

Ocean Uses Exploration Guide

Date _____

Team Members _____

This guide will help you use GIS software to visualize offshore wind's impact on the "Ocean Use Factors" of your group's choosing. Navigate to the Northeast Ocean Data Portal to get started.

Getting Organized

Assign the following roles to each team member and write their name in the corresponding space below.

The GIS Navigator will follow instructions in the Data Explorer.

The Recorder will write down findings on this sheet.

The Reporter will present the group's findings to the class at the end (note: if working in pairs, both share the role of Reporter).

GIS Navigator	
Recorder	
Reporter	

Selecting your Ocean Uses

Choose 3 of the areas below that you are interested in exploring in the Data Explorer. During this exploration, you will be considering the ways that offshore wind turbines might impact your selected ocean uses.

<input type="checkbox"/> Habitats Birds	<input type="checkbox"/> Shipwrecks and historical sites (CULTURE)
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating and diving (RECREATION)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sea Turtles
<input type="checkbox"/> Marine Mammals	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial fishing Sea Scallops (FISH)

Step 1: Getting into the Ocean Data Website

Access the Ocean Data Website to begin your exploration.

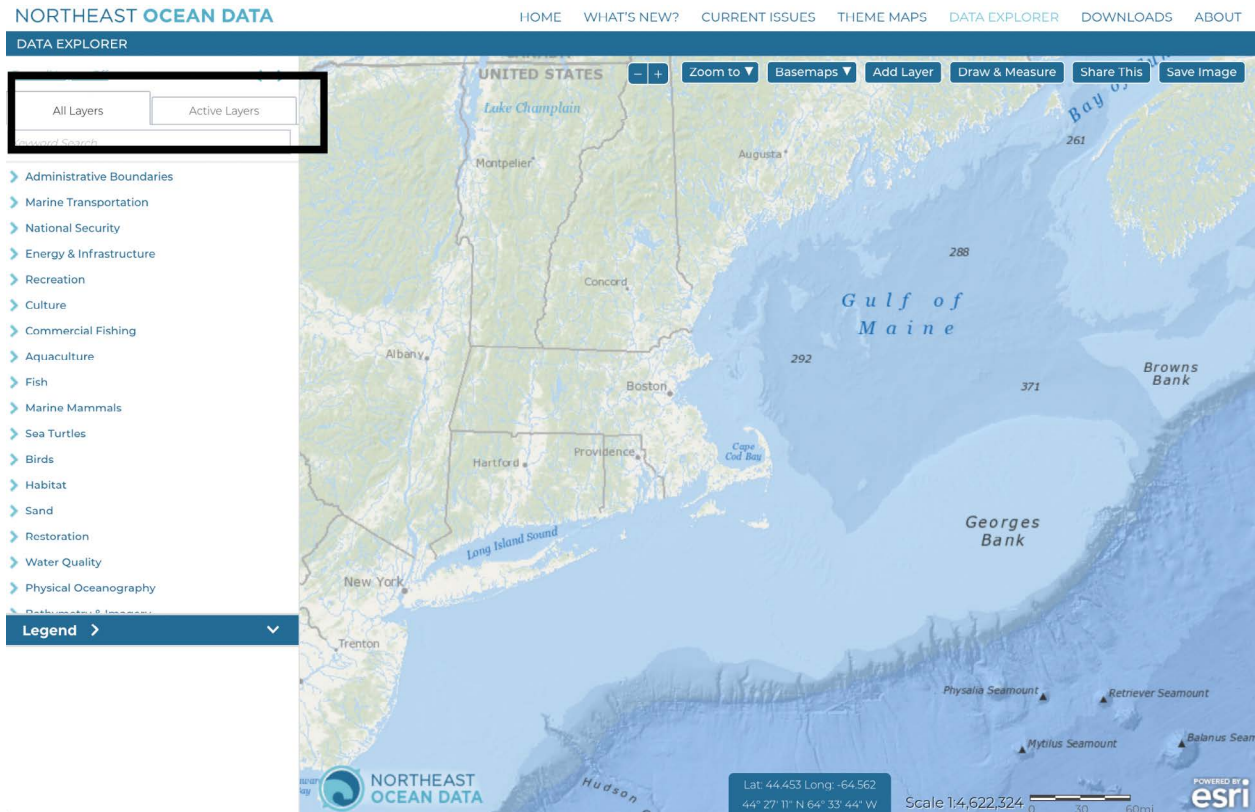
1. Navigate to <https://www.northeastoceandata.org/> on your computer.
2. Click on “Launch Data Explorer” (in the middle of turquoise bar on the left-hand side of the page)

