The Areas Offshore of Massachusetts and Rhode Island Port Access Route Study (MARIPARS) Study Area

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Prepared for:
Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC)
Northeast Ocean Data
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1. INTRODUCTION

On May 27, 2020, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) announced the completion of The Areas Offshore of Massachusetts and Rhode Island Port Access Route Study. The study focused on the seven adjacent leased areas of the outer continental shelf south of Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and east of Rhode Island that together constitute the Massachusetts/Rhode Island Wind Energy Area (MA/RI WEA). The study was conducted to (1) determine what, if any, navigational safety concerns exist with vessel transits in the study area; (2) determine whether to recommend changes to enhance navigational safety by examining existing shipping routes and waterway uses as any or all of the lease areas within the MA/RI WEA are partially or fully developed as wind farms; and (3) to evaluate the need for establishing vessel routing measures.

The USCG conducted this PARS following the announcement of the PARS in a notice published in the Federal Register on March 26, 2019 (84 FR 11314). There was a 60-day public comment period, and USCG convened three public meetings (in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York) to receive public input. The USCG received 30 comments in response to our Federal Register Notice, public meetings and other outreach efforts which included announcement via a Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB), publication in the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM), and Twitter posts. On January 29, 2020, USCG published a Notice of availability of draft report; request for comments entitled “Port Access Route Study (PARS): The Areas Offshore of Massachusetts and Rhode Island” in the Federal Register (85 FR 5222) announcing the availability of the draft version of the study report. During the 45-day public comment period, the USCG received 48 comments in response to our Federal Register Notice and other outreach which included announcement via a Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB), publication in the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM), and Twitter posts.

The study area is described as an area bounded by a line connecting the following geographic positions:

- 41°20′ N, 070°00′ W
- 40°35′ N, 070°00′ W
- 40°35′ N, 071°15′ W
- 41°20′ N, 071°15′ W

2. PURPOSE

To support coastal and ocean planning by the Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC).

3. SOURCES

- Notice of availability – Port Access Route Study: The Areas Offshore of Massachusetts and Rhode Island https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/05/27/2020-11262/port-access-route-study-the-areas-offshore-of-massachusetts-and-rhode-island

4. DATABASE DESIGN AND CONTENT

Native storage format: ArcGIS Shapefile

Feature Types: Polygons

Data Dictionary:

Line	Name	Definition	Type	Size
1	Name	Name of the discrete area	Text	*
2	DocketNumb	Docket Number in the Federal Register	Text	*
3	FedReg	URL to associated Federal Register Notice	Text	*

Shapefile Name: MARIPARS_Study_Area

Total Number of Unique Features: 1

Dataset Status: Final

5. SPATIAL REPRESENTATION

Geometry Type: vector polygon
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: 0.000000008983152841195211 7

Geographic extent: -71.2500 to -70.0000, 41.3333 to 40.5833

IS0 19115 Topic Category: environment, oceans, transportation

Place Names:

Atlantic Ocean, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Rhode Island Sound, Nantucket Sound, Muskeget Channel

Recommended Cartographic Properties:

Simple Fill Symbol. Outline width: 1.5, Fill color: transparent

Scale range for optimal visualization: 2,000,000

6. DATA PROCESSING

Processing environment: ArcGIS 10.8, Windows 10 Professional, Intel Core i7 CPU

	Process Steps Description
1	The four corner coordinates provided in the Federal Register Notice were plotted in ArcGIS.
2	The four corner coordinates were connected using the Create Features – Rectangle tool.

7. QUALITY PROCESS

Attribute Accuracy: Attribute information is based upon source coordinates and is accurate as such.

Logical Consistency: These data are believed to be logically consistent.

Completeness: This area is final.

Positional Accuracy: Accuracy based on the correct location of the input coordinates.

Timeliness: Data up to date as of July 2020.

Use restrictions: Not for navigation.

Distribution Liability: Data provided as is, for visualization purposes on the Northeast Ocean Data Portal.