This dataset depicts the boundaries of the GOM/GB Exemption Area 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:

- GOM/GB Exemption 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.

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.
Theme
Theme Keyword Thesaurus ISO 19115 Topic Category
Theme Keyword boundaries
Theme Keyword environment
Theme Keyword location
Theme Keyword oceans
Theme Keyword planning/Cadastre

Theme
Theme Keyword Thesaurus EPA GIS Keyword Thesaurus
Theme Keyword Biology
Theme Keyword Compliance
Theme Keyword Conservation
Theme Keyword Ecology
Theme Keyword Ecosystem
Theme Keyword Environment
Theme Keyword Human
Theme Keyword Management
Theme Keyword Marine
Theme Keyword Monitoring
Theme Keyword Natural Resources
Theme Keyword Permits
Theme Keyword Regulatory
Theme Keyword Water

Theme
Theme Keyword Thesaurus GARFO Keywords
Theme Keyword Atlantic
Theme Keyword EEZ
Theme Keyword Exclusive Economic Zone
Theme Keyword GARFO
Theme Keyword Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
Theme Keyword Groundfish
Theme Keyword Magnuson-Stevens Act
Theme Keyword MSA
Theme Keyword National Marine Fisheries Service
Theme Keyword National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Theme Keyword NEFMC
Theme Keyword New England Fishery Management Council
Theme Keyword NMFS
Theme Keyword NOAA
Theme Keyword Northeast Multispecies
Theme Keyword US EEZ

Place
Place Keyword Thesaurus None
Place Keyword Atlantic Ocean
Place Keyword Cape Cod Bay
Place Keyword Georges Bank
Place Keyword Greater Atlantic Region
Place Keyword Gulf of Maine
Place Keyword New England
Place Keyword Southern New England
Place Keyword United States
Place Keyword US EEZ
Place Keyword US Exclusive Economic Zone
None.

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NOAA Fisheries Service. NMFS Regulated Areas in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Waters.
{SHAPEFILE TITLE} [Shapefile]. Gloucester, MA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) [producer] {SHAPEFILE PUBLICATION DATE}.
http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/gis.

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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.
POINT OF CONTACT
CONTACT INFORMATION
CONTACT PERSON PRIMARY
CONTACT PERSON  Doug Potts
CONTACT ORGANIZATION  NOAA Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division
CONTACT POSITION  GIS Committee Sustainable Fisheries Representative
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http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/

SECURITY INFORMATION
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM  FIPS Pub 199
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION  No Confidentiality
SECURITY HANDLING DESCRIPTION  Standard Technical Controls

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
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
LINEAGE
SOURCE INFORMATION
SOURCE CITATION
CITATION INFORMATION
ORIGINATOR  Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
PUBLICATION DATE  2014-11-18
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-
This source shoreline was used to generate template shapefiles, which were copied and used when Regulatory Area boundaries followed portions of the US Atlantic coastline. This data source was selected for its 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.

PROCESS STEP
PROCESS DESCRIPTION
[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.

PROCESS DATE 2013

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

PROCESS DATE 2014

PROCESS STEP
PROCESS DESCRIPTION
[Features From Templates] To generate the Regulated Area boundary in ArcGIS, a copy of the Coast-to-EEZ template polygon was split by connecting coordinates in the order specified in the spatial definition. When the spatial definition specified that points were connected following the Coastline or EEZ the coinciding outward extent of the template polygon was used. After all points were appropriately connected, any portions of the template outside the Regulated Area were discarded. 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. When the spatial definition specified that points were connected following a straight line, rhumb lines were constructed by
projecting the shapefile into a NAD83 Mercator projection, which maintains straight rhumbs. The boundaries were densified with consecutive vertices interpolated no more than 10 nautical miles apart, to preserve rhumb line paths in other coordinate systems. (Boundaries following the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary were unaffected because the source shapefile depicting this legally-defined geodesic line was densified with vertices placed <1mi apart.) The file was then projected back to the un-projected NAD83 coordinate system.

PROCESS DATE 2015

PROCESS STEP
PROCESS DESCRIPTION
[Cape Cod Canal] NOTE: Due to the resolution of the source coastline shapefile, Cape Cod Canal fully connects Cape Cod Bay to Buzzards Bay in the template shapefile, rendering Cape Cod as an island. Regulated Area definitions rarely specify a boundary across this canal, but one must be generated to fully "close off" a coastal polygon that is intended to be restricted to either side of Cape Cod. As a result, Cape Cod Canal was split, arbitrarily, at 70°34’W longitude.