The screenshot shows the Northeast Ocean Data website homepage. The header includes the logo and navigation links: HOME, WHAT'S NEW?, CURRENT ISSUES, THEME MAPS, DATA EXPLORER, DOWNLOADS, and ABOUT. The main content is divided into several sections:

- DATA EXPLORER:** A large section with a map of the Northeast coast. A turquoise bar on the left contains the text "LAUNCH DATA EXPLORER" and is highlighted with a black box. Above the map, it says "Define and view any combination of data on one map".
- THEME MAPS:** A section titled "View curated maps and data on key topics" featuring a grid of icons for: Marine Life & Habitat (Marine Mammals // Sea Turtles // Fish // Birds // Habitat), Commercial Fishing, Marine Transportation, Energy & Infrastructure, Aquaculture, Recreation, Restoration, Cultural Resources, National Security, and Water Quality. Below the grid are links for "Bathymetry // Eelgrass // Habitat Classification".
- NEWS:** A section with three news items dated Mar 26, 2024, Mar 18, 2024, and Mar 4, 2024, regarding Coast Guard public meetings and BOEM announcements.
- CURRENT ISSUES:** A section with a map and the text "Army Corps of Engineers Public Notices".
- CASE STUDIES:** A section at the bottom right.

Step 2: Adding Layers

1. You can move between the “All Layers” and “Active Layers”.
2. “All Layers” are where you will search for your three selected Ocean Uses.
3. “Active Layers” is where you can see what layers you have active on the map. To keep your map from getting too crowded, uncheck the layers you do not want to see.



