

NGDA Dataset Report

Official NGDA Title: Maritime Limits and Boundaries of the United States of America

Metadata Record Title: Maritime Limits And Boundaries Of United States Of America

A-16 NGDA Theme: Water - Oceans and Coasts

Executive NGDA Theme Champion(s):

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Metadata:

Registration Status: Complete

Registered on 12/4/2014

GeoPlatform Link*: <http://www.geoplatform.gov/node/243/89f749b1-e19a-4247-8aa4-31bbd495f4b3>

Data.gov Metadata Link*: <http://catalog.data.gov/harvest/object/b1d0ad17-f1db-4602-88fe-b808f2a1bc42/html>

*If the metadata has been updated and reharvested after publication of this report, the link may no longer be valid. The dataset may be searched for manually in Data.gov or GeoPlatform.gov.

NGDA Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA) Report

Time Frame:

Baseline assessment responses include dataset activities from 1998 to 2015.

LMA Submission:

Status: Complete

Date: 9/15/2015

Extension Requested: No

LMA Reviewer(s):

Supervisor: Did not review

Theme Lead: Tony LaVoi

Executive Champion: Did not review

SAOGI*: Did not review

Other: Did not review

LMA Verifier:

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Attachments:

To get access to any attachments referenced in the report, email the LMA Help Desk at NGDA_LMA_help@fgdc.gov. Please use the subject "Dataset Report Attachment(s)" and indicate the associated official NGDA title.

*Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI)

Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA) Summary

Overall Maturity:

Optimized; Established

General Questions: 65%

Managed; Predictable

Stage 4 - Access: 100%

Optimized; Established

Stage 1 - Define/Plan: 95%

Optimized; Established

Stage 5 - Maintain: 87%

Mature; Consistent

Stage 2 - Inventory/Evaluate: 100%

Optimized; Established

Stage 6 - Use/Evaluate: 88%

Mature; Consistent

Stage 3 - Obtain: 100%

Optimized; Established

Stage 7 - Archive: 100%

Optimized; Established

NGDA Dataset Maturity Definitions:

How To Calculate Maturity: https://www.geoplatform.gov/sites/default/files/How_to_Calculate_Maturity.pdf

Maturity	Maturity Characteristics for All Lifecycle Stages
Optimized; Established Rank = 5	Dataset meets virtually all business needs of all users. The dataset is considered authoritative by owners and secondary users. It is curated across all stages of the approved lifecycle. Future needs are defined on a regular basis and resources for addressing both current and future business requirements are available.
Mature; Consistent Rank = 4	Dataset meets all the business needs of the primary owner and most of the secondary users. The dataset is curated and used as authoritative by the primary owner. Dataset is used widely by secondary users actively engaged in sustaining the dataset. Future needs are identified and steps are planned to address these. All stages are supported and reviewed on a recurring basis. The dataset is well managed in relation to the approved lifecycle.
Managed; Predictable Rank = 3	Dataset meets a significant number of the business needs of the primary owner and is widely used as an authoritative resource by secondary users. Benchmark activities are occurring in at least four of the approved lifecycle stages. Management practices in relation to the approved lifecycle is moderate but consistent. Dataset is integrating changing business requirements in lifecycle stages impacting overall maturity.
Transition; Transformation Rank = 2	Dataset meets business needs of the primary owner and has moderate use by secondary users. Benchmark activities are occurring in at least three stages. Efforts to integrate funding, include partners, and obtain data are not supported in a sustained manner. Management practices in relation to the stages of the approved lifecycle is limited.
Planned; Initial Development Rank = 1	Dataset limited in meeting business needs of the primary owner. Benchmark activities in the approved lifecycle are just starting to consider secondary uses, partnerships are forming to support additional dataset uses. Dataset development is in a very early stage. Minimal or limited management against the benchmarks in the approved lifecycle.
No Activity Rank = no activity	Dataset meets project or local business needs of the primary owner, secondary or additional uses or users were not considered, not recognized as an authoritative data or is part of a similar dataset. Not managed to any of the benchmarks in the approved lifecycle.

General Questions for All Stages

1) Is there a recurring process to obtain funding for all lifecycle stages of this dataset?

Answer: Funding is from local offices, budgeting effort minimal, staffing minimal.

Justification Comment:

Attachment(s): 0

Staffing is minimal. There is no additional funding to support this dataset other than a salaried position.

2) Is there a process in place to ensure that open government and transparency guidelines are followed in all lifecycle stages for this dataset?

