
or Contact us at [NCEI.Info@noaa.gov](mailto:NCEI.Info@noaa.gov)

## XSLT products

In addition, the Metadata Transform Working Group developed a set of XSLT products that can aid metadata developers in the transition of CSDGM and related profile metadata to ISO 19115- 2 and ISO 19110 metadata. The XSLT products, crosswalks and schemas developed from this effort are currently from our website.

