

New York Dept of Environmental Conservation: NY Bight - Aerial Surveys 2024-2027

**Type** File Geodatabase Feature Class  
**Tags** RWSC, NY DEC, NY Bight, Marine Mammals, Aerial Surveys, whales

Summary

This layer depicts transects from New York Department of Environmental Conservation’s aerial surveys that are conducted by TetraTech from 2024-2027 in the New York Bight area. This is a continuation of the large whale monitoring conducted 2017-2020 that were also conducted by TetraTech for NYDEC. The survey plan remains the same however there will be 6 surveys per year for 3 years (2024-2027). Fifteen transect lines run perpendicular from Long Island to the continental shelf break. Data collection focuses on six large whale species - blue, fin, sei, humpback, sperm, and North Atlantic right whales - but also includes sea turtles and opportunistic sightings of other marine animals. The objectives are: (1) to determine each species' distribution and estimate density; (2) to determine each species' monthly and seasonal occurrence; (3) to characterize the interannual variability of the distributions and densities; and (4) to record behavioral data of sighted whales as much as possible. Summaries will be publicly available as surveys progress.

For more information visit: <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/oceans-estuaries/bight-whale-monitoring-program>

Description

This layer shows the route NYDEC runs their New York Bight aerial surveys. For more information visit: <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/oceans-estuaries/bight-whale-monitoring-program>

The surveys are conducted six times a year throughout the year. The survey team used a small high-wing, twin-engine aircraft with bubble windows flown at 1,000 feet and 100-110 knots. Each survey covered 15 transect lines that run northwest to southeast, extend 110 nautical miles to the continental shelf break, and total approximately 1,530 nautical miles. Transect lines were developed with input from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Northeast Fisheries Science Center (NEFSC) for compatibility with their Atlantic Marine Assessment Program for Protected Species, the probability of coverage based on known species distributions, and estimated minimum sample size requirements for distance sampling.

Credits

Meghan Rickard, NY DEC, [Meghan.Rickard@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Meghan.Rickard@dec.ny.gov)

Use limitations

These data will be used by RWSC and its expert Subcommittees, partners, and other participants to implement the [Science Plan](#), including to understand the extent of ongoing and planned data collection activities, and to coordinate and plan future data collection and research activities with respect to offshore wind. The data will be displayed via online mapping platforms.

Extent

West -73.830000 East -70.597997  
North 41.077732 South 38.566309

Scale Range

Maximum (zoomed in) 1:5,000  
Minimum (zoomed out) 1:150,000,000

Topics and Keywords ►

Themes or categories of the resource Biota, Oceans  
Content type ⇌ Downloadable Data  
Export to FGDC CSDGM XML format as Resource Description No

Citation ►

Title New York Dept of Environmental Conservation: NY Bight - Aerial Surveys 2024-2027  
Publication date 2024-07-12 00:00:00  
Presentation formats ⇌ digital map

Citation Contacts ►

Responsible party - point of contact  
Individual's name Meghan Rickard  
Organization's name NY Department of Environmental Conservation

Contact information ►  
Phone  
Voice NA  
Address  
Type postal  
City NA  
Administrative area NA  
Postal code NA  
e-mail address [Meghan.Rickard@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Meghan.Rickard@dec.ny.gov)

Responsible party - originator  
Individual's name Debbie Brill  
Organization's name Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative  
Contact's position Marine Mammals Subcommittee Lead

Contact information ►  
Phone  
Voice NA  
Address  
Type postal  
City NA

Administrative area NA  
Postal code NA  
e-mail address [Deborah.brill@duke.edu](mailto:Deborah.brill@duke.edu)

## Resource Details ►

Dataset languages ⇔ English (UNITED STATES)  
Dataset character set utf8 - 8 bit UCS Transfer Format

Status on-going  
Spatial representation type ⇔ vector

Processing environment ⇔ Microsoft Windows 10 Version 10.0 (Build 22631) ; Esri ArcGIS 13.2.2.49743

Credits  
Meghan Rickard, NY DEC, [Meghan.Rickard@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Meghan.Rickard@dec.ny.gov)

### ArcGIS item properties

Name ⇔ NY\_DEC\_Surveys  
Size ⇔ 0.000  
Location ⇔ file://\\DESKTOP-CUHUDPJ\D\$\Contracting\RWSC\GIS\_Work\MM\_Aerial\_Surveys\MM\_Aerial\_Surveys\Default.gdb  
Access protocol ⇔ Local Area Network

## Extents ►

Extent  
Description  
Aerial Surveys conducted from 2024-2027

Geographic extent  
Bounding rectangle  
Extent type  
Extent used for searching  
West longitude -73.830000  
East longitude -70.597997  
North latitude 41.077732  
South latitude 38.566309  
Extent contains the resource Yes

Temporal extent  
Beginning date 2024-01-01 00:00:00  
Ending date 2027-12-31 00:00:00

Extent in the item's coordinate system  
westBL ⇔ -73.830000  
eastBL ⇔ -70.597997  
southBL ⇔ 38.566309  
northBL ⇔ 41.077732  
exTypeCode ⇔ Yes

