

Marine Managed Areas to Protect Marine Life in the USA

Provided by: ProtectedSeas

Use of this data is governed by the Terms of Use specified in [mpa_data_terms_of_use.pdf](#) which is included with this package. If you did not receive the Terms of Use, please contact ProtectedSeas at support@protectedseas.net to request a copy prior to using this data.

Background:

The purpose of this data is to increase awareness of restrictions and protections of marine life. To achieve this goal, this data lists the area name, its purpose, an overview of what is restricted and allowed, and its geographic boundary. This dataset includes Federal and State data from internet searches and downloads from official sources. However, additional municipally managed sites may exist that are not included.

We summarize here the terms of use that you have already signed: The data is provided to you for informational purposes only. The data only contains a summary of key elements of certain laws and regulations and is not intended as a comprehensive guide. As a result, the data may be incomplete, inaccurate, or out of date. The data do not constitute a legal document. You are obligated to comply with all applicable laws and regulations and have acknowledged that you are responsible for reading, comprehension, and compliance of laws and regulations.

As an example, because boundary data were obtained or created from multiple sources with variable resolutions, they represent approximations of the depth contours, restriction boundaries, and coastline data. Vessels should use these boundaries as guidelines for visualization purposes only, and rely on their own instrumentation to discern water depth and the regulations applicable for that depth.

As another example, regulations vary for both commercial and recreational fisheries throughout defined fishing management and catch reporting areas. Within the areas, regulations vary by species and season. These very detailed regulations can be found on managing authorities' websites, agency fisheries guidebooks, and in the official laws and regulations. You are responsible to research those regulations for your own compliance.

Disclaimer

ProtectedSeas is providing the data on an "as-is" basis for use at your own risk. ProtectedSeas disclaims all warranties, whether express, implied or statutory, including, without limitation, any and all implied warranties of title, non-infringement of third party rights, merchantability, 116497740 v3 satisfactory purpose, and fitness for a particular purpose. ProtectedSeas does not warrant that your access to the data will be error-free or uninterrupted, or that the data, or the results from your use thereof, will be correct, complete, accurate, reliable, or virus-free. You acknowledge that you have relied on no warranties. By accessing or using the data you represent and warrant that your activities are lawful in every jurisdiction where you access or use the data.

Limitation of Liability

To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, you understand and agree that in no event shall ProtectedSeas be responsible or liable with respect to any subject matter of these terms of use, or terms or conditions related thereto, under any warranty, copyright, contract, tort (including negligence), strict liability or other legal theory for any indirect, incidental, special, exemplary, or consequential damages, or for any loss of use, lost profits, loss or inaccuracy of data, or cost of substitute goods or services, whether or not ProtectedSeas has been advised of the possibility of such damages. To the maximum extent

permitted by applicable law, ProtectedSeas's aggregate cumulative liability hereunder shall not exceed one hundred united states dollars (\$100.00). The limitations of damages set forth above are fundamental elements of the basis of the bargain between you and ProtectedSeas.

You agree to indemnify and hold ProtectedSeas harmless from any losses, costs, liabilities, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) relating to or arising out of your distribution of the Data, or any information derived from the Data, to any third party.

Method:

We obtained the original list of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) from the NOAA MPA Center 2014 dataset, but then verified that list by scouring official websites and reading the regulations where all MPAs are published. As a result, we have a few updates to the original list. We also compiled a broader swath of areas since we attempted to include *all* areas where restrictions exist. Where NOAA includes MPAs that fit the definition that are allowed by their constraints, we try to include all areas with restrictions. We also include descriptive data that is not available from NOAA, including the purpose, what is restricted and allowed, and other attributes in the draft version of the International Hydrographic Organization standard.

We owe a large debt to the NOAA MPA center and to other government agencies, as they pointed us to helpful data sources, were generous with their time, and were actively consulted for accuracy.

Any errors, in turn, are ours: we acknowledge that the data may be inaccurate or out-of-date. We actively solicit corrections. Any corrections are appreciated and should be sent to support@protectedseas.net.

Data:

Based on our review of official websites and regulations, updates to the original NOAA dataset and our ongoing updates are outlined in the 'versionhistory' folder.

