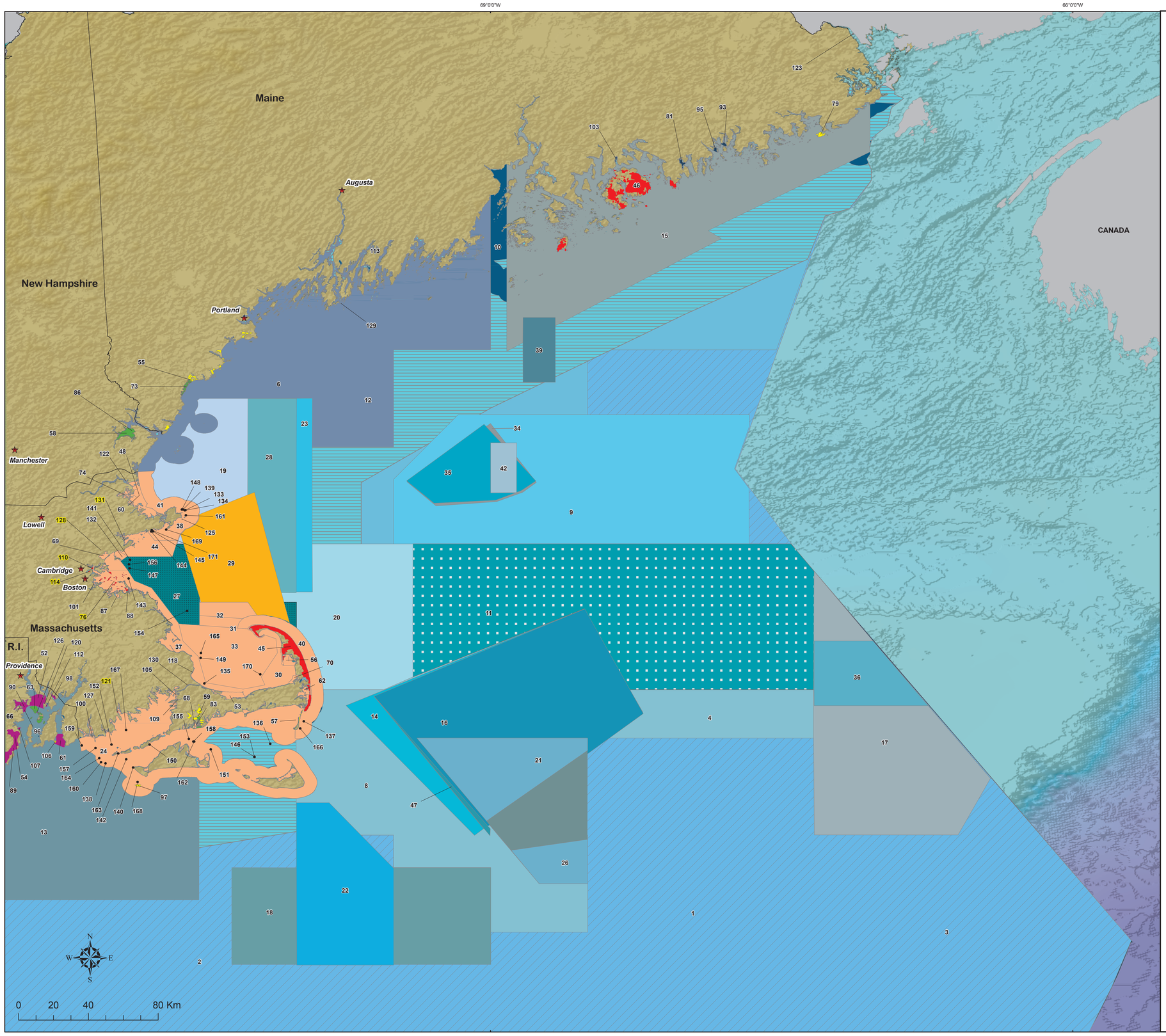
MARINE PROTECTED AREAS in the GULF of MAINE



This map provides information regarding the distribution of marine protected areas throughout the Gulf of Maine. The boundaries for the areas shown were compiled into a spatial database by NOAA's Marine Protected Areas Center. Data were obtained from various federal agencies and participating state and local management offices and are current as of December 2007. Note that certain data gaps still exist. Please contact the MPA Center to provide information on sites that are missing from this catalog.

