

Board and Paddle Events  
Northeast United States  
December 2015

Prepared for:  
Northeast Regional Ocean Council  
Northeast Ocean Data Portal

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Board and Paddle Events layer depicts event point locations as mapped by participants in [Northeast Coastal and Marine Recreational Use Characterization Study](#), which was conducted by [SeaPlan](#), the [Surfrider Foundation](#), and [Point 97](#) under the direction of the [Northeast Regional Planning Body \(NE RPB\)](#). In order to fill a regional need to better understand the spatial patterns of important recreational activities in New England, the study was focused on collecting information on a commercial whale watching, SCUBA diving, sailing races and regattas, competitive board and paddle events, beach going, wildlife viewing, surfing, and other non-motorized boating sports. This document describes the processes for developing the competitive board and paddle event data component of the study. Additional information can be found in the study's [final report](#).

New England offers challenging competitions for surf, standup paddleboard (SUP) and triathlon athletes. Increasing in popularity with spiking trends in ocean recreation participation, these nearshore events are held year round and are primarily scheduled during warmer months. Surfing events are held near popular surf breaks and beaches, SUP races are primarily held in the calmer bay-protected waters, and triathlons that are primarily in water are a fairly nascent type of competition that demonstrate spatial variance according to configuration (i.e. a kayaking, swimming and jogging competition would be situated in different waters than a SUP, swimming & jogging competition). Board & paddle events draw large crowds of spectators and competitors, contributing to the local ocean economy in registration fees, lodging, transportation, food purchases and entertainment. Northeast board & paddle events are primarily held annually. Annual surfing competitions are generally scheduled tentatively according to contingency of conditions. In spite of the often-fluctuating

event dates, surf competitions align with SUP and triathlon events in drawing sizable crowds ranging from 25- 1000 people.

The team collaborated with event organizers and competitors across the region to design a survey methodology that sought to help develop a more comprehensive list of competitive board and paddle events in our region with more explicit spatial information than currently exists. Based on their input and additional guidance from an NE RPB project steering committee, initial data collection efforts began in the spring of 2015.

### *Data collection*

To collect spatially explicit data on these events, the team utilized Point 97's survey and mapping platform that was customized to this project. Through outreach efforts led by the Surfrider Foundation, event organizers and competitors were directed to a webpage to register for the survey. Respondents then received an email with a unique link to the online survey, which they could use at any time to return to the survey if they did not complete the survey in one sitting. The survey was live from March 31<sup>st</sup> – May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and utilized Google Maps and a nautical chart interface which allowed users to map a polygon depicting the spatial footprint of the event. After mapping an event locations, survey users were asked to provide details on the site, including:

- Name of the event
- Organizer of the event
- The landside location of the event
- The number of competitors in the event
- The last year that the event took place
- The type of event (e.g. SUP race)
- The month(s) during which the event takes place
- How often the event recurs

After the data collection phase was completed, the project team conducted additional online research to fill known data gaps by identifying and mapping the approximate landside location of additional events using address geocoding, where appropriate. While data on kayak, canoe and rowboat events were not specifically solicited in the survey, some data collected represent these types of events but should not be considered a comprehensive characterization of this type of event, which was out of the scope of this survey.

### *Data processing*

In order to create geometric compatibility between the polygon data collected during the online survey and the point-based data collected during subsequent background research, geoprocessing tools were used to take the center point of each mapped polygon. The resulting points were then merged with the points identified during online research. Data were edited to eliminate duplicate entries and events that occur outside the geographic scope of the study.

## 2. PURPOSE

This dataset fills a specific need identified by the Northeast Regional Planning Body to develop a better understanding of how and where humans use the ocean in the Northeast, inform regional ocean planning, and minimize ocean use conflicts. This dataset can also be used by event organizers and competitors to demonstrate the importance and location of these events in the region.

## 3. SOURCES AND AUTHORITIES

- Bloeser, J., Chen, C., Gates, M., Lipsky, A., & Longley-Wood, K. 2015. Characterization of Coastal and Marine Recreational Activity in the U.S. Northeast. Point 97, SeaPlan, & Surfrider

## 4. DATABASE DESIGN AND CONTENT

Native storage format: ArcGIS File Geodatabase – simple feature class

Feature Types:

Point locations of competitive board and paddle events, including:

- SUP races
- Triathlons
- Surf contests
- Kayak, canoe, or row boat events

Data Dictionary:

Line	Name	Definition	Type	Size
1	OBJECTID	Uniquely identifies a feature	OBJECTID	*
2	Shape	Geometric representation of the feature	geometry	*
3	eventName	The name of the mapped event	text	255
4	eventOrg	The event organizer and/or sponsor	text	100

5	eventType	Type of event	Text	50
6	landsideLoc	Landside location (town or other landmark) where the event takes place	Text	50
7	state	State where the event takes place	Text	2
8	recurrence	How often the event takes place	Text	50
9	timePeriod	Month(s) during which the event takes place	Text	50
10	noParticipants	Number of participants who typically take part in the event as competitors	Text	50
11	supRace	"1" indicates that the event is a SUP race	short	*
12	triathlon	"1" indicates that the event is a triathlon	short	*
13	surfContest	"1" indicates that the event is a surf contest	short	*
14	paddleRow	"1" indicates that the event involves kayaks, canoes, rowboats, or other paddle-based vessels	short	*

Feature Class Name: Board and Paddle Events

Total Number of Unique Features: 33

Dataset Status: Complete

## 5. SPATIAL REPRESENTATION

Geometry Type: vector point

Reference System: GCS North American 1983

Horizontal Datum: North American Datum 1983

Ellipsoid: Geodetic Reference System 1980

XY Resolution: XY Scale is 1000000000.0000001

Tolerance: 0.0000000089831528411952117

Geographic extent: -73.24 to -68.97, 41.16 to 44.28

ISO 19115 Topic Category: environment, oceans, biota, economy, society

Place Names:

Atlantic Ocean, Aquidneck Island, Boston, Bridgeport, Cape Ann, Charles Island, Charles River, Gloucester, Gooch's Beach, Gulf of Maine, Hampton Beach, Jetties Beach, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Long Island Sound, Massachusetts Bay, Nantasket Beach, Nantucket, Narragansett Bay, New Bedford, Newport Harbor, Northwest Atlantic,

Ogunquit, Portland, Providence, Rockport, Ropes Beach, Rye, Sandy Point, Wellfleet Harbor, Westerly Town Beach, Willard Beach

Recommended Cartographic Properties:  
(Using ArcGIS ArcMap nomenclature)

Pie chart symbol, no leader lines, no outlines, HSV:

SUP Races: 166-79-61

Triathlons: 281-79-78

Surf Contests: 8-76-74

Kayak, Canoe, or Row Boat: 65-74-78

## 6. DATA PROCESSING

Processing environment: ArcGIS 10.2, Windows 7 Ultimate SP5, Intel Xeon CPU

	Process Steps Description
1	Event polygons from mapping application imported into ArcMap
2	Polygon center point dataset created using FEATURE TO POINT tool
3	Supplemental point dataset created from list of addresses using GEOCODING tools
4	Board and Paddle Events dataset created from two point datasets using MERGE tool
5	In an editing session, attributes were edited for accuracy and consistency; points that depicted activities that were outside the geographical scope of the study or depicted duplicate events were deleted.

## 7. QUALITY PROCESS

**Attribute Accuracy:** Attribute information for event locations were provided by a combination of online survey participants and online listings. While all effort was made to collect data from experts and up-to-date websites, attribute information is dependent on the individual knowledge and experience of the data provider, as well as the timeliness and completeness of the event listing.

**Logical Consistency:** None

**Completeness:** Event locations in this dataset are limited to those shared by stakeholders, and those listed on publically-available event listings online. As there are no centralized, authoritative sources of board and paddle event listings and associated event locations, this dataset should not be considered exhaustive. In particular, while data on kayak, canoe and rowboat events were not specifically solicited in the survey, some data collected represent these types of events but should not be considered a comprehensive characterization of this type of event, which was out of the scope of this survey.

**Positional Accuracy:** Event locations are derived from an opt-in mapping tool used event organizers and competitors to map event locations and may be approximate. Precision depends on the scale at which the area was mapped and the survey participant's level of comfort with the survey tool. The application restricted the scale at which users could map points, reducing the amount of error that could occur from plotting points at too small a scale. Locations derived from the survey data represent the center point of the mapped event footprint and should be considered approximate. Additional locations are based on the address of the event's landside location. Actual event locations may also vary depending on environmental conditions (i.e. waves for surf contests) or be generalized if the event follows a long course with differing start and end locations.

**Timeliness:** This dataset represents data collected during the spring of 2015.

**Use restrictions:** Data are provided as is. NROC, the Northeast Regional Planning Body, Point 97, the Surfrider Foundation, and SeaPlan are not liable for any interpretations, assumptions, or conclusions based on these data. This data set must be cited on all electronic and hard copy products. This data set is not intended for navigation purposes.

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