

Converting SSF Files to SHP Files Using Trimble Pathfinder Office

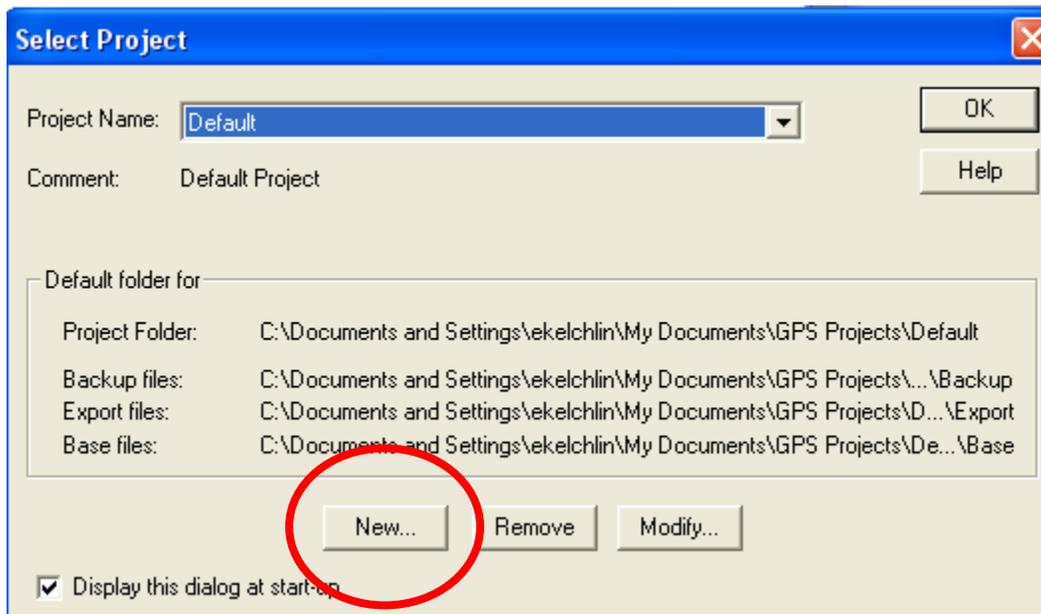
Session Objectives – At the conclusion of this session you will be able to:

- Change default Pathfinder Office settings
- Open SSF files and export as project SHP files using Pathfinder Office 4.20

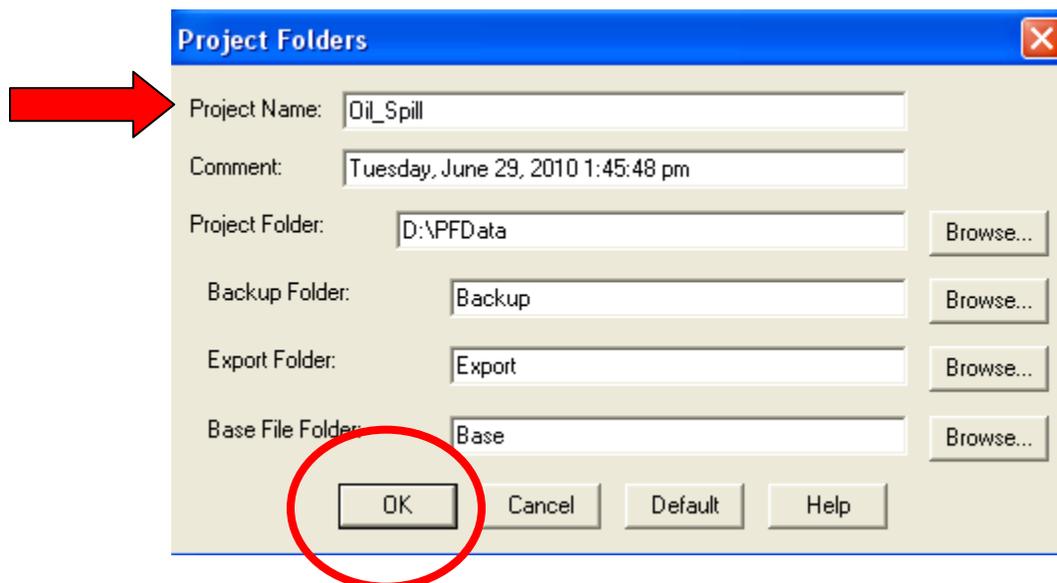
Material Created By: Eric Kelchlin, June 2010
Software: Pathfinder Office Professional 4.20

