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public access data request

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Hi,

Nice speaking with you this afternoon about your project that seeks to find the length of publicly accessible shoreline. As I mentioned, it's a very complicated, very nuanced analysis that will require the use of GIS.

Below are links to the data you requested as well as some others that will allow you better understand the intricacies of your project that seeks to find the length of publicly accessible shoreline.

CZM Coast Guide Online data:

- https://services1.arcgis.com/7iJyYTjCtKsZS1LR/arcgis/rest/services/Coast_Guide_Online_Public_Access_Sites/FeatureServer <<< add this to GIS software OR use the Data tab to see the data in a tabular format
- <https://mass-eoeaa.maps.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=5cd8764888fe49df834a8cfd196f694> <<< use the download link for a GIS shapefile (open standard that can be read into a bunch of different platforms such as R and MatLab)

Please note that ALL data in these files represent are publicly accessible coastline.

Data on shorelines can be found here:

- <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/shorelength.html>
- <https://shoreline.noaa.gov/index.html> <<< there are many Massachusetts shorelines all of which have different lengths.

Form the same site is this statement that is also applicable to Mass.

“What is the legal U.S. shoreline?”

“There is no legal reference that designates one specific shoreline as the legal shoreline. Furthermore, there is no simple answer to this question as there are many legal, technical, and general uses of the terms related to shoreline (shoreline, coastline, baseline, mean high-water line, mean-low water line, etc.).”

In very general terms, about ¼ of the MA coastline is publicly accessible. Note that that statement says coastline, not beach. Ferreting out specific landforms from the entire coastline which includes marsh, bluffs, bedrock outcrops, etc. adds another complication to your analysis. You can get some of that data here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massgis-data-massdep-wetlands-2005>. You will need to query the data to include only “coastal beaches” and possibly other

features of interest such as bank/bluff which may or may not have sand at its base. Use the WETCODE attribute for your query.

This is an ugly project! Good luck and please let me know if you have further questions. CC'ing our Director, Comms person, and the WBUR reporter.

dan

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