



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
Office of Response and Restoration
Emergency Response Division
7600 Sand Point Way N.E. - Bin C15700
Seattle, Washington 98115

January 2009

Dear ESI User,

The enclosed DVD contains data for six of the Alaska ESI atlases. Data formats have been added to those originally released to accommodate new and ever changing technologies in the world of digital mapping. The underlying data have not been updated since the atlas publication dates shown. Areas included are the Aleutian Islands* (2001), Prince William Sound* (2000), Bristol Bay* (2004), Cook Inlet (2002), Kodiak (1997) and Southeast Alaska (1992, 1995, 2001). Atlas names followed by an asterisk were previously published on DVD in all the formats discussed below; however they are also included here in order to consolidate all of the Alaska ESI data onto a total of two DVDs. The original Southeast Alaska ESI data were published at various times. For temporal questions regarding the digital data, check the source level metadata and/or the general metadata document. The dates for the PDF maps are listed on the index pages which link to the associated series of PDF maps.

Each ESI atlas listed is provided in a variety of GIS formats, including a personal Geodatabase for use with ESRI's ArcGIS product line. An .mxd file, created in ArcMap 9.3 (Cook Inlet, Kodiak and Southeast Alaska) or 9.2 (all other areas) is also included. This mapping document provides links to all of the data tables and symbolization of the layers using the standardized ESI colors and hatch patterns. Layer files are also supplied. These, together with the associated geodatabase, can be used in other mapping projects to define the symbology and links established in the original ESI .mxd file. A series of tools has been developed to assist with data queries and report generation. They are included on the top level of this DVD under ESITools. These tools are continually being modified to fix any bugs that are identified and to enhance functionality. Updated tools can be found at: <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/esitoolkit>. It is a good idea to check this site periodically to make sure you are working with the most current version of the tools. *As of January 2009, a feature had been added to the Report Generation tool that allows the user to select a group of shoreline segments in the ESI layer and generate a report listing the length in meters of each type.* This has not yet been documented in the tools guide provided. When this document is updated, it will be posted to the ORR website at the above address. For questions about this or any of the tools, please use the contact email address below.

This DVD also includes updated versions of the ESI Viewer product. This viewer is intended for users without access to commercial GIS software. It includes an ESI project for each atlas, complete with standard symbolization and links to the attributes of the map objects. The ESI Viewers have been updated from prior releases to work on more current operating systems. On the Macintosh they will require a post 10.3 version of Mac OS X. On a windows machine, the minimum system requirement is Windows 2000 – service pack 4, Windows XP – service pack 2, or Vista.

PDF files of the printed maps are included. For Cook Inlet and Kodiak the maps are large format seasonal summary maps. The remaining areas have the more standard atlas size formatted maps. For these areas, the PDFs have been modified so that the seasonality pages are now attached to the appropriate map document. This will make it easier to print and distribute individual maps and insure that the supporting information is always included.

As always, the GIS data are also provided in ARC Export (.e00) format, as shape files with an ArcView 3.x project and in MOSS format. Database files are included in text and .e00 format. Each area's directory contains a readme file which shows the area of coverage and gives a bit more description of the various file formats included.

If you have any difficulties or questions about using these data, please contact us at: orr.esi@noaa.gov.

Jill Petersen
ESI Program Manager