SECTION 1 – Starting a New Project in Pathfinder Office

1. Open Pathfinder Office .
2. Click **New** on the **Select Project** dialog.

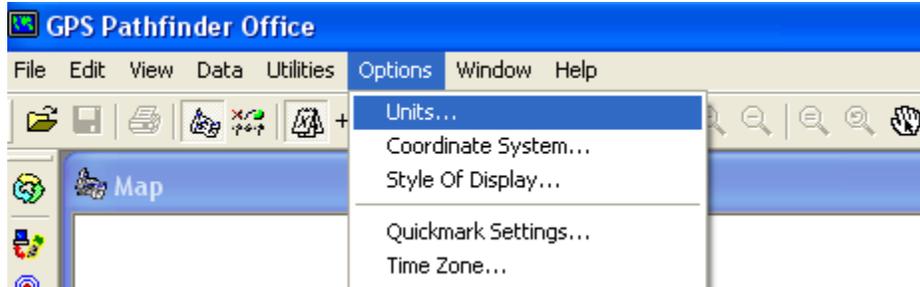


3. Name the GPS project; I use **Oil_Spill** as an example. The remaining folders names will be automatically populated. Click **OK** twice. **If security allows you to create a new folder on your C:\ or D:\ drive, then do so. The default project folder is buried down deep which makes it hard to find your data.**

