Updating Commercial Fisheries Data on the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portals

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Overview of Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Ocean Data Portals

- Over 5,000 map products showing the footprint of activities and distribution of resources

- Products derived from federal, state, tribal, research/academic, and other sources

- Informed and vetted by regional experts, agencies, and stakeholders

- Functionality focuses on interactive mapping, contextual information, sharing, and data download
# Overview of Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Ocean Data Portals

## Ocean Resources and Conditions Data Themes
- Marine mammals & sea turtles
- Fish
- Birds
- Habitat & other marine life
- Oceanography
- Bathymetry
- Geology, sand & sediment
- Water quality

## Ocean Uses and Economics Data Themes
- Administrative & management areas
- Commercial fishing
- Aquaculture
- Energy
- Marine transportation & maritime
- National security
- Recreation
- Culture
- Socioeconomic
Overview of Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Ocean Data Portals

Portal uses
• Fishery management council alternatives
• USCG waterways management
• US Navy to ID areas for testing AUVs
• Offshore wind
• Energy and telecommunications cables
• Aquaculture siting/alternatives
• Dredge material disposal site designation
• Environmental assessments/NEPA
• State planning efforts and state portals throughout both regions
• Education & research

Portal users
• State and federal agencies
• Tribes
• Municipalities
• Industry
• Project proponents/developers
• Consultants
• Stakeholder/public comment
• Universities
• K-12 Schools
• Aquariums
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Fisheries Data Currently on the Portals

1. Fisheries Management Areas
2. VTR-based “Communities at Sea”
3. VMS-based fishing and transit
4. AIS-based transit
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1. Fisheries Management Areas

- Current statistical reporting areas, closures, rotational areas, and habitat management areas

- From and updated by NMFS

- More detailed lobster management areas layers in development
2. VTR-based “Communities at Sea”

- 1996-2015
- Effort – days at sea
- By gear
  - Bottom trawl (< and > 65’)
  - Dredge
  - Gillnet
  - Longline
  - Pots and traps
- Overall density map for 5-year time period
- Area where 90% of effort occurs by port/gear type
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3. VMS-based fishing and transit

- 2006-2016 (depending on fishery)
- Separate maps for:
  - Northeast multispecies
  - Monkfish
  - Scallops
  - Surfclam/ocean quahog
  - Pelagics (herring, mackerel, and squid)
  - Herring
  - Squid
- All activity and activity over industry defined transit speed threshold
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4. AIS-based transit

- 2015-2017 on Portals
- 2018-2019 being added shortly
- Monthly data/patterns available via time slider
- Known limitations around AIS usage
- Not fishery or gear specific
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Currently No Data For:

- Lobster (near term potential to integrate ME DMR and MA DMF data; also potential to use VTRs)

- Recreational fisheries (near term potential provide products for party and charter vessels from VTRs)

Also, Considering Adding:

- Northeast Fisheries Science Center “Fishing Footprints”
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NEFSC “Fishing Footprints”

- 1996-2018
- VTR-based
- Pounds landed; Revenue
- By species, gear, or FMP
- Potential for year aggregations
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Project Partners:

- **Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA)** – coalition of fishing industry associations and fishing companies with an interest in improving the compatibility of new offshore development with their businesses.

- **Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC)** - voluntary forum for states, federal agencies, and other regional organizations formed by the New England governors in 2005.

- **Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO)** - state partnership to address shared regional priorities and provide a collective voice formed by the Governors of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia in 2009.
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**Funding:**
Federal appropriation through NOAA to NROC and MARCO for regional data sharing for management decisions

**Duration:**
January through September 2020

**Project Outcomes:**
- Guidance for and updated maps on the NE and Mid-A portals with new years, additional products, and understanding of current and potential uses
- Upfront and consistent industry engagement on data product development and use via RODA convened focus groups
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Industry’s Role

• Provide feedback to RODA
  • Specific to your fishery and/or gear type
  • Attend any working group or other meeting where RODA is discussing the data portals, e.g. Council meetings or Council AP meetings
• Contact Fiona (Fiona@rodafisheries.org)
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• Which of the following is important to the fishery(s) you operate in?
  • Adding additional years to the fisheries data? If so, what years?
  • Add more fisheries, even if they are merged across fisheries?
  • Add other data sets that are more appropriate to show fishing spatial activity? (please list below?)
  • Change the speed used to identify vessels actively fishing (in VMS or AIS)?
  • Consider additional methods for identifying fishing and transit areas?
  • Consider other ways of aggregating existing data to show important operations to the fishery (e.g. seasonal, annual, multiple years, or some other time period)?
  • Add additional important management or regulatory spatial areas?
  • Add other maps that would show things that are important to your fishery?
  • Change how transiting vessels are identified?
  • Include non-map information to provide better context to spatial depictions?
  • Other?