

Water Trails
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Prepared for:
Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC)
Northeast Ocean Data
www.northeastoceandata.org

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1. INTRODUCTION

This dataset shows coastal water trails in the northeast United States. A water trail is an officially designated water route, or blueway, that is maintained by an agency or association. Water trails are typically used recreationally by paddlers in non-motorized boats such as kayaks or canoes. Water trails are deemed coastal if they are located within or have an endpoint in a saline water body.

Information on water trails was obtained from a number of different sources which manage individual trails or which aggregate information about multiple trails in one virtual location. Source data included online web maps, static maps in PDF format, textual descriptions, and direct conversations with sponsoring agencies.

This dataset is meant to depict the distribution and general locations of water trails throughout the region. It does not contain any information regarding tides, navigation, safety, navigable route within the trail, or difficulty level.

2. PURPOSE

This dataset is meant to support coastal and ocean planning and is not meant for recreational trip planning. It is recommended that persons interested in paddling any of these water trails are recommended to consult the source agencies.

3. SOURCES AND AUTHORITIES

- Bronx River Alliance

- Buckeye Brook Coalition
- Kickemuit River Council
- Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments
- Maine Island Trail Association
- Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
- Pawtuxet River Authority and Watershed Council
- Rhode Island Blueways Alliance
- Salt Ponds Coalition
- South Shore Blueway
- Southwestern Regional Planning Agency
- Taunton River Watershed Alliance
- Ten Mile River Watershed Council
- The Narrow River Preservation Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- Town of East Lyme
- Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
- ESRI Imagery Basemap
- ESRI Ocean Basemap
- ESRI Streets Basemap

4. DATABASE DESIGN AND CONTENT

Native storage format: ArcGIS File Geodatabase – polyline feature class

Feature Types:

Water trail routes

Data Dictionary:

Line	Name	Definition	Type	Size
1	OBJECTID	Uniquely identifies a feature	OBJECTID	*
2	Shape	Geometric representation of the feature	geometry	*
3	name	Water trail name	text	50
4	source	Managing agency or association	text	80
5	length	Estimated length in miles rounded to nearest whole unit	short	*
6	state	State abbreviation for water trail location	text	2
7	Shape_Length	Shape length	Double	*

Feature Class Name: WaterTrails

Total Number of Unique Features: 33

Dataset Status: Complete

5. SPATIAL REPRESENTATION

Geometry Type: vector polyline

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: --73.9 to -67.3, 40.8 to 44.7

ISO 19115 Topic Category: environment, oceans, society

Place Names: Place Names:

Bristol Harbor, Bronx River, Casco Bay, Coecles Harbor, Connecticut River, East Bay, Frenchman Bay, Kickemuit River, Kennebec River, Long Island Sound, Machias Bay, Middle Bay, Narrow River, Niantic River Estuary, Narragansett Bay, Ninigret Pond, Muscongus Bay, Norwalk Islands, Quonochontaug Pond, Pawtuxet River, Penobscot Bay, Point Judith Pond, Saco Bay, Seekonk River, Sheepscot Bay, South Oyster Bay, Ten Mile River, Taunton River, West Bay, Western Bay

Recommended Cartographic Properties:

(Using ArcGIS ArcMap nomenclature)

Simple Fill Symbol: color: 216-100-90, color model: HSV

Scale range for optimal visualization: 300,000 to 2,000,000

6. DATA PROCESSING

Processing environment: ArcGIS 10.2.1, Windows 7 Professional, Intel Core i5 CPU

	Process Steps Description
1	Water trails were hand digitized in ArcMap within an EDIT session at scales of 20,000 to 10,000 using ESRI basemaps as a guide on water body features. The Maine Island Trail was digitized at coarser scales due to trail length.
2	The South Shore Blueway was hand digitized within an EDIT session at scales of 20,000 to 10,000 after georeferencing the route map available on the South Shore Blueway website

	Process Steps Description
	(http://southshoreblueway.com/maps/route-map/)

7. QUALITY PROCESS

Attribute Accuracy: Attribute information is accurate based on material obtained from sources. In cases where a water trail had multiple source associations, the foremost one was selected. In Rhode Island most water trails referenced a specific organization, however if one was not designated, the general source Rhode Island Blueways Alliance was assigned to that trail. Water Trail length is accurate to the nearest whole number of the digitized feature.

Logical Consistency: Line features are topologically consistent.

Completeness: Water trails that were not verifiable or which did not have route information available for distribution were not included in the dataset. Within the northeast there are officially designated water trails within coastal regions for the states of Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York. This dataset does not contain information on a few trails in the waters around New York City and Long Island, including the New York City, West Hempstead, and North Hempstead water trails.

Positional Accuracy: The water trails in this layer represent general routes based on source material and do not contain precise boating route information, especially in the case of the Maine Island Trail. This dataset serves as a guide to understand where water trails exist in the region and not to indicate exact paddling directions.

Timeliness: Current as of August 2017.

Use restrictions: Not for navigation or trip planning purposes.

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