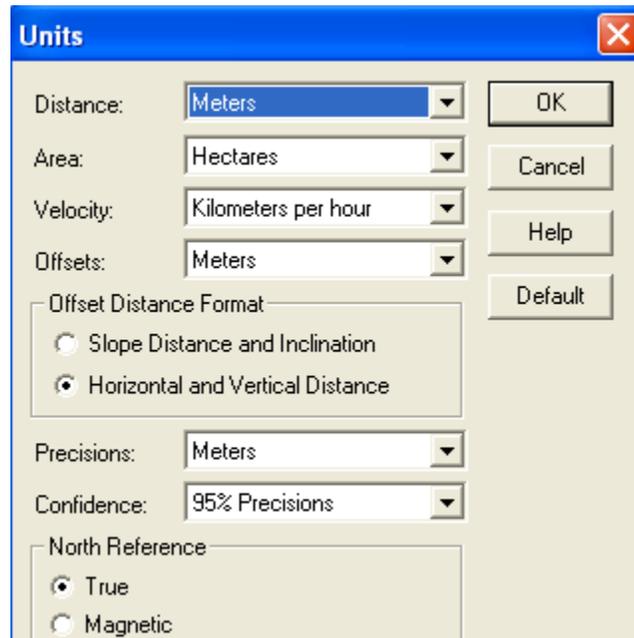


SECTION 2 – Change Units, Coordinate System and Time Zone Settings

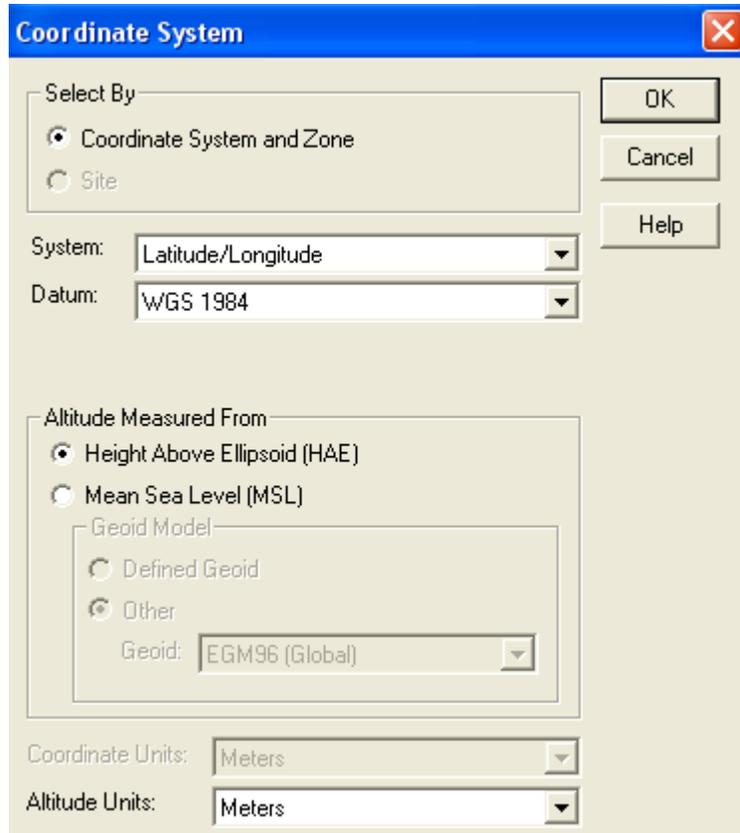
1. Click on the **Options** button on the main menu and select **Units**.



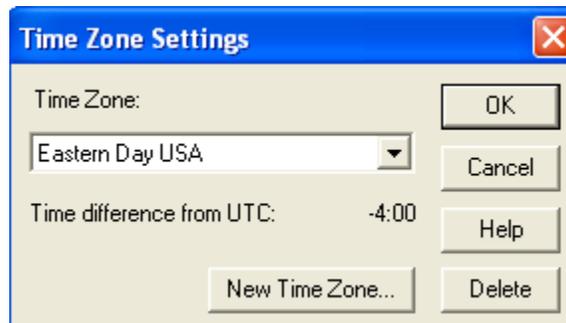
2. Set all units as shown below. Click **OK** to return to the main screen.



3. Click on the **Options** button again and select **Coordinate System**. Change the settings to the desired parameters. For this example, the data are in GCS (i.e., Latitude –Longitude), WGS 1984. See the screen shot on the next page. Click **OK** when done.



