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Q: What is OceanReports?

A: OceanReports is a web-based, automated geospatial tool for analyzing and visualizing U.S. ocean space. OceanReports allows users to select or draw an ocean space and instantaneously obtain a neighborhood analysis containing over 65 infographics. The ocean neighborhood analyses provide in-depth information on energy and minerals, natural resources, industry uses, oceanography, and the ocean economy.

Q: What are the features of OceanReports?

A: Users can select infographics of interest, explore pertinent ocean data through interactive pop-ups and visualizations, toggle each layer related to infographic content, share results, and print reports to inform various offshore activities and ocean education.

Q: Why was OceanReports developed?

A: OceanReports was developed to increase transparency, as well as conservation and industry opportunities, for all sectors involved in ocean planning. Ocean industries such as energy, shipping, aquaculture, fisheries, and seabed mining can use the tool to navigate conflicting uses and environmental considerations, and assess economic opportunity in U.S. waters. Federal agencies can use the tool to assist with NEPA requirements.

Q: How is OceanReports related to MarineCadastre.gov?

A: OceanReports is the newest tool within MarineCadastre.gov and draws from over 100 of MarineCadastre.gov's data sets. This new product line adds an analytical and spatial planning capability to MarineCadastre.gov's suite of products.

Q: How does OceanReports enable better decision-making about ocean space?

A: OceanReports provides synthesized and authoritative information early in permitting or planning efforts that can direct conservation or development efforts. Having this information early can have a big impact on the project outcome. A comprehensive ocean neighborhood analysis allows decision-makers to look at the big picture and to make screening-level decisions quickly and more efficiently, saving time and money. It also increases transparency in decision-making by allowing all stakeholders, from developers to regulators, to utilize the same data and information to make decisions.

Q: What fisheries or protected resources (habitat or marine mammal) data does this tool access?

A: Highly migratory fish species, Endangered Species Act critical habitat, habitat areas of particular concern, right whale management areas, endangered species, cetacean biologically important areas, Audubon important bird areas, protected areas (marine protected areas, national parks, etc.).

Q: Who should use OceanReports?

A: OceanReports was created for anyone planning, permitting, or using ocean spaces in federal waters of the U.S. This includes permitting agencies, consultants, conservation organizations, marine planners, physical scientists, policy analysts, and the public. OceanReports was made for all ocean industries including energy, shipping and transportation, aquaculture, fisheries, and seabed mining.

Q: Does OceanReports duplicate regional-scale ocean data portals and tools?

A: OceanReports offers a spatial analytical tool for all federal waters of the U.S., increasing capability to inform industry development and conservation decisions. For regions that have invested time and funds to develop a region-specific platform and data products, OceanReports serves as a complementary tool with additional analytical capabilities.

Q: Who Developed OceanReports?

A: OceanReports was developed by NOAA and BOEM. It is part of the MarineCadastre.gov project.

Q: Are the data in OceanReports the same as what I can find in MarineCadastre.gov?

A: In most cases, yes. However, there are some instances where data that are being updated frequently are not picked up as quickly by OceanReports. Since data updates between systems are not automatic at this time, it is important that the user consult the metadata for both the source data and the infographic within OceanReports to understand any potential differences between data sets.

Q: Can I use OceanReports to fulfill all my regulatory and permitting data and information searches?

A: Absolutely not. OceanReports is intended to save the user a great deal of time by finding some of the most important high-level data and information for your first assessment for an area of interest. It should be used to narrow the area based on options for a project or plan, but it should not be used as the final analysis solution. It is up to the user to interpret the necessary requirements for their projects and determine where OceanReports fulfills and does not fulfill those requirements. Using the metadata and information button for each of the metadata categories can be helpful for digging deeper to find more in-depth information about a data layer or category.

Q: How often is the information on OceanReports updated?

A: The Marine Cadastre team continually works to ensure that the most current authoritative data are available and have a specific update cycle for each data set. The update cycle varies according to how often the source data change and the resources available to make the update. Some information is updated daily by the source, but may only be updated quarterly within OceanReports. There are usually caveats shown on the infographic in these cases. Other data layers are updated when the underlying

source data change. For instance, legal boundaries are only updated if they actually change due to policy changes or natural movement of features (i.e., shoreline); other data layers may change randomly, so we check periodically (e.g., once a year, every 6 months, or quarterly). There is always a chance that the data in our products are slightly behind actual changes on the ground, so it's a good idea to check with the original data developer if you are concerned about potential changes. The metadata provided in our data and metadata download section will provide you with the information needed to determine and contact the data source for more information.

Q: What is a Quick Report?

A: Quick Reports were created to capture commonly referenced areas such as state waters, national marine sanctuaries, national estuarine research reserves, wind lease areas, and wind planning areas. Additional Quick Report areas are planned. Please contact us if there are other areas where these reports might be needed.