
Subject: Re: high resolution coastlines

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Fri, 18 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Julie Greenwood <julieg@NOSPAMoceanweather.com> wrote in message
news:saoivr6q2pd44@corp.supernews.com...

> Hello Everybody

>

> I wonder if anyone has adapted the World Vector Shoreline or something

> similar for use with IDL. I find the 'hires' coastlines included with IDL

> to be deficient for my needs.

Me too.

Don't bother with the World Vector Shoreline, get the Global
Self-consistent, Hierarchical, High-resolution Shoreline Database:

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/shorelines/gshhs.html>

It's a group of shoreline datasets at several different resolutions, based
on WVS and other datasets, but cleaned up (intersecting segments removed
etc):

I mentioned this on the group in December and got a reply from Liam Gumley
who has done some work on reading & displaying this dataset. Part of his
message is included below my signature.

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*** Excerpt of message from Liam Gumley ***

I've played around with converting this dataset to IDL coastline format,
because as you've noted, the IDL coastline data is not too flash. I've
put the relevant files online, feel free to grab any or all of them:
(<ftp://origin.ssec.wisc.edu/pub/gumley/IDL/gshhs/>)

`gshhs_frames.xdr` -> a saved frame file that you can display with
FRESTORE:

(<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley/frame.html>)

It shows the difference in quality between the IDL coastline and the
GSHHS coastline data off the tip of Florida.

`gshhs_to_idl.pro` -> a procedure for converting GSHHS format to IDL map

format.

map_con.pro -> a modified version of map_continents.pro which uses the coastline data derived from GSHHS. It works in quite a few cases, but in some cases it failed to draw the coastlines properly (I think Africa had some problems).

phigh.dat, phigh.ndx -> GSHHS data converted to IDL format (used by map_con).