Answer: Process is published as appropriate with respect to sensitivity requirements, process is transparent, published appropriately.

Justification Comment:

Attachment(s): 0

The US Maritime Limits and Boundaries dataset contains the limits of US national jurisdiction in the context of the international law of the sea. The exact process, by which the maritime limits are measured, via the U.S. Baseline Committee (SBU), is not open for public participation; however, over the years, several Baseline Committee members have recorded the broader process via public presentations and books. The process is also denoted in the metadata records, which are available at the parent level as well as the regional/state child record level. The resulting maritime limits and boundaries are depicted on nautical charts and are available on the Web. Coordinates of the maritime boundaries are published by the State Department in the Federal Register (last update 1995). Baseline Committee members who engage with the states on issues that are related to Baseline Committee decisions are encouraged to review meeting agendas in advance, raise issues, and seek resolutions, as appropriate. Meeting minutes are not widely published, but are made available upon request. All current and past data and decisions are managed in a database.

3) Are there processes and tools in place so that staff are sufficiently knowledgeable to ensure a continuity of the dataset for all stages of the lifecycle, especially during staffing transitions?

Answer: Processes and tools to ensure dataset continuity are defined and beginning to be implemented.

Justification Comment:

Attachment(s): 0

There has been no management staff turnover in the last 13 years, so continuity has been good as technical support staffs come and go. It remains to be seen if the documentation is sufficient to ensure continuity following management turnover. As of April 2015, current management staff will be on rotation for five years, so this will be a test for the documentation.

STAGE 1 - Define/Plan

4) Are user and business requirements defined and formalized?

Answer: A recurring process exists for gathering partners/ stakeholders requirements is in place and is in the beginning stages of implementation.

Justification Comment:

Attachment(s): 0

The 1970 charter for the U.S. Baseline Committee as well as the 1976 agreement between State Department and NOAA's Office of Coast Survey to depict the maritime limits/boundaries on NOAA charts defines and formalizes the user and business requirements. Requirements regarding frequency of updates were further clarified in letter exchanges and recorded in Baseline Committee minutes. Regular meetings of the U.S. Baseline Committee with recorded minutes ensure that the stakeholder requirements are kept up-to-date.

<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/csdl/mbound.htm>

5) How are partners/stakeholders involved in the requirements collection process?

Answer: A recurring process is in place, including defining new partner and stakeholder business

needs as they arise, and is fully implemented.

Justification Comment: **Attachment(s):** 0
The U.S. Baseline Committee is supported by a 1970 charter and several follow-on agreements among Committee members regarding requirements. Agendas and minutes are recorded and distributed among the agency representatives.
<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/csdl/mbound.htm>

6) Is there a quality assurance process for the dataset?

Answer: Quality assurance published as appropriate with respect sensitivity requirements.

Justification Comment: **Attachment(s):** 0
The dataset has full documentation, is recorded in OCS' Quality Management System, and underwent a preliminary internal audit with few issues raised.
http://ocsnavigator.nos.noaa/Director/Chief_Geographer/Pages/Maritime-Boundaries.aspx

7) Is there a process to evaluate the sensitivity, privacy, and confidentiality of this dataset?

Answer: Sensitivity, privacy, and confidentiality evaluations fully implemented, reviewed and updated on a recurring basis.

Justification Comment: **Attachment(s):** 0
This question is not really applicable, since the digital dataset mirrors what has been available on nautical charts since the mid-1970s.

8) Are defined data standards used in collecting, processing, and/or rendering the data?

Answer: Standards fully implemented documented and published as appropriate.

Justification Comment: **Attachment(s):** 0
Standards incorporated include data content to match basic elements of other marine boundaries in MarineCadastre.gov, symbology to match paper/raster nautical charts. There are also standards regarding what data sources are suitable for updating maritime limits/boundaries as well as regarding the frequency of updates.
MarineCadastre.gov

STAGE 2 - Inventory/Evaluate

9) Is there a process for determining if data necessary to meet requirements already exist from other sources (either within or outside the agency) before collecting or acquiring new data?

Answer: Process for determining appropriate data is being reused fully implemented, reviewed, and updated on a regular basis.

Justification Comment: **Attachment(s):** 0
Baseline Committee process—before, during, and after meetings-- is clear and updated on a regular basis.
http://ocsnavigator.nos.noaa/Director/Chief_Geographer/Pages/Maritime-Boundaries.aspx

STAGE 3 - Obtain

10) Is there a process for obtaining data in relation to this dataset?