## Resource Points of Contact ►

Point of contact - point of contact  
Individual's name Meghan Rickard  
Organization's name NY Department of Environmental Conservation

Contact information ►  
Phone  
Voice NA  
Address  
Type postal  
City NA  
Administrative area NA  
Postal code NA  
e-mail address [Meghan.Rickard@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Meghan.Rickard@dec.ny.gov)

## Resource Maintenance ►

Resource maintenance  
Update frequency as needed

## Resource Constraints ►

Constraints  
Limitations of use  
These data will be used by RWSC and its expert Subcommittees, partners, and other participants to implement the [Science Plan](#), including to understand the extent of ongoing and planned data collection activities, and to coordinate and plan future data collection and research activities with respect to offshore wind. The data will be displayed via online mapping platforms.

## Spatial Reference ►

ArcGIS coordinate system  
Type ⇔ Geographic

Geographic coordinate reference ⇔ GCS\_WGS\_1984

Coordinate reference details ⇔

GeographicCoordinateSystem

WKID 4326

XOrigin -400

YOrigin -400

XYScale 1111948722.2222221

ZOrigin -100000

ZScale 10000

MOrigin -100000

MScale 10000

XYTolerance 8.983152841195215e-09

ZTolerance 0.001

MTolerance 0.001

HighPrecision true

LeftLongitude -180

LatestWKID 4326

WKT

GEOGCS["GCS\_WGS\_1984",DATUM["D\_WGS\_1984",SPHEROID["WGS\_1984",6378137.0,298.257223563]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433],AUTHORIT

Reference system identifier

Value ⇔ 4326

Codespace ⇔ EPSG

Version ⇔ 6.2(3.0.1)

Spatial Data Properties ►

Vector ►

Level of topology for this dataset ⇔ geometry only

Geometric objects

Feature class name NY\_DEC\_Surveys

Object type ⇔ composite

Object count ⇔ 1

ArcGIS Feature Class Properties ►

Feature class name NY\_DEC\_Surveys

Feature type ⇔ Simple

Geometry type ⇔ Polyline

Has topology ⇔ FALSE

Feature count ⇔ 1

Spatial index ⇔ TRUE

Linear referencing ⇔ FALSE

Data Quality ►

Data quality report - Conceptual consistency ►

Data quality measure reference

Measure description

Polyline shapefiles depicting aerial survey transect positions

Data quality report - Completeness omission ►

Data quality measure reference

Measure description

This dataset reflects ongoing aerial survey paths, and is complete as of 7/12/24. May be updated as needed.

Lineage ►

Lineage statement

Received shapefiles directly from contacts

Process step ►

When the process occurred 2024-07-10 00:00:00

Description

1. Data imported into GIS

Process step ►

When the process occurred 2024-07-10 00:00:00

Description

2. All features merged into single feature

Process step ►

When the process occurred 2024-07-10 00:00:00

Description

3. Field names added and filled in

Distribution ►

Distribution format  
Name ↔ File Geodatabase Feature Class

Transfer options  
Transfer size ↔ 0.000

Fields ▶

Details for object NY\_DEC\_Surveys ▶  
Type ↔ Feature Class  
Row count ↔ 1  
Definition  
Attribute table prepared by RWSC

Definition source  
RWSC

Field OBJECTID ▶  
Alias ↔ OBJECTID  
Data type ↔ OID  
Width ↔ 4  
Precision ↔ 0  
Scale ↔ 0

Field description ↔  
Internal feature number.

Description source ↔  
Esri

Description of values ↔  
Sequential unique whole numbers that are automatically generated.

Field Shape ▶  
Alias ↔ Shape  
Data type ↔ Geometry  
Width ↔ 0  
Precision ↔ 0  
Scale ↔ 0

Field description ↔  
Feature geometry.

Description source ↔  
Esri

Description of values ↔  
Coordinates defining the features.

Field OPERATOR ▶  
Alias ↔ OPERATOR  
Data type ↔ String  
Width ↔ 254  
Precision ↔ 0  
Scale ↔ 0

Field description  
The primary affiliation for the operator of the device

Description source  
RWSC

Description of values  
Unique name affiliation.

Field POC\_EMAIL ▶  
Alias ↔ POC\_EMAIL  
Data type ↔ String  
Width ↔ 254  
Precision ↔ 0  
Scale ↔ 0

Field description  
Email for the primary point of contact

Description source  
RWSC

Description of values  
Unique email addresses.

Field PROJECT\_NAME ►

Alias    PROJECT\_NAME  
Data type    ⇔ String  
Width    ⇔ 254  
Precision    ⇔ 0  
Scale    ⇔ 0

Field description  
Name of the project

Description source  
RWSC

Description of values  
Unique project name.

Field PATH\_NAME ►

Alias    ⇔ PATH\_NAME  
Data type    ⇔ String  
Width    ⇔ 254  
Precision    ⇔ 0  
Scale    ⇔ 0

Field description  
The route ID.

