2015 NYS Geospatial Applications Awards Competition Entry Form

Please use the below template to submit your entry for the **2105 NYS Geospatial Applications Awards Competition**. By entering the competition, you grant permission for the NYSGIS Association to publish and publicize your entry.

Required Information

Sponsoring Organization:
NYS DEC Bureau of Marine Resources

Stakeholder/Participant List (by Organization):

Title: Creating custom ArcGIS toolboxes to Automate the Creation of Shellfish Closure Maps.

Abstract:

ArcGIS has a steep learning curve and can be intimidating to novice users. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Bureau of Marine Resources has developed a series of tools using python and ArcPy to streamline common tasks in the Shellfish Sanitation office. By creating custom tools and scripts we have reduced the time it takes our users to create deliverables, such as, maps that delineate areas closed to shellfish harvesting and document pollution sources. Using our scripts enables our users to easily create high quality maps with a consistent appearance. The automated method of map creation is easier to learn and has resulted in a tangible end product has been critical to keeping our users engaged and excited about learning to use ArcGIS.

Statement of the Problem:

Staff needed to create a series of maps to inform the public of shellfish closures, but were unfamiliar with the process of using ArcGIS to create them. The responsibility of creating maps fell on one person, which was problematic if they weren't there. Maps needed to be created quickly, usually with a turn around of a few hours.

Response to the Problem:

Created a set of custom map template and toolsets to easily create and update common shellfish closure maps including Marine Biotoxin Closure maps.

Results:

All staff were able to quickly create closure maps and the task of making these maps no longer fell to one person.

Return on Investment/Cost-Benefit Analysis:

Were were able to create the tools in house, so no additional expense was necessary beyond staff time. The tool set is still in use after three years and has been added to.

Key Participants: (Name, Organization, Title)

Melissa Albino Hegeman, NYS DEC, Marine Biologist 1
Karen Graulich, NYS DEC, Marine Biologist 2
Lisa Tettelbach, NYS DEC Marine Biologist 1
Gina Fanelli, NYS DEC Marine Biologist 1

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Deadline & Submission Information

The deadline for entries is Tuesday, September 15, 2015. Please E-mail this completed template to Ben Houston at Benjamin.h.houston@gmail.com, with "GIS Applications: [Name of Submitting Organization]" in the message Subject line.

Thank you for your submission and Good Luck!