- State of Maine MPAs
- State of Rhode Island MPAs
- State of Massachusetts MPAs
- Massachusetts Exempt Sites (Shipwrecks)
- National Wildlife Refuges
- National Park Service MPAs
- National Marine Sanctuaries
- National Estaurine Research Reserves
- National Marine Fisheries Service Sites
- 12 — Site ID (see table below for classification)

Note: Highlighted IDs indicate sites that are not in the MPACs database

CONSERVATION FOCUS

Most MPAs have legally established goals, conservation objectives, and intended purpose(s). Common examples include MPAs created to conserve biodiversity in support of research and education; to protect benthic habitat in order to recover over-fished stocks; and to protect and interpret shipwrecks for maritime education. These descriptors of an MPA are reflected in the site's Conservation Focus, which represents the characteristics of the area that the MPA was established to conserve. The Conservation Focus, in turn, influences many fundamental aspects of the site, including its design, location, size, scale, management strategies and potential contribution to surrounding ecosystems. U.S. MPAs generally address one or more of these areas of Conservation Focus:

Natural Heritage: MPAs or zones established and managed wholly or in part to sustain, conserve, restore, and understand the protected area's natural biodiversity, populations, communities, habitats, and ecosystems; the ecological and physical processes upon which they depend; and, the ecological services, human uses and values they provide to this and future generations.

Cultural Heritage: MPAs or zones established and managed wholly or in part to protect and understand submerged cultural resources that reflect the nation's maritime history and traditional cultural connections to the sea.

Sustainable Production: MPAs or zones established and managed wholly or in part with the explicit purpose of supporting the continued extraction of renewable living resources (such as fish, shellfish, plants, birds, or mammals) that live within the MPA, or that are exploited elsewhere but depend upon the protected area's habitat for essential aspects of their ecology or life history.

LEVEL OF PROTECTION

MPAs in the U.S. vary widely in the level and type of legal protections afforded to the site's natural and cultural resources and ecological processes. Any MPA, or management zone within a larger MPA, can be characterized by one of the following six levels of protection, which will directly influence its effects on the environment and human uses.

Uniform Multiple-Use: MPAs or zones with a consistent level of protection and allowable activities, including certain extractive uses, across the entire protected area.

Zoned Multiple-Use: MPAs that allow some extractive activities throughout the entire site, but that use marine zoning to allocate specific uses to compatible places or times in order to reduce user conflicts and adverse impacts.

Zoned Multiple-Use With No-Take Area(s): Multiple-use MPAs that contain at least one legally established management zone in which all resource extraction is prohibited.

No-Take: MPAs or zones that allow human access and even some potentially harmful uses, but that totally prohibit the extraction or significant destruction of natural or cultural resources.

No Impact: MPAs or zones that allow human access, but that prohibit all activities that could harm the site's resources or disrupt the ecological or cultural services they provide.

No Access: MPAs or zones that restrict all human access to the area in order to prevent potential ecological disturbance, unless specifically permitted for designated special uses such as research, monitoring or restoration.

