Dedicated Habitat Research Area

**Identification**

**CITATION**

**CITATION INFORMATION**

**ORIGINATOR** NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

**PUBLICATION DATE** 2018-04-09

**TITLE** Dedicated Habitat Research Areas

**PUBLICATION INFORMATION**

**PUBLICATION PLACE** Gloucester, MA

**PUBLISHER** NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO)

**ONLINE LINKAGE** http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/gis

**DESCRIPTION**

**ABSTRACT**

This dataset depicts the boundaries of the Dedicated Habitat Research Areas in ESRI shapefile format for the NOAA Fisheries Service’s Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO). This shapefile includes boundaries for the following Regulated Areas:

- Stellwagen Dedicated Habitat Research Area
- Georges Bank Dedicated Habitat Research Area

Because GIS projection and topology functions can change or generalize coordinates, these GIS files are considered to be approximate representations and are NOT an OFFICIAL record for the exact regulated area boundaries. For information on the official legal definition refer to the Use Constraints metadata section.

**PURPOSE**

Beginning in 2010 and in response to mounting requests for digital depictions of NMFS Regulated Areas in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Waters (Regulated Areas), the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Committee launched a project to standardize the development, publication and regular updating of GIS files depicting Regulated Area boundaries. This dataset is a product of that initiative.

This dataset was created to depict the boundaries of NMFS Regulated Areas in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Waters (Regulated Areas) only. For information on the proper use of the dataset refer to the Use Constraints metadata section.

**TIME PERIOD OF CONTENT**

**TIME PERIOD INFORMATION**

**SINGLE DATE/TIME**

**CALENDAR DATE** 2018-04-09

**CURRENTNESS REFERENCE**

Publication date

**STATUS**

**PROGRESS** Complete

**MAINTENANCE AND UPDATE FREQUENCY** As needed

**SPATIAL DOMAIN**

**BOUNDING COORDINATES**

**WEST BOUNDING COORDINATE** -80

**EAST BOUNDING COORDINATE** -64

**NORTH BOUNDING COORDINATE** 46

**SOUTH BOUNDING COORDINATE** 32
ACCESS CONSTRAINTS
None.

USE CONSTRAINTS
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This dataset was created to depict the boundaries of NMFS Regulated Areas in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Waters (Regulated Areas) only. The dataset should not be used for a legal definition. The dataset should not be used to infer information regarding the existence or details of other marine features or resources, including, but not limited to, navigable waters, coastlines, bathymetry, submerged features, or man-made structures. Users assume responsibility for determining the appropriate use of this dataset.

*** Not the Legal Definition *** This Geographic Information System (GIS) dataset is not the legal definition of the Regulated Area. The description published in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations is the only legal definition. This dataset and metadata document provide a broad overview of a subset of applicable fishing regulations, restrictions and requirements; it is not a substitute for the actual regulations. Users are encouraged to read the applicable regulations in conjunction with use of this dataset.

*** Temporal Considerations *** Regulated Area boundary definitions are subject to change or modification. Published datasets may represent historic, current, or future Regulated Areas. When changes to fishing regulations affect this dataset, it will be archived and replaced by an updated version as soon as feasible. Approved Regulated Area boundaries may also be published prior to their effective date. It is the user’s responsibility to ensure the applicable Regulated Area boundaries are being used.

*** Shorelines/Base Layers *** The accuracy of this dataset is dependent upon the accuracy and resolution of the datasets (e.g., shoreline, bathymetry, shared administrative boundaries) used in the creation process. Source datasets used are specified in the metadata. These data sources were selected for their suitability to a broad audience, and may not be suitable for specific uses requiring higher-resolution information. Coastlines change. Unless otherwise noted, where the NOAA Medium Resolution Shoreline is used, assume the regulatory boundary reaches the most current coastline delineation available.
**Data Quality**