Description source  
RWSC

Description of values  
Unique path identification.

Field START\_YEAR ►

Alias    ⇔ START\_YEAR  
Data type    ⇔ Integer  
Width    ⇔ 4  
Precision    ⇔ 0  
Scale    ⇔ 0

Field description  
The start year in the YYYY format for the start of usable data for that path (i.e. the surveys are conducted in structured survey form).

Description source  
RWSC

Description of values  
Year in YYYY format.

Field END\_YEAR ►

Alias    ⇔ END\_YEAR  
Data type    ⇔ Integer  
Width    ⇔ 4  
Precision    ⇔ 0  
Scale    ⇔ 0

Field description  
The end year in the YYYY format for the end of usable data for that path (i.e. the surveys are conducted in structured survey form). (\*Default set to 2050 if no available end year)

Description source  
RWSC

Description of values  
Year in YYYY format.

Field START\_DATE ►

Alias    ⇔ START\_DATE  
Data type    ⇔ String  
Width    ⇔ 254  
Precision    ⇔ 0  
Scale    ⇔ 0

Field description  
The start date in the D-Month format for the start of the typical survey season. (\*NOT an actual date field, keeping it as text so that it doesn't add a default year)

Description source  
RWSC

Description of values  
Text start date for season.

Field END\_DATE ►

Alias    ⇔ END\_DATE  
Data type   ⇔ String  
Width    ⇔ 254  
Precision   ⇔ 0  
Scale    ⇔ 0

Field description  
The end date in the D-Month format for the end of the typical survey season. (\*NOT an actual date field, keeping it as text so that it doesn't add a default year)

Description source  
RWSC

Description of values  
Text end date for season.

Field FREQUENCY ►

Alias    ⇔ FREQUENCY  
Data type   ⇔ String  
Width    ⇔ 254  
Precision   ⇔ 0  
Scale    ⇔ 0

Field description  
Proposed/approximate frequency of surveys throughout the survey season

Description source  
RWSC

Description of values  
Unique frequency measure.

Field PROJECT\_LINK ►

Alias    PROJECT\_LINK  
Data type   ⇔ String  
Width    ⇔ 254  
Precision   ⇔ 0  
Scale    ⇔ 0

Field description  
Link to the project entry in the RWSC database if applicable

Description source  
RWSC

Description of values  
Unique link address.

Field DATE\_SUBMITTED ►

Alias    DATE\_SUBMITTED  
Data type   ⇔ Date  
Width    ⇔ 8  
Precision   ⇔ 0  
Scale    ⇔ 0

Field description  
The date the shapefiles were sent to the RWSC

Description source  
RWSC

Description of values  
Date field.

Field DATE\_ADDED ►

Alias    ⇔ DATE\_ADDED  
Data type   ⇔ Date  
Width    ⇔ 8  
Precision   ⇔ 0  
Scale    ⇔ 0

Field description  
The date the entries were added to map

Description source  
RWSC

Description of values  
Date field.

Field LABEL ▶

Alias LABEL  
Data type ⇔ String  
Width ⇔ 254  
Precision ⇔ 0  
Scale ⇔ 0

Field description  
The proposed layer name to appear in the table of contents

Description source  
RWSC

Description of values  
Unique label for use in symbology.

Field Shape\_Length ▶

Alias ⇔ Shape\_Length  
Data type ⇔ Double  
Width ⇔ 8  
Precision ⇔ 0  
Scale ⇔ 0

Field description ⇔  
Length of feature in internal units.

Description source ⇔  
Esri

Description of values ⇔  
Positive real numbers that are automatically generated.

Metadata Details ▶

Metadata language ⇔ English (UNITED STATES)  
Metadata character set ⇔ utf8 - 8 bit UCS Transfer Format

Scope of the data described by the metadata ⇔ dataset  
Scope name ⇔ dataset

Last update ⇔ 2024-07-14

ArcGIS metadata properties

Metadata format ArcGIS 1.0  
Standard or profile used to edit metadata FGDC

Created in ArcGIS for the item 2024-01-24 12:31:40  
Last modified in ArcGIS for the item 2024-07-14 22:45:12

Automatic updates

Have been performed Yes  
Last update 2024-07-14 22:45:12

Item location history

Item copied or moved 2024-01-24 12:31:40  
From C:\Users\jozog\OneDrive - HDR, Inc\GIS\HDR\_NARW\_Aerial\_Tracklines  
To \\DZ7YXT3\C\$\Users\jozog\OneDrive - HDR, Inc\GIS\Aerial\_for\_Jackie\HDR\_NARW\_Aerial\_Tracklines

Metadata Contacts ▶

Metadata contact - originator

Individual's name Debbie Brill  
Organization's name Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative  
Contact's position Marine Mammals Subcommittee Lead

Contact information ▶

Phone  
Voice NA  
Address  
Type postal  
City NA  
Administrative area NA  
Postal code NA  
e-mail address Deborah.brill@duke.edu