ID	Site Name	Level of Protection	Primary Conservation Focus	Fishing Restrictions	Area (km²)
1	Offshore Lobster Waters	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	336041.85
2	Other Northeast Gillnet Waters Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	297428.21
3	Mid-Atlantic Coastal Waters Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	111767.50
4	GOM Rolling Closure Area I	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Restricted	68891.39
5	Southern Nearshore Lobster Waters	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	65705.85
6	Northern Nearshore Lobster Waters Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	51489.91
7	Waters off New Jersey Closure	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	34746.46
8	Georges Bank Seasonal Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Restricted	21904.99
9	Offshore Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	16086.34
10	Northern Inshore State Lobster Waters Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	15729.94
11	SAM East	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	13182.33
12	Mid-Coast Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	12036.42
13	Cape Cod South Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	9866.13
14	Great South Channel Restricted Lobster Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	8356.09
15	Northeast Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	7534.90
16	Great South Channel Restricted Gillnet Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	7502.18
17	Closed Area II	Zoned Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Restricted	6734.15
18	Nantucket Lightship Closed Area	Zoned Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	6265.80
19	Stellwagen Bank/Jeffreys Ledge Restricted Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	5271.84
20	SAM West	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	5008.70
21	Closed Area I	Zoned Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Restricted	3940.44
22	Nantucket Lightship Habitat Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Restricted	3409.98
23	Western Gulf of Maine Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	3010.52
24	Cape and Islands Ocean Sanctuary	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	2834.59
25	Mudhole Closure	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	2786.52
26	Closed Area I Habitat Closure Areas	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Restricted	2525.88
27	Massachusetts Bay Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	2375.60
28	Western Gulf of Maine Habitat Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Restricted	2272.54
29	Gerry E. Studds/Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	2189.75
30	Right Whale Critical Habitat and Adjacent Waters Restricted Gear Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	1816.14
31	Cape Cod Bay Year-Round Fish Pot Trawl Floating Ground Line Prohibition Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	1749.38
32	Cape Cod Bay Restricted Area	Zoned Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	1665.41
33	Cape Cod Bay Ocean Sanctuary	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	1588.55
34	Cashes Ledge Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Restricted	1425.38
35	Cashes Ledge Closure Area (Multispecies)	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Restricted	1373.31
36	Closed Area II Habitat Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Restricted	1371.54
37	Winter Flounder Spawning Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	1125.76
38	North Shore Groundfish Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Restricted	542.17
39	Jeffrey's Bank Habitat Closure Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Restricted	499.43
40	Cape Cod Ocean Sanctuary	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	482.54
41	North Shore Ocean Sanctuary	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	449.72
42	Cashes Ledge Habitat Closure	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Restricted	313.26
43	Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge	Zoned No Take	Natural Heritage	Commercial Prohibited	276.83
44	South Essex Ocean Sanctuary	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	236.19
45	Cape Cod National Seashore	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Restricted	164.20
46	Acadia National Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Restricted	157.01
47	Great South Channel Sliver Restricted Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Restricted	105.69
48	Parker River/Essex Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	103.25
49	Salt Ponds Region	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Restricted	101.37
50	Gateway National Recreation Area	Zoned Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Restricted	67.51
51	Fire Island National Seashore	Zoned Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Restricted	57.67
52	Upper Narragansett Bay	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Restricted	38.89
53	Sandy Neck/Barnstable Harbor Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	36.96
54	Narrow River	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Prohibited	36.43
55	Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Prohibited	35.60
56	Wellfleet Harbor Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	31.53
57	Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge	Zoned Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	29.60
58	Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Restricted	27.04
59	Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge	No Access	Natural Heritage	All Prohibited	26.11
60	Parker River National Wildlife Refuge	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Restricted	25.81
61	Sakonnet River	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	23.31
62	Pleasant Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	22.60
63	Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Unrestricted	17.88
64	Robert Moses State Park - Long Island	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	14.72
65	Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	Commercial Prohibited	13.81
66	Greenwich Bay	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	13.65
67	Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Prohibited	11.59
68	Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Restricted	11.47
69	Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	11.28
70	Inner Cape Cod Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	10.55
71	Jones Beach State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	10.28
72	Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	9.85
73	Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	8.19
74	William Forward Wildlife Management Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	7.47
75	Hither Hills State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	6.97
★ 76	Boston Harbor Islands National Recreational Area	?	?	?	6.46
77	Heckscher State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	6.33
78	Caumsett State Historic Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	6.19
79	Cross Island National Wildlife Refuge	No Take	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	6.16