PROCESS DATE 2015

PROCESS STEP
PROCESS DESCRIPTION
[Add Attributes] The standardized attribute schema was applied to the shapefile, and the fields were defined.

PROCESS DATE 2015

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 2015

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 2015

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 2015

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 2015

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

PROCESS DATE 2015-03-15

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 6378137.000000
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 GARFO_ID
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION
A unique identifier used to identify and track this feature; a new GARFO_ID is generated for each version of a Regulated Area (i.e. whenever boundaries or attributes are changed, edited or updated)
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN System-generated number

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  COMNAME
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

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL  AREAGROUP
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION
Specifies if the Regulated Area is part of a group of related areas
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE  GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Free text name

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL  DESCRIBE
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION
A brief description of the purpose of the Regulated Area
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE  GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Free text description

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL  CFRTITLE
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION
CFR Title citation where the Regulated Area is legally defined
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE  GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Free text name

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL  CFRPT
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION
CFR Part citation where the Regulated Area is legally defined
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE  GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Free text citation

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL  CFRPTTXT
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION
CFR Part citation header text
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE  GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Free text name

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL  CFRSUB
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION  
CFR Subpart citation where the Regulated Area is legally defined  
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE GARFO  
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN  
Free text citation

ATTRIBUTE  
ATTRIBUTE LABEL CFRSUBTXT  
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION  
CFR Subpart citation header text  
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE GARFO  
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN  
Free text name

ATTRIBUTE  
ATTRIBUTE LABEL CFRSXN  
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION  
CFR Section citation where the Regulated Area is legally defined  
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE GARFO  
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN  
Free text citation

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CFR Section citation header text  
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Free text name

ATTRIBUTE  
ATTRIBUTE LABEL CFRPARA  
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION  
CFR Paragraph citation where the Regulated Area is legally defined  
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE GARFO  
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN  
Free text citation

ATTRIBUTE  
ATTRIBUTE LABEL CFRPARATXT  
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION  
CFR Paragraph citation header text  
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE GARFO  
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN  
Free text name

ATTRIBUTE  
ATTRIBUTE LABEL FRCITE  
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION  
Federal Register citation of original Regulated Area spatial definition, or last modification to the spatial definition, whichever is most recent. Refers to SPATIAL DEFINITION ONLY. Subsequent
FR notices may have modified the requirements affecting waters within or outside this Regulated Area.

**ATTRIBUTE**
**ATTRIBUTE LABEL** FRDATE
**ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION**
Federal Register citation date of original Regulated Area spatial definition, or the last modification to the spatial definition, whichever is most recent. Refers to SPATIAL DEFINITION ONLY. Subsequent FR notices may have modified the requirements affecting waters within or outside this Regulated Area.

**ATTRIBUTE**
**ATTRIBUTE LABEL** EFFECTDATE
**ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION**
Date Regulated Area officially became law, or most recent modification

**ATTRIBUTE**
**ATTRIBUTE LABEL** SOURCE
**ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION**
If Regulated Area is defined in the CFR, this is the citation for the Amendment/Framework/etc. that established the area. If the Regulated Area is not defined in the CFR, this is the alternative source citation establishing the Regulated Area.

**ATTRIBUTE**
**ATTRIBUTE LABEL** RECURST
**ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION**
Annually recurring date Regulated Area becomes active

**ATTRIBUTE**
**ATTRIBUTE LABEL** RECUREND
**ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION**
Annually recurring date Regulated Area becomes inactive
ATTRIBUTE LABEL  GISAUTHOR
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION
Name of the NOAA staff person who created the GIS feature
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE   GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Name

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL  CREATED
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION
Creation date of the GIS feature
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE   GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Date

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL  AREANOTES
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION
Miscellaneous notes regarding the Regulated Area or feature
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE   GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Free text description

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
FILEDS_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
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CITY  Gloucester
STATE OR PROVINCE  MA
POSTAL CODE  01930

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

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION  Downloadable Data
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misuse of this data.

Metadata Reference

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<td>Contact Organization</td>
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