**Logical Consistency Report**
Check Geometry test has been performed in ArcGIS.

**Completeness Report**
Features represented are valid. No geometry problems were detected.

**Positional Accuracy**

**Horizontal Positional Accuracy Report**
Data were collected using methods that are accurate to within 2-5 meters (EPA National Geospatial Data Policy [NGDP] Accuracy Tier 2). For more information, please see EPA's NGDP at [http://epa.gov/geospatial/policies.html](http://epa.gov/geospatial/policies.html)

**Lineage**

**Source Information**

**Citation Information**

**Originator** Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

**Publication Date** 2018-04-09

**Title**
Electronic Code of Federal Regulations

**Edition** Special Edition of the Federal Register

**Geospatial Data Presentation Form** document

**Publication Information**

**Publication Place** Washington, DC

**Publisher** Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration and the Government Printing Office

**Other Citation Details**
The Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (e-CFR) is a current, daily updated version of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). It is not an official legal edition of the CFR. The e-CFR is an unofficial editorial compilation of CFR material and Federal Register amendments. Because the e-
[Template Generation] Many NMFS Regulated Areas in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Waters (Regulated Areas) share boundaries that are partially coincident with any combination of the following: 1) the U.S. Atlantic coastline; 2) the Submerged Lands Act boundary; 3) the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary in the Gulf of Maine; 4) the outward extent of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (a.k.a. the "200-nautical mile line"). To standardize Regulated Area features sharing these boundaries, published shapefiles of the shared administrative boundaries were obtained from the authoritative agencies. A shoreline was selected that was suitable for general mapping purposes, freely and publicly available, of medium-resolution, and covering the extent of the U.S.. When necessary, the boundaries were transformed to NAD83. A series of template polygon shapefiles were then generated, using these authoritative boundaries as the outward extents of the polygon. All templates were generated in NAD83 geographic coordinate system. The templates created are: 1) Coast-to-EEZ: bounded by the coastline, the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, the U.S. EEZ, and 81°W longitude off the southern extent of Florida (an arbitrary cut-off for the Atlantic); 2) Coast-to-SLA: bounded by the coastline, the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, the Submerged Lands Act boundary, and 81°W longitude off the southern extent of Florida; 3) SLA-to-EEZ: bounded by the Submerged Lands Act boundary, the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, the U.S. EEZ, and 81°W longitude off the southern extent of Florida. These templates were subsequently copied and edited, as needed by the Regulated Area spatial definitions.

[Get Definition Text] The current legal spatial definition for the Regulated Area was copied from the e-CFR website.

[Features, No Template] If necessary, the coordinates of the Regulated Area were converted to Decimal Degrees. To generate the Regulated Area boundary in ArcGIS, these points were connected in the order specified in the spatial definition. When the spatial definition specified that points were connected by following a straight line, rhumb lines were constructed. When multiple Regulated Areas are a part of a larger grouping of related Regulated Areas, these steps were repeated to generate a unique feature for each Regulated Area and the features were then combined into a single shapefile. The file was projected to NAD83 Mercator Projection, and the boundaries were densified with consecutive vertices spaced no more than 10 nautical miles apart to preserve rhumb line paths in other coordinate systems. The file was projected back to the un-projected NAD83 coordinate system.
PROCESS STEP
PROCESS DESCRIPTION
[Add Attributes] The standardized attribute schema was applied to the shapefile, and the fields were defined.
PROCESS DATE 2018

PROCESS STEP
PROCESS DESCRIPTION
[Policy Review] The Regulated Area spatial definition text, shapefile geometry and attribute values were reviewed with policy staff to verify that the shapefile accurately depicted and described the intended boundaries.
PROCESS DATE 2018

PROCESS STEP
PROCESS DESCRIPTION
[Check Geometry] The ESRI ArcGIS Check Geometry tool was run on the shapefile to identify any geometry problems. If problems were encountered, they were reviewed and corrected.
PROCESS DATE 2018

PROCESS STEP
PROCESS DESCRIPTION
[Metadata] A GARFO Regulated Area shapefile metadata template was developed using the EPA Metadata Editor v3.2. This template was applied and customized to reflect the specific characteristics of the given shapefile. The metadata was validated for FGDC CSDGM compliance.
PROCESS DATE 2018

