

Boat Launches  
Northeast United States  
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Prepared for:  
Northeast Regional Ocean Council  
[www.northeastoceandata.org](http://www.northeastoceandata.org)

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Boat launches are state, municipal, local, or privately owned sites that provide boating access to coastal waters, lakes, ponds, and rivers. Sites may be ramps suitable for trailered or carried-in boats, or landing facilities. Locations only suitable for shoreline fishing access and not boat put-in were not included in this dataset.

This dataset is comprised of individual datasets provided by various sources in the northeastern U.S. Boat launch specific data was extracted from the source data, duplicate records were removed based on point location accuracy and data acquisition date, and datasets were merged into a single regional product. Points outside a 10km coastal buffer were eliminated. Based on source data, this product may not indicate private or public access for a given launch site and users are advised to determine accessibility prior to using a site.

## 2. PURPOSE

This dataset is intended to support region-scale ocean planning activities and is not intended for direct recreational usage.

## 3. SOURCES

- 2008 DEP Boat Launch, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- 2014 Connecticut Coastal Access Sites, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- 2017 Connecticut Coastal Access Sites, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- 2017 Office of Fishing and Boating Access Sites, Massachusetts Office of Fishing and Boating Access

- 2014 Boat Launch Facilities, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
- 2012 Access Sites to Public Waters, New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning
- 2009 Boat Launch Sites  
(<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=http://www.dec.ny.gov/maps/gmboatlaunch2.kmz>), New York Department of Environmental Conservation
- 2013 nyboat2013, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
- 2017 South Shore Blueway Trail Map, South Shore Blueway  
(<http://southshoreblueway.com/maps/route-map/>)
- 2003 Public Shoreline Access, Rhode Island Sea Grant Program
- 2012 Fishing and Boating Access, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
- 1996 Marinas of Rhode Island, Rhode Island Geographic Information System
- 2017 Rhode Island Land Trust, Blueways and Greenways

#### 4. DATABASE DESIGN AND CONTENT

Native storage format: ArcGIS File Geodatabase – simple point feature class

Data Dictionary:

Field	Name	Definition	Type	Size
1	OBJECTID	Uniquely identifies feature	ObjectID	*
2	Shape	Geometric representation of feature	*	*
3	name	Name of boat launch	Text	255
4	town	Town name of boat launch location	Text	20
5	state	Two letter state abbreviation of boat launch location	Text	2
6	launchType	Type of boat launch	Text	40
7	ownership	Name of entity with ownership of boat launch	Text	50
8	ownershipType	Type of entity with ownership of boat launch	Text	50
9	source	Name of data source	Text	254
10	sourceDate	Dataset publication year	Text	4

Name of Feature Class: BoatLaunches

Total Number of Unique Features: 741

Dataset Status: Complete

#### 5. SPATIAL REPRESENTATION

Geometry Type: vector point

Reference System: Geographic Coordinate Reference System

Horizontal Datum: North American Datum 1983

Ellipsoid: Geodetic Reference System 1980

XY Resolution: 0.000000000899322 degrees

Tolerance: 0.000000008983153 degrees

Geographic Extent: -74.085, 40.037, -66.984, 46.0314

ISO 19115 Topic Category: transportation, environment, oceans

Place Names:

Atlantic Ocean, Block Island Sound, Booth Bay, Buzzards Bay, Cape Cod Bay, Casco Bay, Cobscook Bay, East Penobscot Bay, Frenchman Bay, Gardiners Bay, Gulf of Maine, Great Peconic Bay, Hempstead Bay, Hudson River, Jericho Bay, Long Island Sound, Massachusetts Bay, Mount Hope Bay, Nantucket Sound, Napeague Bay, Narragansett Bay, New York Harbor, Oyster Bay Harbor, Penobscot Bay, Peconic River, Rhode Island Sound, Saco Bay, Sheepscot Bay, Smithtown Bay, Vineyard Sound, Waquoit Bay, Wellfleet Harbor, Western Bay, West Penobscot Bay

Scale Range for visualization: 50,000 to 3,500,000

## 6. DATA PROCESSING

Processing environment: ArcGIS 10.3.1, Windows 7 Professional, Intel Core i7 CPU

Process Steps Description	
1	PROJECT points from each state dataset from native projection to GCS North American Datum 1983
2	CLIP data to 10km coastal buffer
3	Examine datasets and extract out relevant information for boat launches including launch name, ownership, ownership type, town, and launch type
5	Examine datasets from each state and determine where duplicate records exist. Retain only one record for each launch point based on accuracy of point location and acquisition date.
6	Add source, source date, and state fields
7	MERGE state datasets into regional product

## 7. QUALITY PROCESS

Attribute Accuracy: Datasets acquired for each state were examined for applicable information and attribute information reflects source material. Where slight differences existed across source datasets, the attribute values were harmonized for the sake of consistency. In the ownership field, all state and federal agencies are presented as acronyms. For records that did not contain information in any given field, the record was left blank, except for the fields of launchType and name, which were changed to 'Unknown.' In locations where specific launch facility names were not provided, the water body accessible by the boat launch was used, if available.

Logical Consistency: None

Completeness: Duplicate points between datasets within the same state were analyzed for locational accuracy and timeliness and one record was maintained for each launch site. This dataset may not be fully comprehensive in representing boat launches in the northeast region due to the procedure of incorporating information from authoritative state or academic sources. Additional boat launch information may be available from other sources, especially within New York state waters. Boat launches were only included within a 10 kilometer buffer of the coastline.

Positional Accuracy: The positional accuracy of the points is dependent on the individual datasets from which points were derived.

Timeliness: This dataset represents boat launch point locations collected between 1996 and 2017.

Use Constraints: NOT FOR NAVIGATION. Users are recommended to investigate boat launch conditions and accessibility prior to site use.

Distribution Liability: Data are provided as is. Northeast Regional Ocean Council and RPS are not liable for any interpretations, assumptions, or conclusions based on these data.