A description of the files included in each region's download package are outlined below:

Package 1: mpa_(region)_shp.zip

CSV

[mpa_(region)_metadata.csv]:

-- Metadata attributes for all marine managed area boundaries contained in the ai(region)mpas_attributes shapefile and KML files

[mpa_(region)_mpa_refs.csv]:

-- Each CSV row is keyed to the Site ID field in the shapefile
-- Table of external reference files relating to the entire region or specific marine managed areas that include additional regulation detail or other important information
-- Formats include PDF, TXT, and ODT (open document) and are specified in the "Format" column
-- "Applies to All" column (Y or N) indicates whether a given file has general applicability to the entire region

[mpa_(region)_mpa_to_refs.csv]:

-- Two column table that relates individual Site IDs to specific external reference documents from the mpa_or_mpa_refs table

REFERENCE

-- This folder contains the complete set of external reference documents listed in the mpa_(region)_mpa_refs file

SHAPEFILE

[ai(region)mpas_attributes.zip]:

- Zipped shapefile of marine managed area boundaries in polygon format for State and Federal waters
- The CSV files listed above should be used to relate full metadata to each polygon by the **site_id** field common to both

VERSIONHISTORY
 [(Region)VersionHistory.pdf]
 -- Outlines data sources and metadata and boundary information for sites included in first release
 [1.XX.XX.0.pdf]
 -- Metadata and boundary change log for each subsequent release

[mpa_data_terms_of_use.pdf]:
 -- Terms of use for data and metadata and boundary updates to sites

[Readme.pdf]
 -- General background information about project, and descriptions of methodology, site attributes, and download package contents

Package 2: mpa_(region)_kmz.zip
 CSV (same as Package 1)
 REFERENCE (same as Package 1)
 KML
 [ai(region)mpas_attributes.kmz]:
 -- Zipped KML of marine managed area boundaries in polygon format for State and Federal waters

VERSIONHISTORY (same as Package 1)
 [mpa_data_terms_of_use.pdf] (same as Package 1)
 [Readme.pdf] (same as Package 1)

The following table describes the attributes included for marine managed areas in our dataset [mpa_(region)_metadata.csv]:

Please note:

- (*field_name*) is what appears as the field name in [mpa_(region)_metadata.csv]
- For all fields, a NULL value means that it has not yet been coded.

Field	Type	Definition
Site ID (<i>site_id</i>)	Text	Unique identifier for each site. Uses NOAA-assigned ID if site was already in their data set. All IDs for new areas created by ProtectedSeas begin with an 'AI'
Site Name (<i>site_name</i>)	Text	Full Site Name
URL (<i>url</i>)	Text	This URL will be embedded to the site name and should link to the specific webpage with regulatory information. If this is not available, Google the site name and search for information within state and/or federal websites.
Country (<i>country</i>)	Text	ISO code for the country

State (<i>state</i>)	Text	ISO code for the state(s) with jurisdiction over this marine area
Managing Authority (<i>managing_authority</i>)	Text	Agency(s) with presiding jurisdiction over this marine area
Level of Government (<i>gov_level</i>)	Text	Agency(s) level of government: Federal; State; Provincial; Local; Territorial; Partnership; Private
Designation (<i>designation</i>)	Text	Special designations of Management Agency
S-57 Restricted Area Category (<i>s57_cat</i>)	Number	1 = Offshore Safety Zone; 4 = Nature Reserve; 5 = Bird Sanctuary; 6 = Game Reserve; 7 = Seal Sanctuary; 8 = Degaussing Range; 9 = Military Area; 10 = Historic Wreck Area; 12 = Navigational Aid Safety Zone; 14 = Minefield; 18 = Swimming Area; 19 = Waiting Area; 20 = Research Area; 21 = Dredging Area; 22 = Fish Sanctuary; 23 = Ecological Reserve; 24 = No Wake Area; 25 = Swinging Area; 26 = Water Skiing Area; 27 = Environmentally Sensitive Area; 28 = Particularly Sensitive Area
IUCN Category (<i>iucn_cat</i>)	Text	IUCN Protected Area Category value; 'Unassigned' if no value found or not applicable
WDPA ID (<i>wdpa_id</i>)	Number	World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)-assigned unique identifier for site; 0 = Area not included in WDPA
Year Established (<i>year_est</i>)	Number	Year the site was established
Purpose (<i>purpose</i>)	Text	2-4 sentences explaining what is special about this marine area; number of habitats and endangered species. As background, make sure to read any documents that describe this and link to those and to relevant legislation. Why was this area formed?
Restrictions (<i>restrictions</i>)	Text	1) List Prohibited, entirely banned, marine-related activities (fishing, dumping, pollution, anchoring, boating) 2) Outline Restricted Fishing (commercial, recreational) - list the restrictions (commercial, sport, subsistence, regional terms) in Allowed column
Allowed (<i>allowed</i>)	Text	1) List Allowed marine-related activities, include link to associated licenses/permits 2) If restricted fishing, state restrictions here (ex: "Fishing is Allowed, EXCEPT for take of bottomfish, with a fishing license <link>")
Regulation Name (<i>regulation_name</i>)	Text	Name of the relevant regulation that established the MPA

