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    This dataset depicts the boundaries of the North Atlantic Right Whale Critical Habitat in ESRI shapefile
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    includes boundaries for the following Regulated Areas: - Critical Habitat for North Atlantic Right Whale
    Unit 1 - Critical Habitat for North Atlantic Right Whale Unit 2. Please Note: Unit 1, in the Gulf of Maine,
    falls under the jurisdiction of the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Region. Unit 2, off the southeastern US
    coast, falls under the jurisdiction of the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Region. Because GIS projection and
    topology functions can change or generalize coordinates, these GIS files are considered to be approximate
    representations and are NOT an OFFICIAL record for the exact regulated area boundaries. For information on
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    Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast Waters (Regulated Areas), the NMFS Greater Atlantic Regional
    Fisheries Office (GARFO) Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Committee launched a project to standardize
    the development, publication and regular updating of GIS files depicting Regulated Area boundaries. This
    dataset is a product of that initiative. This dataset was created to depict the boundaries of NMFS Regulated
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        *** Attribution *** Whenever NMFS material is reproduced and re-disseminated, we request that users
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        consisting predominantly of material created by the Federal Government are encouraged to provide notice
        with such work(s) identifying the U.S. Government material incorporated and stating that such material
        is not subject to copyright protection. Please cite Regulated Area datasets as follows, with the
        appropriate information substituted for all text in {CURLY BRACKETS}: NOAA Fisheries Service. NMFS
        Regulated Areas in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Waters. {SHAPEFILE TITLE} [Shapefile]. Gloucester, MA:
        National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS),
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        be paid to the contents of the metadata file associated with these data to evaluate dataset limitations,
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        Regulated Areas in Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast Waters (Regulated Areas) only. The dataset
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        the existence or details of other marine features or resources, including, but not limited to, navigable
        waters, coastlines, bathymetry, submerged features, or man-made structures. Users assume responsibility
        for determining the appropriate use of this dataset. *** Not the Legal Definition *** This Geographic
        Information System (GIS) dataset is not the legal definition of the Regulated Area. The description
        published in the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations is the only legal definition. This dataset and
        metadata document provide a broad overview of a subset of applicable fishing regulations, restrictions
        and requirements; it is not a substitute for the actual regulations. Users are encouraged to read the
        applicable regulations in conjunction with use of this dataset. *** Temporal Considerations ***
        Regulated Area boundary definitions are subject to change or modification. Published datasets may
        represent historic, current, or future Regulated Areas. When changes to fishing regulations affect this
        dataset, it will be archived and replaced by an updated version as soon as feasible. Approved Regulated
        Area boundaries may also be published prior to their effective date. It is the user's responsibility to
        ensure the applicable Regulated Area boundaries are being used. *** Shorelines/Base Layers *** The
        accuracy of this dataset is dependent upon the accuracy and resolution of the datasets (e.g., shoreline,
        bathymetry, shared administrative boundaries) used in the creation process. Source datasets used are
        specified in the metadata. These data sources were selected for their suitability to a broad audience,

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and may not be suitable for specific uses requiring higher-resolution information. Coastlines change. Unless otherwise noted, where the NOAA Medium Resolution Shoreline is used, assume the regulatory boundary reaches the most current coastline delineation available.

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        implied is made regarding the accuracy or utility of the data on any other system or for general or
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        recommended that careful attention be paid to the contents of the metadata file associated with these
        data to evaluate dataset limitations, restrictions or intended use. In no event will NMFS be liable to
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        [Template Generation] Many NMFS Regulated Areas in Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Waters (Regulated Areas) share boundaries that are partially coincident with any combination of the following: 1) the U.S. Atlantic coastline; 2) the Submerged Lands Act boundary; 3) the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary in the Gulf of Maine; 4) the outward extent of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (a.k.a. the "200-nautical mile line"). To standardize Regulated Area features sharing these boundaries, published shapefiles of the shared administrative boundaries were obtained from the authoritative agencies. A shoreline was selected that was suitable for general mapping purposes, freely and publicly available, of medium-resolution, and covering the extent of the U.S.. When necessary, the boundaries were transformed to NAD83. A series of template polygon shapefiles were then generated, using these authoritative boundaries as the outward extents of the polygon. All templates were generated in NAD83 geographic coordinate system. The templates created are: 1) Coast-to-EEZ: bounded by the coastline, the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, the U.S. EEZ, and 81°W longitude off the southern extent of Florida (an arbitrary cut-off for the Atlantic); 2) Coast-to-SLA: bounded by the coastline, the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, the Submerged Lands Act boundary, and 81°W longitude off the southern extent of Florida; 3) SLA-to-EEZ: bounded by the Submerged Lands Act boundary, the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary, the U.S. EEZ, and 81°W longitude off the southern extent of Florida. These templates were subsequently copied and edited, as needed by the Regulated Area spatial definitions.
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        [Check Geometry] The ESRI ArcGIS Check Geometry tool was run on the shapefile to identify any geometry problems. If problems were encountered, they were reviewed and corrected.
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        [Features From Templates] The Coast-to-EEZ template shapefile was copied and projected to NAD83 Mercator Projection. The coordinates of the Regulated Area definition were transferred to a spreadsheet, converted to Decimal Degrees, plotted as a point shapefile in NAD83, and then projected to NAD83 Mercator Projection. To generate the Regulated Area boundary in ArcGIS, the template polygon was split by connecting these points in the order specified in the spatial definition. When the spatial definition specified that points were connected by following the Coastline, the coinciding outward extent of the template polygon was used. When the spatial definition specified that points were connected by following a straight line, rhumb lines were constructed. As an exception, points intended to fall along the U.S.-Canada Maritime Boundary were connected by following the geodesic line that legally defines that international boundary. After all points were appropriately connected, any portions of the template outside the defined Regulated Area were discarded. When multiple Regulated Areas are a part of a larger grouping of related Regulated Areas, these steps were repeated to generate a unique feature for each Regulated Area and the features were then combined into a single shapefile. The boundaries were densified with consecutive vertices spaced no more than 10 nautical miles apart, to preserve rhumb line paths in other coordinate systems. The file was projected back to the un-projected NAD83 coordinate system.
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        [Final Review] The shapefile was reviewed by members of the GARFO GIS Committee, policy experts from the GARFO Division responsible for the Regulated Area, and General Counsel, according to the GARFO
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    GIS Data Distribution Policy.
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        [Combine Features] The Unit 1 (produced by the Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office) and Unit
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        separated following COLREGS lines. These inlet/bay crossings were drawn after consulting a
        combination of a) the COLREGS definitions in 33 CFR 80, b) the NOAA Coastal Services Center COLREGS
        shapefile, and c) the NOAA Medium Resolution Shoreline shapefile because COLREGS lines described by
        a single source may not always fully cross the specified waterway as depicted by the source
        shoreline data set.
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        Regulatory Area boundaries followed portions of the US Atlantic coastline. This data source was
        selected for its suitability to a broad audience, and may not be suitable for specific uses
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        Medium Resolution Shoreline is used, assume the regulatory boundary reaches the most current
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      an unofficial editorial compilation of CFR material and Federal Register amendments. Because the
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