4. Click **Options** one more time and select **Time Zone**. Change the Time Zone to the appropriate zone. Click **OK**.

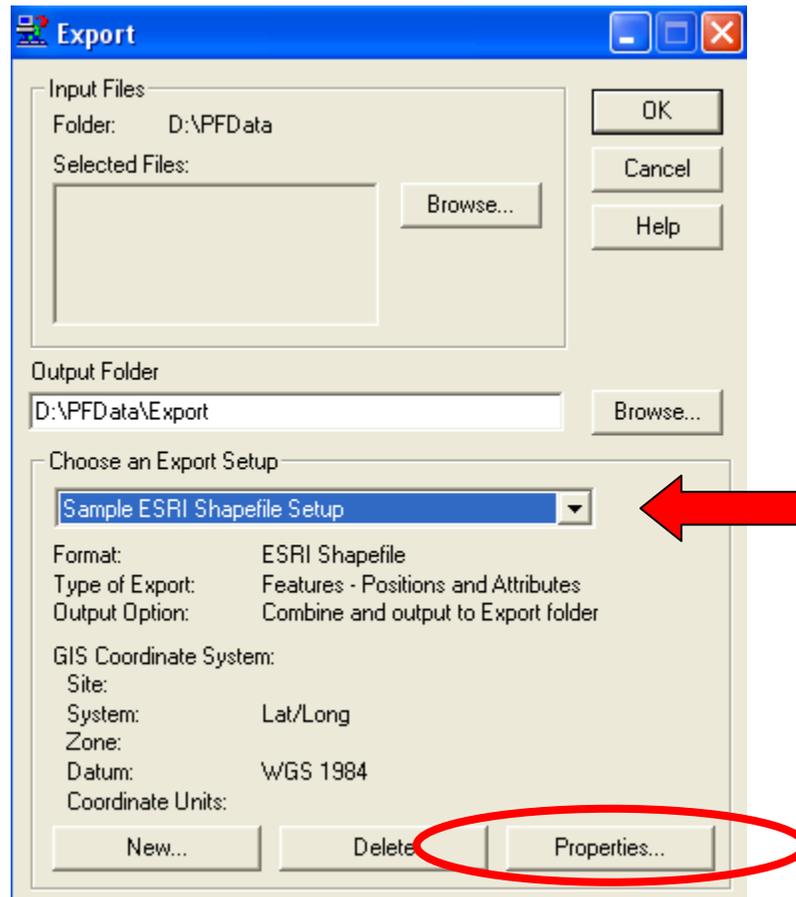


SECTION 3 – Change Data Export Settings

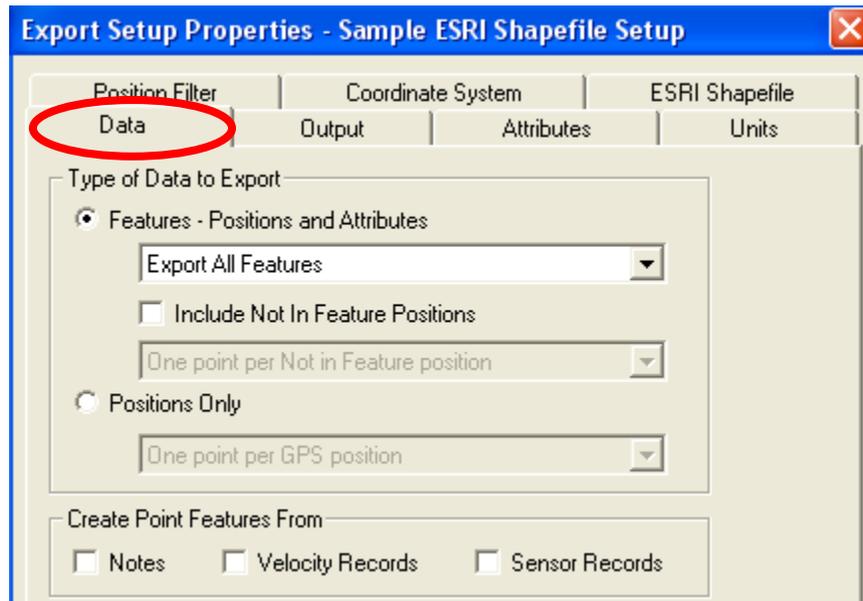
1. Click **Utilities** and select **Export**.



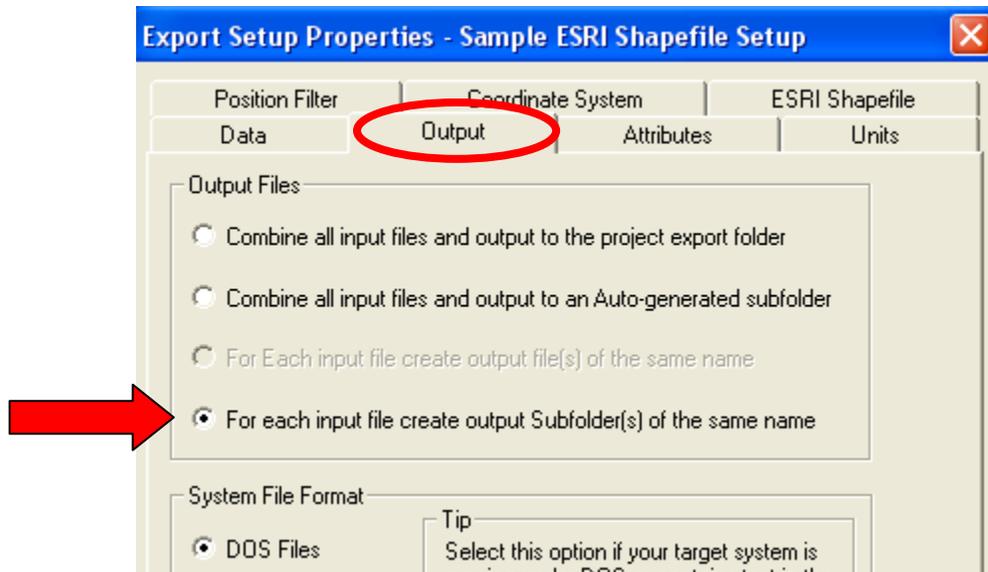
2. Select the **Sample ESRI Shapefile Setup** in the **Export Setup** drop-down list. Click on the Properties button.