Regulation URL (<i>regulation_url</i>)	Text	URL for relevant regulation.
Season (<i>season</i>)	Text	Year-Round, Seasonal, Temporary, Unknown
Effective From (<i>effective_from</i>)	Date	Date restrictions begin, if seasonal.
Effective To (<i>effective_to</i>)	Date	Date restrictions end, if seasonal.
Report Violations (<i>report_violations</i>)	Text	Email, Phone Number or text to reach relevant agency with jurisdiction over this marine area.
Latest Updates (<i>latest_updates</i>)	Text	Email, phone number, mailing lists to receive the latest updates on regulations regarding removal of marine life.
Protection Focus (<i>protection_focus</i>)	Text	Protection focus (unknown, ecosystem, focal species, *water quality)
Species of Concern (<i>species_of_concern</i>)	Text	General categories of species mentioned at the site that are of interest or concern
Removal of Marine Life (<i>removal_of_marine_life_is_prohibited</i>)	Number	1 = Least restrictive: No known fishing restrictions; 2 = Less restrictive: Few species- or gear-specific restrictions apply; 3 = Moderately restrictive: Several species- or gear-specific restrictions apply; or either commercial fishing or recreational fishing is entirely prohibited; 4 = Heavily restrictive: Fishing is mostly prohibited, with few exceptions; 5 = Most restrictive: Fishing is prohibited
Entry (<i>entry_prohibited</i>)	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Speed (<i>speed_restricted</i>)	Number	1 = Prohibited (i.e. no transit); 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Discharge (<i>discharge_prohibited</i>)	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Diving (<i>diving_prohibited</i>)	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Removal of Historic Artifacts (<i>removal_of_historic_artifacts_prohibited</i>)	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Stopping (<i>stopping</i>)	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown

<i>prohibited)</i>		
Anchoring <i>(diving_ prohibited)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Landing <i>(landing_ prohibited)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Dragging <i>(dragging_ prohibited)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Dredging <i>(dredging_ prohibited)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Industrial or Mineral Exploration <i>(industrial_or_mineral_exploration_ prohibited)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Construction <i>(construction_ prohibited)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Drilling <i>(drilling_ prohibited)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Overflight or Drones <i>(overflight_ or_drones_ prohibited)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Tribal Exemptions <i>(tribal)</i>	Number	Are there tribal exemptions to fishing restrictions? 0 = Yes; 1 = No
Bottom Trawling <i>(bottom_trawl)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Gillnetting <i>(gillnetting)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Hook And Line <i>(hook_n_line)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Trolling <i>(trolling)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Nets <i>(nets)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown

Traps And Pots <i>(traps_n_pots)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Spear Fishing <i>(spear_fishing)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Longlining <i>(longlining)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Miscellaneous Gear <i>(misc_gear)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Recreational Fishing <i>(recreational_restrictions)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Commercial Fishing <i>(commercial_restrictions)</i>	Number	0 = Allowed; 1 = Prohibited; 2 = Restricted; 3 = N/A or Unknown
Other Helpful Links <i>(other_helpful_links)</i>	Text	URLs used for information found for the purpose or for the state description.
Last Update <i>(last_update)</i>	Date	Date of the most recent attribute change.
Site Location <i>(inshore_only)</i>	Number	0 = Includes offshore water (site is either completely or partially offshore); 1 = Coastal (incl. rivers, swamps, marshes) but no offshore water (does not go past coastline); 2 = Island (can include inland water); 3 = Inland terrestrial (can include inland water)
Boundary Source <i>(boundary_source)</i>	Text	Source of site boundary data
Modification Level <i>(modification_level)</i>	Number	Degree that boundary was modified by ProtectedSeas. Values are: 0 = Not modified; 1 = coastline simplified; 2 = other simplification/modification; 3 = Digitized by ProtectedSeas
Total Area <i>(total_area)</i>	Number	Total area of site (terrestrial & marine) in sq. km (square kilometers)
Coastline Match <i>(coastline_match)</i>	Number	Indicates if the site's coastline boundary should be matched to coastline in third party software. Yes = 1; No = 0.
Last Boundary Update <i>(last_boundary_update)</i>	Date	Date of the most recent site boundary update