80	Napeague State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	6.02
81	West Bay Seed Mussel Conservation Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	5.47
82	Governor Alfred E. Smith/Sunken Meadow State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	4.69
83	Waquoit Bay Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	4.49
84	Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Prohibited	4.49
85	Gilgo State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	4.31
86	Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Prohibited	4.27
87	Weymouth/Hingham Back River Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	3.88
88	Weir River Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	3.77
89	John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Prohibited	3.77
90	Potowomut River	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	3.74
91	Montauk Point State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	3.27
92	Wildwood State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	3.19
93	Harrington River Seed Mussel Conservation Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	3.11
94	Camp Hero State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	3.00
95	Narragaugus Bay Seed Mussel Conservation Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	2.89
96	High Banks	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	2.65
97	Nomans Land Island National Wildlife Refuge	No Access	Natural Heritage	All Prohibited	2.50
98	Kickemuit River	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	2.24
99	Capree State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	2.19
100	Horseneck Beach State Reservation	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Recreational Restricted	2.17
101	Neponset River Estuary Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	1.92
102	Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Prohibited	1.79
103	Jordan River Seed Mussel Conservation Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	1.53
104	Orient Beach State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	1.41
105	Bourne Back River Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	1.29
106	Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	All Prohibited	1.05
107	Bissel Cove/Fox Island	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	0.90
108	Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge	No Access	Natural Heritage	Commercial Prohibited	0.88
109	Pocasset River Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	0.65
★110	Boston National Historical Park	?	?	?	0.60
111	Nissequogue River State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	0.57
112	Bristol Harbor Shellfish Transplant Area	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	0.49
113	Newcastle Conservation Area I	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	0.43
★114	Boston African American National Historic Site	?	?	?	0.42
115	Shadmoor State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	0.41
116	Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Prohibited	0.33
117	Block Island National Wildlife Refuge	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Prohibited	0.28
118	Ellisville Harbor Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	0.25
119	Conscience Point National Wildlife Refuge	No Impact	Natural Heritage	All Prohibited	0.25
120	Mill Gut, Colt Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	0.24
★121	New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park	?	?	?	0.20
122	Ram Island State Wildlife Sanctuary- Salisbury	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	0.10
★123	Saint Croix International Historic Site	?	?	?	0.10
124	Bayswater Point State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	0.07
125	Milk Island (Knight) State Wildlife Sanctuary	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	0.05
126	Jenny's Creek	Uniform Multiple Use	Sustainable Production	All Restricted	0.05
127	Demarest Lloyd State Park	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Recreational Restricted	0.05
★128	Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site	?	?	?	0.04
129	Pond Island National Wildlife Refuge	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	Commercial Restricted	0.04
130	Herring River Watershed Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	0.04
★131	Salem Maritime National Historic Site	?	?	?	0.04
132	Egg Rock (Henry Cabot Lodge) State Wildlife Sanctuary	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	No Restrictions	0.01
★★ 133	U.S.S. Grouse Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 134	California Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 135	Pottstown Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 136	Lackawana Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 137	Pendelton Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 138	Seaconnet Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 139	Charles S. Haight Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 140	Herman Winter Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 141	Herbert Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 142	John Dwight Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 143	Kiowa Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 144	Albert Gallatin Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 145	Alice M. Colburn Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 146	Barge and Crane Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 147	City of Salisbury Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 148	Edwin Rich Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 149	Henry Endicott Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 150	Lunet Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 151	Ardandau Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 152	Corvan Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 153	Van Gilder Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 154	Pinthis Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 155	Port Hunter Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 156	Romance Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 157	Hilda Garston Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 158	Kershaw Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 159	H.M.C.S. Saint Clair Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 160	Trojan Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 161	Chelsea Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 162	Pemberton Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 163	U.S.S. Triana Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 164	Vineyard Sound Lightship Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 165	Mars Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 166	Dixie Sword Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 167	U.S.S. Yankee Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 168	U.S.S. YSD Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 169	Chester A. Poling Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 170	James S. Longstreet Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?
★★ 171	U.S.S. New Hampshire Exempt Site	Uniform Multiple Use	Cultural Heritage	No Restrictions	?

*Sites are not in the MPAC database
**Sites are locations of Shipwrecks (no area available)