

# MarineCadastre.gov Quarterly News



January 2024

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## Spotlight on Submarine Cables

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MarineCadastre.gov plays a central role in providing a reliable and trusted platform for the delivery of ocean information. The team manages a registry of over 150 data sets, some of which are developed and maintained internally and others that are developed and maintained by our partners. In this quarterly edition, we would like to highlight a data set that is foundational to ocean planning and used by every region, state, and regulatory agency—Submarine Cables. The majority of these cables are for telecommunications, and the remaining are for power transmission.

The Marine Cadastre team has developed the preeminent, publicly available submarine cable data set in the U.S., providing a combination of locations from the North American Submarine Cable Association, published locations from the Code of Federal Regulations, and current information from the NOAA Electronic Navigational Chart. It is available as a downloadable data set, a web feature service, and other formats at [MarineCadastre.gov](https://www.marinecadastre.gov).

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# Data Updates

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Check out the most recent data additions below, and see what is coming soon. Access the data via our [feature services](#) page or via our traditional [map services page](#). All our automatic identification system (AIS) data can also be found on our bulk [download page](#). You can also visit our [change log page](#) to learn about updates each month.

## New and updated data

- New
  - AIS Vessel Broadcast Points 2023 (March 29 to September 30)
  - Alaska Wave Climate
  - Coastal Wetlands
  - Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Regions
  - Maryland Aquaculture
  - Wrecks and Obstructions
- Updated
  - Anchorage
  - Aquaculture
  - Offshore State Lateral Boundaries
  - Offshore Wind Energy Leases (BOEM)
  - Offshore Wind Planning Areas (BOEM)
  - Opportunity Zones
  - Outer Continental Shelf Withdrawal Areas

## On the horizon

- An updated national composite of seagrass data. As with the current 2017 product, this will be a synthesis of landscape-level polygons drawn from authoritative sources around the country. This year we're exploring additional attributes to enhance the utility of the data and strengthen connections to source organizations. We're also looking into creative ways to express these data to improve their utility for status and trends analysis.
- Additional updates coming:
  - Military Flight Track
  - Military Operating Area
  - Military Ship Shock Box
  - Military Special Use Airspace
  - Military Surface Grid Area
  - Military Training Route
  - Munitions and Explosives of Concern
  - Submarine Cables
  - Tropical Cyclone Exposure

We would love to hear what data you want or need.  
Email your ideas to [marinecadastre@noaa.gov](mailto:marinecadastre@noaa.gov).

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## Tech Talk

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GeoParquet version 1.0 (data format) has been released. See [geoparquet.org](https://geoparquet.org) or visit [github.com/opengeospatial/geoparquet](https://github.com/opengeospatial/geoparquet). This is a format that the MarineCadastre.gov staff are closely following, and see a lot of potential in—especially for provisioning large geospatial data sets like the AIS.

Don't forget: Paper and raster nautical charts are rapidly being discontinued. NOAA Electronic Navigational Charts are the replacement. See [nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/charts/noaa-enc.html](https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/charts/noaa-enc.html).

The Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) [satellite](#) is now in orbit and will be a great source for water surface height measurements at 10 times the resolution of previous sensors.

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### Stay connected