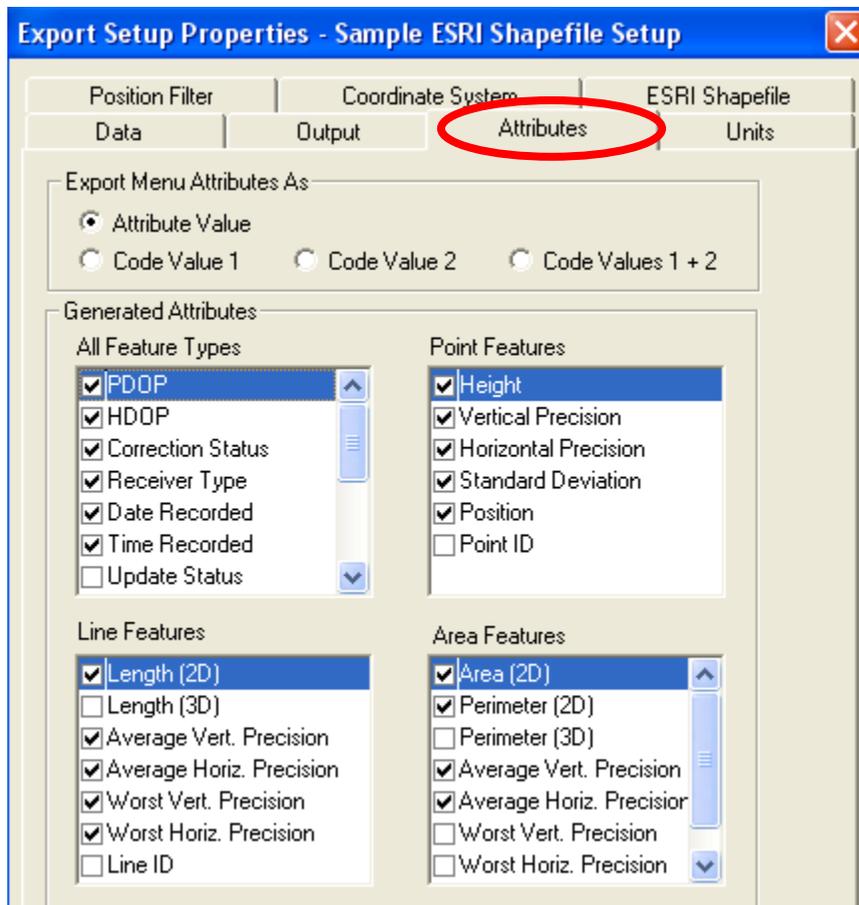
3. Click on the **Data Tab** and select the values as shown below.



