Mid-Atlantic (MA) Regulated Mesh Area

Identification ►

CITATION
CITATION INFORMATION
ORIGINATOR NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office
PUBLICATION DATE 2015-03-15
TITLE Mid-Atlantic (MA) Regulated Mesh Area
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
ONLINE LINKAGE http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/

DESCRIPTION
ABSTRACT
This dataset depicts the boundaries of the Mid-Atlantic (MA) Regulated Mesh 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:
- MA Regulated Mesh 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
CALENDAR DATE 2015-03-15
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

KEYWORDS
THEME

THEME KEYWORD THESAURUS ISO 19115 Topic Category
THEME KEYWORD boundaries
THEME KEYWORD environment
THEME KEYWORD location
THEME KEYWORD oceans
THEME KEYWORD planningCadastre

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 Greater Atlantic Region
PLACE KEYWORD Mid-Atlantic
PLACE KEYWORD Southeast
PLACE KEYWORD United States
PLACE KEYWORD US EEZ
PLACE KEYWORD US Exclusive Economic Zone

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
Data Quality

LOGICAL CONSISTENCY REPORT
Check Geometry test has been performed in ArcGIS.

COMPLETENESS REPORT
Features represented are valid. No geometry problems were detected.

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
Spatial definitions for Regulated Area boundaries.

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.

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.
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.

[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.
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 STEP
PROCESS DESCRIPTION
[de facto Southern Boundary] This regulated area definition does not include a southern boundary. To create a polygon depicting the regulated area, we needed to define a southern cut-off. For this boundary, we used the outer limit of the US Exclusive Economic Zone and 81°W longitude off the southern coast of Florida to separate the Gulf of Mexico from the Atlantic. This is consistent with other regulations.

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

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

Spatial Reference

HORIZONTAL COORDINATE SYSTEM DEFINITION

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

ATTRIBUTE LABEL: CFRSUB
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION:
CFR Subpart citation where the Regulated Area is legally defined
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE: GARFO

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL: CFRSUBTXT
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION: CFR Subpart citation header text
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE: GARFO

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL: CFRSXN
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION: CFR Section citation where the Regulated Area is legally defined
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE: GARFO

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL: CFRSXNTXT
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION: CFR Section citation header text
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE: GARFO

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL: CFRPARA
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION: CFR Paragraph citation where the Regulated Area is legally defined
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE: GARFO

ATTRIBUTE
ATTRIBUTE LABEL: CFRPARATXT
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION: CFR Paragraph citation header text
ATTRIBUTE DEFINITION SOURCE: GARFO

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
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.

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**
Dean-Lorenz Szumylo

**Contact Organization**
NOAA Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, GIS Committee

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GIS Specialist

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**Resource Description**
Downloadable Data

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Metadata Reference

**Metadata Date** 2015-03-15
**Metadata Future Review Date** 2019-03-15
**Metadata Contact**
**Contact Information**
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**State or Province** MA
**Postal Code** 01930

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**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
**Metadata Standard Version** FGDC-STD-001-1998