Answer: Process is fully implemented, reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Justification Comment: **Attachment(s):** 0
For more information, contact information is included on the source Website, where the data is downloaded, as well as in the detailed metadata. Due to a lack of regular customer support for U.S. Baseline Committee questions, public inquiries about the meeting minutes that underlie the dataset are referred to the State Department for review and response. There is no need to purchase the information as it is collected as part of compilation of authoritative source.
http://ocsnavigator.nos.noaa/Director/Chief_Geographer/Pages/Maritime-Boundaries.aspx

11) Is the metadata in a FGDC endorsed geospatial metadata standard?

Answer: Metadata is available in a format endorsed by the FGDC, it fully describes the dataset and provides all the information required to make the dataset discoverable, accessible, and usable.

Justification Comment:

Attachment(s): 0

The metadata is FGDC-compliant and fully populated. The dataset is available via data.gov via the metadata record.

<http://www.data.gov/>

12) How complete is the geographic coverage as defined in the requirements for the dataset?

Part 1 Answer: Business requirements for cyclic updates identified and a process is in place.

Part 2 Answer: Dataset has presently attained the greatest geographic coverage as defined by the current requirements or roughly 100%.

Justification Comment:

Attachment(s): 0

The dataset is inclusive of all U.S. maritime limits and boundaries. It is derived from baselines as they appear on NOAA's largest scale, most recent edition nautical charts. It also incorporates the US/Canada land boundary, as it is also depicted on nautical charts. The SOP defines the update requirements.

STAGE 4 - Access

13) Do you have a process for providing users access to the data in an open digital machine readable format?

Answer: User access process is fully implemented, data is available, process is reviewed and updated on a recurring basis.

Justification Comment:

Attachment(s): 0

The dataset is available as SHP, KMZ, REST, and WMS at

<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/csdl/mbound.htm>. It is also available via electronic nautical charts at <http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml>

STAGE 5 - Maintain

14) Is there a maintenance process for updating and storing the dataset?

Answer: Dataset maintenance process is being implemented.

Justification Comment:

Attachment(s): 0

The SOP records how the dataset is to be maintained; however, in-flux changes to the nautical chart production methods have made implementation difficult. The two product lifecycles must be joined.

http://ocsnavigator.nos.noaa/Director/Chief_Geographer/Pages/Maritime-Boundaries.aspx

15) Is there an error correction process as part of dataset maintenance?

Answer: Error correction process includes user notification, process reviewed on a recurring basis.

Justification Comment:

Attachment(s): 0

Errors are discovered internally as well as by external customers. Technical/legal/policy errors and their resolutions are documented in the quality management plan. These errors that affect the publicly available dataset are reviewed and added to the next Baseline Committee meeting agenda for resolution. Updates are published following the Baseline Committee decision. The dataset website contains an Announcements page, which lets users know more precisely about what has changed between versions. Alerts are also sent to known consumers of the dataset (those who are using the data in various decision-support Web portals).

<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/csdl/mbound.htm>

STAGE 6 - Use/Evaluate

16) Is there a process to determine if the dataset meets user needs?

Answer: Process is fully implemented and repeated on a recurring basis.

Justification Comment:

Attachment(s): 0

From an international law of the sea perspective, the user needs are met and the promulgation of boundaries on charts conforms to UN Convention on the Law of the Sea's publicity requirements.
<http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm>

17) Is there a process to provide users information on how to access and properly use the dataset?

Answer: Process is fully implemented supporting access and proper use, process is reviewed on a recurring basis.

Justification Comment:

Attachment(s): 0

The data download website contains a link to frequently asked questions, a white paper, and links to other domestic datasets that are often confused with this one. The content is reviewed with each update to the dataset as well as by OCS' Webmaster. The detailed metadata also provides more information about proper use.
<http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/csdl/mbound.htm>

18) Are the business processes and management practices assessed to meet changing technology?

Answer: Assessment process implementation started for taking advantage of changing technology.

Justification Comment:

Attachment(s): 0

This process is on-going and due to limited personnel, it is usually ad-hoc—spurred by one division's desire to upgrade a shared server, which would affect how this dataset is published.

STAGE 7 - Archive

19) Is there an archiving process for the dataset?

Answer: Archival and disposition processes are fully implemented.

Justification Comment:

Attachment(s): 0

With each update, the underlying records are not deleted. They are preserved with a retirement date. In addition, all of the last 50 years of documentation are recorded in the database. All of these elements are routinely backed up. The maritime limits and boundaries, as they appear on nautical charts, are routinely archived at NARA.