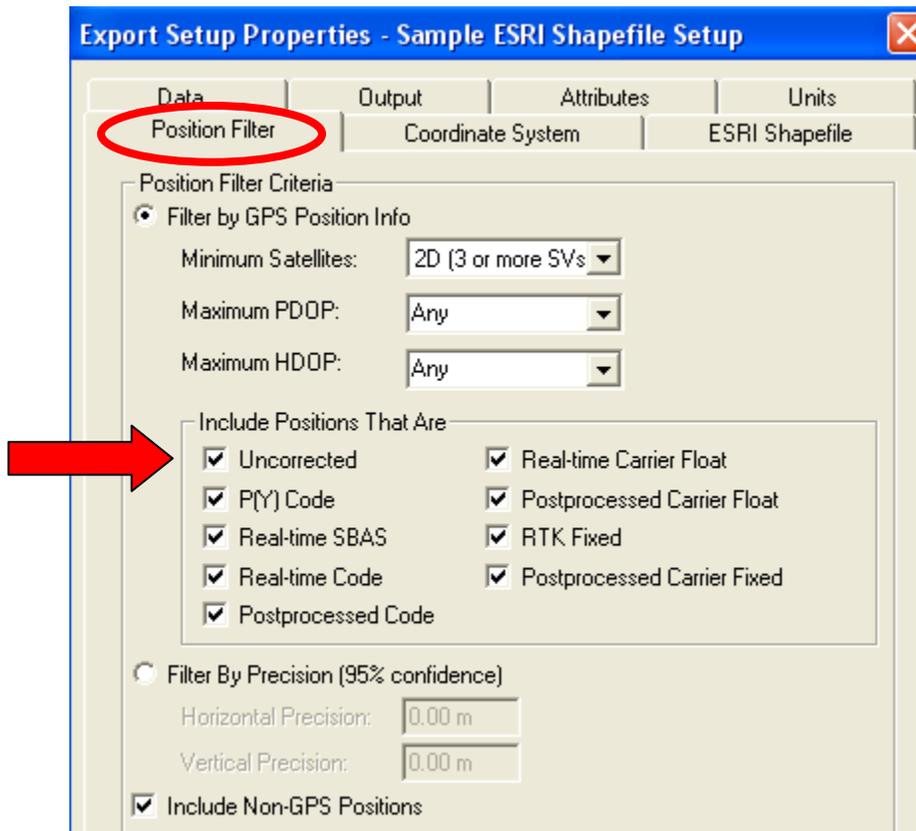
4. Click on the **Output Tab** and select the values as shown below. This will prevent file overwrites, which is a poorly designed trait in Pathfinder Office.



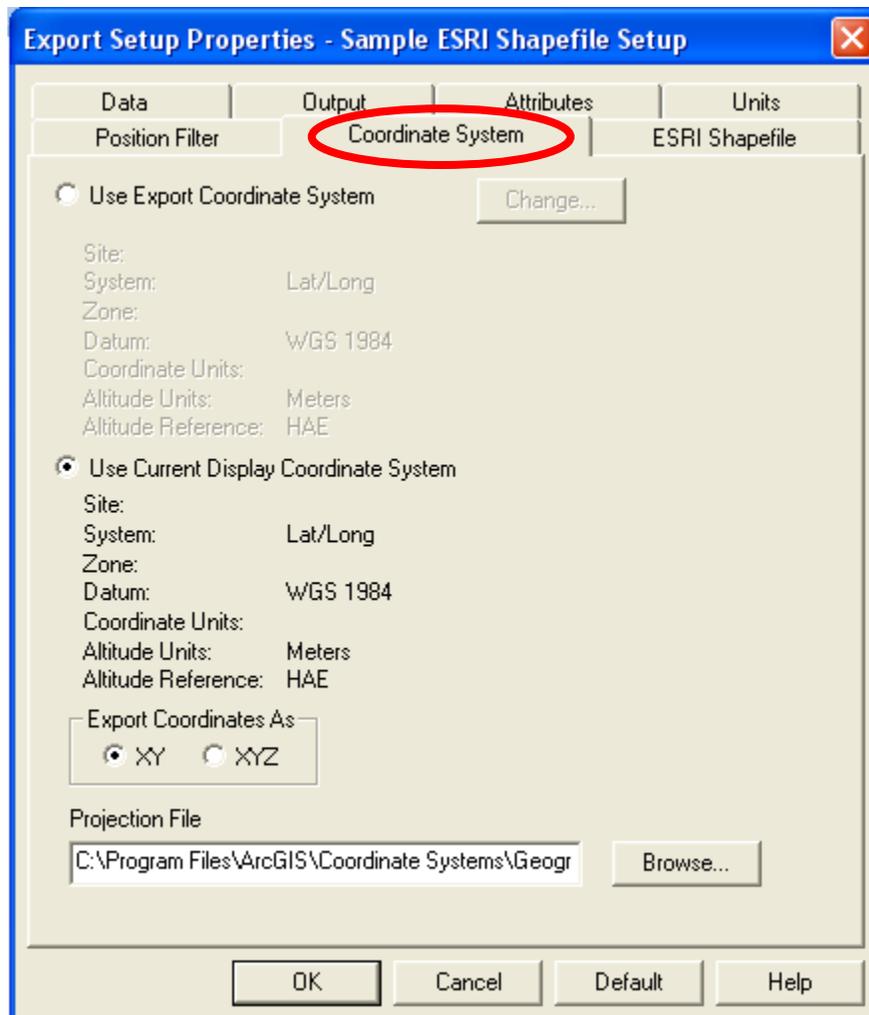
5. Click on the **Attributes Tab** and select the values as shown below. These data will form your attribute table in ArcGIS and serve as excellent metadata. Not shown checked for All Feature Types includes: Total Positions and Data Dictionary Name, both very important.



