**REQUEST FOR BOARD DECISION**

**FROM**: Becci Anderson, Lead, Arctic SDI Working Group on Strategy

**SUBJECT:** Arctic SDI Definitions of Reference and Thematic Data

**Request to the Board:**Board Approval of the newly created Arctic SDI definitions for reference and thematic data per 2014 Reykjavik Board Meeting Action (Board Meeting Minutes: Section 6, Objective 2)

**Background and Objective:** The November Board Action indicated that “The Strategy Working Group and the Working Group Leads will draft definitions for reference and thematic data to be adopted by the Arctic SDI that are in alignment with the MOU and meet the needs and requirements of its users and data providers.”

The terms “reference data” and “thematic data” are used in multiple places in the Arctic SDI documentation. Once approved, these definitions will reside in the Glossary of Terms and all Arctic SDI documentation will be updated to reflect the new definitions.

**Proposed definition for thematic data:** Geospatial data focused on a specific theme or subject area. Thematic geospatial data are often viewed over reference data to provide context.

**Proposed definition for reference data**: Geospatial data depicting background locational information, often acting as a base for displaying thematic data.

The following geospatial data layers have been listed as reference data layers in previous Arctic SDI documentation: administrative boundaries, elevation, bathymetric data, hydrography, transportation, settlements, vegetation, and geographical names. By listing the reference data layer above, it in no way infers all participant nations hold or will provide access to those listed data layers.

*NOTE: The data layers cited in the reference data definition above are taken from the Arctic SDI Constitution Meeting Project Plan (6 April 2011) and were confirmed during the first Board Meeting (31 March 2012).*