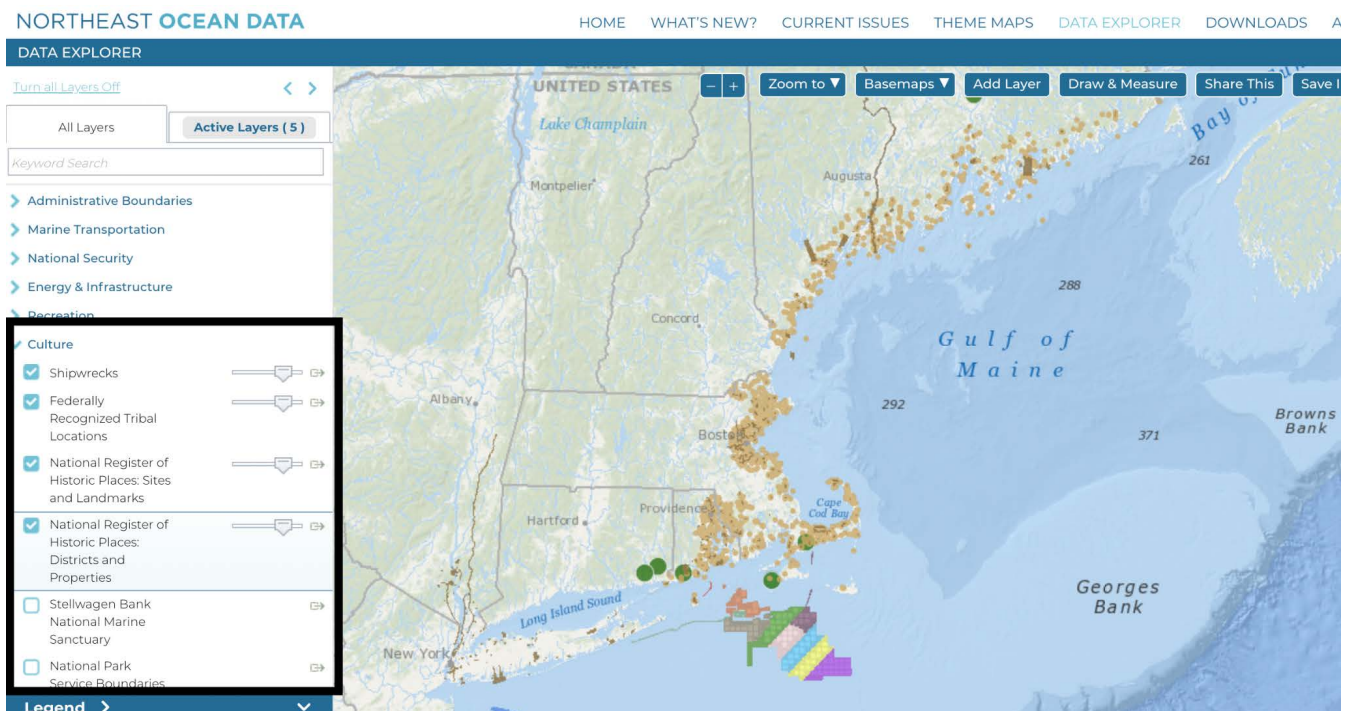
Step 3: Showing the Offshore Lease Areas on the Map

1. Click on the “All Layers” tab in the far left column.
2. Click on “Energy and Infrastructure”
3. Click on “Planning Areas.”
4. Click on “Lease Areas” there to get another dropdown menu.
5. Finally, click on the box next to “Active Renewable Energy Leases.” This button “turns on” the location of proposed wind development sites. You should now see different colored shapes in the lighter blue water off the coast (like in the image below). These are areas of the ocean bottom off shore that are leased, or rented, to different energy companies to produce and/or develop wind energy infrastructure.

The screenshot shows the 'NORTHEAST OCEAN DATA' interface. The left-hand menu is expanded to show 'Energy & Infrastructure' and 'Planning Areas'. Under 'Planning Areas', the 'Lease Areas' sub-menu is open, and the 'Active Renewable Energy Leases' option is checked and circled. The map on the right shows the Gulf of Maine and Long Island Sound with various colored lease areas overlaid. The interface includes a 'DATA EXPLORER' header, a 'Turn all Layers Off' button, and a 'Keyword Search' field. The map also features a 'Zoom to' dropdown, 'Basemaps', 'Add Layer', 'Draw & Measure', and 'Share' buttons.

Step 4: Adding Your Ocean Uses to the Map

1. In the “All Layers” tab, find your selected Ocean Uses from above (Recreation, Culture, Fish, etc.) and check the box for one of the sublayers you are most interested in exploring.
2. For example, the “Culture” layer has 7 different sublayers. You may choose to look at one of these sublayers, or all of them. The sublayers you select will be added to the “Active Layers” tab.
3. Once you find your first ocean use, repeat this process for your second and third selected ocean uses.



Step 5: Consider Offshore Wind Impacts

1. Examine the locations of the Active Renewable Energy Leases on the map.
2. Now compare these areas to the sublayers that display the three ocean uses you have selected.
3. How will these proposed offshore wind development areas impact your selected ocean uses?
4. Discuss these potential impacts with your team, and record your ideas in the table below.

Selected Ocean Use	Potential Impacts from Offshore Wind Development

5. Consider this question and use the space below to record your response. Using evidence from your exploration of potential impacts of offshore wind on different ocean uses, what next steps would you need to consider in order to thoughtfully move forward with offshore wind development?