6. Click on the **Position Filter Tab** and select the values as shown below. Make sure you check the Uncorrected box.



7. Click on the **Coordinate System Tab** and select the values as shown below. Click the Browse button to load the ESRI Projection file. You can ignore the ESRI Shapefile and Units Tabs. Click **OK** and close  the screen dialog.



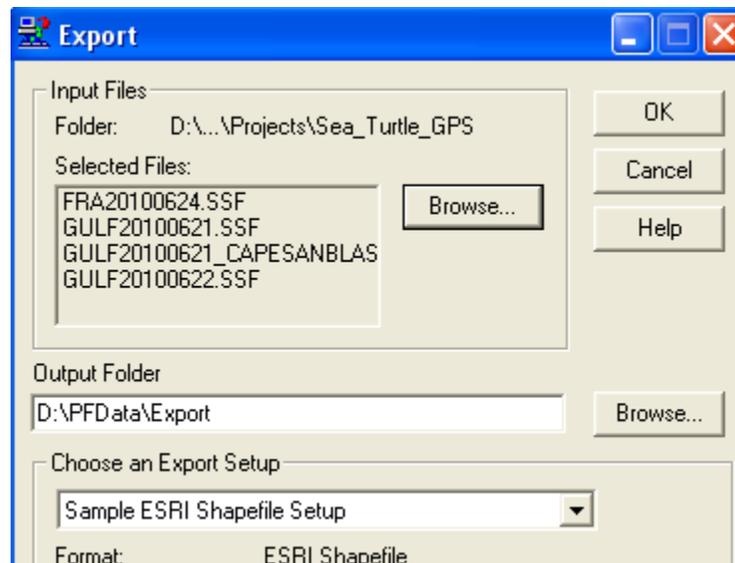
NOTE: If you want to export the shapefile in a different coordinate system and datum, then click the upper radial button and select the **Change** button to customize your output.

SECTION 4 – Converting SSF to SHP

1. Click **File** on the Main Menu and Select **Open**.



2. Browse to the location of your SSF files. Select the file(s) and click **Open**. Your data should appear on the Map screen. You may want to do each file one at a time, depending on when the data were collected and if the data dictionary varies between projects. Generally, keep the same projects together or change your export settings to export each file to its own self named subfolder.
3. Click **Utilities** on the Main Menu and select **Export**.
4. Since we already configured our export settings, simply click **OK**.



5. Click **Yes** to overwrite files. Don't worry; it won't ruin the data because of the way we configured the export options.
6. Click on the **Details** button to view the location and file names. Notice that all shapefiles have the same name. The old file name will be the subfolder name, so it's not a loss. You will need to rename the shapefiles using ArcCatalog.
7. Click **Close**. Exit Pathfinder Office.
8. Open ArcCatalog and rename your shapefiles.