Lobster Gear Areas

**Identification**

**CITATION**

**CITATION INFORMATION**

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

**PUBLICATION DATE** 2016-05-01

**TITLE** Lobster Gear 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 Lobster Gear 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:

- Gulf of Maine Gear Area
- Georges Bank Gear Area
- Southern New England Gear Area
- Mid-Atlantic Gear 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** 2016-05-01

**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
**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.

POINT OF CONTACT

CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT PERSON PRIMARY
Doug Potts

CONTACT ORGANIZATION NOAA Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division

CONTACT POSITION GIS Committee Sustainable Fisheries Representative

CONTACT ADDRESS

ADDRESS TYPE mailing and physical address

ADDRESS 55 Great Republic Drive

CITY Gloucester

STATE OR PROVINCE MA

POSTAL CODE 01930

CONTACT VOICE TELEPHONE 978-281-9341

CONTACT FAX SIMILE TELEPHONE 978-281-9135

CONTACT ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS douglas.potts@noaa.gov

CONTACT INSTRUCTIONS

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

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

PUBLICATION DATE 2016-03-18

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
This source marine boundary was used to generate template shapefiles, which were copied and used when Regulatory Area boundaries followed portions of the Submerged Lands Act boundary (a.k.a. 3 nautical mile line; a.k.a. Fed-State boundary).

**Source Information**
**Source Citation**
**Citation Information**
**Originator** Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), Office of Coast Survey (OCS)
**Publication Date** 2011-05-01
**Title** USMaritimeLimitsNBoundaries
**Edition** 1
**Geospatial Data Presentation Form** vector digital data
**Publication Information**
**Publication Place** Silver Spring, MD
**Publisher** NOAA's Ocean Service, Office of Coast Survey (OCS)
**Online Linkage** http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/csdl/mbound.htm

**Type of Source Media** digital download (ESRI shapefile)
**Source Time Period of Content**
**Single Date/Time**
**Calendar Date** 2011-05-01
**Source Currentness Reference**
**Source Citation Abbreviation** US EEZ

This source marine boundary was used to generate template shapefiles, which were copied and used when Regulatory Area boundaries followed portions of the US Exclusive Economic Zone.

**Source Information**
**Source Citation**
**Citation Information**
**Originator** Department of Commerce (DOC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), Office of Coast Survey (OCS)
**Publication Date** 2011-05-01
**Title** USMaritimeLimitsNBoundaries
**Edition** 1
**Geospatial Data Presentation Form** vector digital data
**Publication Information**
**Publication Place** Silver Spring, MD
**Publisher** NOAA's Ocean Service, Office of Coast Survey (OCS)
**Online Linkage** http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/csdl/mbound.htm

**Type of Source Media** digital download (ESRI shapefile)
**Source Time Period of Content**
**Single Date/Time**
**Calendar Date** 2011-05-01
**Source Currentness Reference**
**Source Citation Abbreviation** Territorial Sea

**Source Contribution**
This source marine boundary was used when Regulatory Area boundaries followed portions of the limit of the US Territorial Sea (12nmi line).

**SOURCE INFORMATION**

**SOURCE CITATION**


**ONLINE LINKAGE**

http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/global/global.html

http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/global/relief/ETOPO1/data/bedrock/grid_registered/binary/etopo1_bed_g_f4.zip

**TYPE OF SOURCE MEDIA** digital download (4-byte, 32-bit float)

**SOURCE CONTRIBUTION**

This source topography dataset was used to derive bathymetric contour lines.

**PROCESS STEP**

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

[Features From Templates] The SLA-to-EEZ template shapefile was copied. If necessary, the coordinates of the Regulated Area definition were converted to Decimal Degrees. To generate the Regulated Area boundary in ArcGIS, the template polygon was split by connecting these points 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. As an exception, points intended to fall along the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary were connected by following the geodesic line that legally defines that international boundary. When the spatial definition specified that points were connected by following the SLA 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 defined 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. 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. 

[Bathymetry] The ArcGIS Contour List tool (Spatial Analyst) was used to derive bathymetry contours from the ETOPO1 1-arc minute global topography raster. The bathymetry line was then traced as specified in the Regulated Area spatial definition. 

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

[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. 

[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. 

[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.
[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.

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

**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
  - Unrepresentable Domain Values: System-generated internal feature number

**Attribute**
- **Attribute Label**: Shape
  - Attribute Definition: Feature geometry
  - Attribute Definition Source: ESRI
  - Attribute Domain Values: 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 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

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
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 CFAR 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

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL CFRSXNTXT
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION CFR Section citation header text
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
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 DEFINITION SOURCE  GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Free text name

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 DEFINITION SOURCE  GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Date

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL  EFFECTDATE
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION
Date Regulated Area officially became law, or most recent modification
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE  GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Date

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 DEFINITION SOURCE  GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Free text citation

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL  RECURST
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION
Annually recurring date Regulated Area becomes active
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE  GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Date

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL  RECUREND
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION
Annually recurring date Regulated Area becomes inactive
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE  GARFO
ATTRIBUTE DOMAIN VALUES
UNREPRESENTABLE DOMAIN
Date

ATTRIBUTE
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: 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
Contact Voice Telephone: 978-282-8479
Contact Facsimile Telephone: 978-281-9333
Contact Electronic Mail Address: dean.szumylo@noaa.gov
Contact Instructions: http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/

Resource Description: Downloadable Data

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Metadata Reference:

Metadata Date: 2016-05-01
Metadata Future Review Date: 2020-05-01
Metadata Contact Information:
Contact Person Primary: Dean-Lorenz Szumylo
Contact Organization: NOAA Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, GIS Committee
Contact Position: GIS Specialist
Contact Address: 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
Contact Voice Telephone: 978-282-8479
Contact Facsimile Telephone: 978-281-9333
Contact Electronic Mail Address: dean.szumylo@noaa.gov
Contact Instructions: http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/

Metadata Standard Name: FGDC Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata