

# NORTHEAST OCEAN DATA

Maps and data for ocean planning in the northeastern United States

The **Northeast Ocean Data Portal** ([NortheastOceanData.org](http://NortheastOceanData.org)) is an information resource and decision support tool for ocean planning, management, and decision making from Long Island Sound to the Gulf of Maine. The Portal provides user-friendly access to maps, data, tools, and information needed by a broad range of government entities, non-government organizations, and ocean stakeholders.

## THE NEED

The U.S. National Ocean Policy calls for regional-scale ocean planning supported by a robust data management system. However, data on environmental, socioeconomic, and regulatory parameters have been scattered among different sources and difficult to access. The [Northeast Ocean Plan](#) identified the Portal as a key resource to support regulatory and management decisions, and it must be maintained and updated.

## THE SOLUTION

The Portal brings together key types of data on ocean uses and the environment. Data priorities and products are developed in close association with the [Northeast Regional Planning Body](#), [Northeast Regional Ocean Council](#), and stakeholders with expertise in the topics. To serve a diverse range of users, such as researchers, industries, and environmental conservation organizations, the Portal offers multiple ways to view and explore the data.

## INTERACTIVE MAPS

The Northeast Ocean Data Portal features maps and data on selected themes. Data sets are added and updated on an ongoing basis.

### Human Activities

Aquaculture  
Commercial Fishing  
Culture  
Energy & Infrastructure  
Marine Transportation  
National Security  
Recreation

### Marine Life

Mammals & Turtles  
Fish  
Birds  
Eelgrass  
Habitat

### Environment

Bathymetry  
Restoration  
Water Quality

- **Easy to use** with no special software or expertise needed
- **Zoom and click** on map features for more information
- **Share maps** through social media
- **Download** or print the maps
- *Optional:* View any combination of data on a single map in the Data Explorer.

## DOWNLOADABLE DATA

Most of the data on the interactive maps are available for downloading in databases suitable for geographic information systems (GIS) and other desktop mapping applications. Metadata are provided for all data sets.

## A COLLABORATIVE VENTURE

The Portal is a collaborative effort involving federal agencies, New England states, ocean stakeholders, and many others. The Portal is developed and maintained by a Working Group of organizations interested in creating a collective environment for sharing data, ideas, tools, and information. Currently, the Working Group members are RPS ASA, The Nature Conservancy, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, Northeast Regional Ocean Council, Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems, and Waterview Consulting. We encourage participation by additional organizations.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website: [NortheastOceanData.org](http://NortheastOceanData.org)  
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