PROCESS STEP
PROCESS DESCRIPTION
[Final Review] The shapefile was reviewed by members of the GARFO GIS Committee, policy experts from the GARFO Division responsible for the Regulated Area, and General Counsel, according to the GARFO GIS Data Distribution Policy.
PROCESS DATE 2018

PROCESS STEP
PROCESS DESCRIPTION
[Publication] The shapefile, with accompanying metadata, was uploaded for public download on the NOAA NMFS GARFO GIS website.
PROCESS DATE 2018-04-09

Spatial Reference ►

HORIZONTAL COORDINATE SYSTEM DEFINITION
GEOGRAPHIC
LATITUDE RESOLUTION 0.000001
LONGITUDE RESOLUTION 0.000001
GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATE UNITS Decimal degrees

GEODETIC MODEL
HORIZONTAL DATUM NAME North American Datum of 1983
ELLIPSOID NAME Geodetic Reference System 1980
SEMI-MAJOR AXIS 6378137.00000
DENOMINATOR OF FLATTENING RATIO 298.257222

Entities and Attributes ►

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
ENTITY TYPE
**ENTITY TYPE LABEL**  Regulated Area

**ENTITY TYPE DEFINITION**
NMFS Regulated Areas in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Waters

**ENTITY TYPE DEFINITION SOURCE**  GARFO

**ATTRIBUTE**
**ATTRIBUTE LABEL**  FID
**ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION**
Internal feature number

**ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE**  ESRI

**ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES**
**UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN**
System-generated internal feature number

**ATTRIBUTE**
**ATTRIBUTE LABEL**  Shape
**ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION**
Feature geometry

**ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE**  ESRI

**ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES**
**UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN**
Coordinate geometry

**ATTRIBUTE**
**ATTRIBUTE LABEL**  AREANAME
**ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION**
Official name of the Regulated Area, usually the area name as printed in the CFR

**ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE**  GARFO

**ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES**
**UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN**
Free text name

**ATTRIBUTE**
**ATTRIBUTE LABEL**  COMMNAME
**ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION**
Most commonly used name. May be identical to AREANAME, an abbreviation of AREANAME, or a different name altogether.

**ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE**  GARFO

**ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES**
**UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN**
Free text name

**OVERVIEW DESCRIPTION**
**ENTITY AND ATTRIBUTE OVERVIEW**
Entity Attributes provide reference information for the Regulated Areas represented. Attributes provide citations for the legal spatial definition and originating documents, and currentness information for each area.

**ENTITY AND ATTRIBUTE DETAIL CITATION**
FILES_D_Map.xlsx fully describes the Attribute Schema used for regulated area GIS data sets. To access this document, see the Contact Information.

**Distribution Information**

**DISTRIBUTOR**
**CONTACT INFORMATION**
**CONTACT PERSON PRIMARY**
**CONTACT PERSON**  Dean-Lorenz Szumylo
CONTACT ORGANIZATION  NOAA Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, GIS Committee
CONTACT POSITION  GIS Specialist
CONTACT ADDRESS
ADDRESS TYPE  mailing and physical address
ADDRESS  55 Great Republic Drive
CITY  Gloucester
STATE OR PROVINCE  MA
POSTAL CODE  01930

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CONTACT INSTRUCTIONS
http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/

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Metadata Reference  ►

METADATA DATE  2018-04-09
METADATA FUTURE REVIEW DATE  2022-04-09
METADATA CONTACT
CONTACT INFORMATION
CONTACT PERSON PRIMARY
CONTACT PERSON  Dean-Lorenz Szumylo
CONTACT ORGANIZATION  NOAA Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, GIS Committee
CONTACT POSITION  GIS Specialist
CONTACT ADDRESS
ADDRESS TYPE  mailing and physical address
ADDRESS  55 Great Republic Drive
CITY  Gloucester
STATE OR PROVINCE  MA
POSTAL CODE  01930

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CONTACT INSTRUCTIONS
http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/

METADATA STANDARD NAME  FGDC Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata
METADATA STANDARD VERSION  FGDC-STD-001-1998