

*Please provide the following information, and submit to the NOAA DM Plan Repository.*

### **Reference to Master DM Plan (if applicable)**

*As stated in Section IV, Requirement 1.3, DM Plans may be hierarchical. If this DM Plan inherits provisions from a higher-level DM Plan already submitted to the Repository, then this more-specific Plan only needs to provide information that differs from what was provided in the Master DM Plan.*

URL of higher-level DM Plan (if any) as submitted to DM Plan Repository:

## **1. General Description of Data to be Managed**

### **1.1. Name of the Data, data collection Project, or data-producing Program:**

Biologically Important Areas for Cetaceans within U.S. Waters 2015-03-01 - Present

### **1.2. Summary description of the data:**

The Cetacean Density and Distribution Mapping Working Group identified Biologically Important Areas (BIAs) for 24 cetacean species, stocks, or populations in seven regions ( US East Coast, Gulf of Mexico, West Coast, Hawaiian Islands, Gulf of Alaska, Aleutian Islands and Bering Sea, and Arctic [encompassing the northeastern Chukchi and western Beaufort seas]) within US waters. BIAs are reproductive areas, feeding areas, migratory corridors, and areas in which small and resident populations are concentrated. BIAs are region-, species-, and time-specific. Information provided for each BIA includes the following: 1) a written narrative describing the information, assumptions, and logic used to delineate the BIA; 2) a map of the BIA; 3) a list of references used in the assessment; and 4) a metadata table that concisely details the type and quantity of information used to define a BIA, providing transparency in how BIAs were designated in a quick reference table format. BIAs were identified through an expert elicitation process. The delineation of BIAs does not have direct or immediate regulatory consequences. Rather, the BIA assessment is intended to provide the best available science to help inform regulatory and management decisions under existing authorities about some, though not all, important cetacean areas in order to minimize the impacts of anthropogenic activities on cetaceans and to achieve conservation and protection goals. In addition, the BIAs and associated information may be used to identify information gaps and prioritize future research and modeling efforts to better understand cetaceans, their habitat, and ecosystems.

### **1.3. Is this a one-time data collection, or an ongoing series of measurements?**

One-time data collection

### **1.4. Actual or planned temporal coverage of the data:**

2015-03-01

### **1.5. Actual or planned geographic coverage of the data:**

W: -179.726956, E: -66.19249, N: 72.265057, S: 18.59151

US Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

**1.6. Type(s) of data:**

*(e.g., digital numeric data, imagery, photographs, video, audio, database, tabular data, etc.)*

Map (digital)

**1.7. Data collection method(s):**

*(e.g., satellite, airplane, unmanned aerial system, radar, weather station, moored buoy, research vessel, autonomous underwater vehicle, animal tagging, manual surveys, enforcement activities, numerical model, etc.)*

**1.8. If data are from a NOAA Observing System of Record, indicate name of system:**

**1.8.1. If data are from another observing system, please specify:**

**2. Point of Contact for this Data Management Plan (author or maintainer)**

**2.1. Name:**

Timothy J Haverland

**2.2. Title:**

Metadata Contact

**2.3. Affiliation or facility:**

**2.4. E-mail address:**

tim.haverland@noaa.gov

**2.5. Phone number:**

301-427-8137

**3. Responsible Party for Data Management**

*Program Managers, or their designee, shall be responsible for assuring the proper management of the data produced by their Program. Please indicate the responsible party below.*

**3.1. Name:**

Megan Ferguson

**3.2. Title:**

Data Steward

**4. Resources**

*Programs must identify resources within their own budget for managing the data they produce.*

**4.1. Have resources for management of these data been identified?**

Yes

**4.2. Approximate percentage of the budget for these data devoted to data management (specify percentage or "unknown"):**

Unknown

**5. Data Lineage and Quality**

*NOAA has issued Information Quality Guidelines for ensuring and maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information which it disseminates.*

**5.1. Processing workflow of the data from collection or acquisition to making it publicly accessible**

*(describe or provide URL of description):*

Lineage Statement:

Some BIAs were created by digitizing high density portions of density rasters; many were created from sightings data paired with expert input to determine boundary lines. Individual species BIA narratives and accompanying supplementary tables give the most detailed description of how each BIA was determined. BIA boundaries are not exact, but are the best approximation of the areas used by animals that are of biological importance to the health and overall survival of the individual and the species. Each BIA was reviewed by at least 7 and up to 20 experts, including reviews prior to the publication process, and rigorous peer-reviews during the journal's publication process.

**5.1.1. If data at different stages of the workflow, or products derived from these data, are subject to a separate data management plan, provide reference to other plan:**

**5.2. Quality control procedures employed (describe or provide URL of description):**

Each BIA was reviewed by at least 7 and up to 20 experts, including reviews prior to the publication process, and rigorous peer-reviews during the journal's publication process.

**6. Data Documentation**

*The EDMC Data Documentation Procedural Directive requires that NOAA data be well documented, specifies the use of ISO 19115 and related standards for documentation of new data, and provides links to resources and tools for metadata creation and validation.*

**6.1. Does metadata comply with EDMC Data Documentation directive?**

No

**6.1.1. If metadata are non-existent or non-compliant, please explain:**

Missing/invalid information:

- 1.7. Data collection method(s)

**6.2. Name of organization or facility providing metadata hosting:**

NMFS Office of Science and Technology

**6.2.1. If service is needed for metadata hosting, please indicate:**

**6.3. URL of metadata folder or data catalog, if known:**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/23643>

**6.4. Process for producing and maintaining metadata**

*(describe or provide URL of description):*

Metadata produced and maintained in accordance with the NOAA Data Documentation Procedural Directive: [https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/DAARWG/docs/EDMC\\_PD-Data\\_Documentation\\_v1.pdf](https://nosc.noaa.gov/EDMC/DAARWG/docs/EDMC_PD-Data_Documentation_v1.pdf)

**7. Data Access**

*NAO 212-15 states that access to environmental data may only be restricted when distribution is explicitly limited by law, regulation, policy (such as those applicable to personally identifiable information or protected critical infrastructure information or proprietary trade information) or by security requirements. The EDMC Data Access Procedural Directive contains specific guidance, recommends the use of open-standard, interoperable, non-proprietary web services, provides information about resources and tools to enable data access, and includes a Waiver to be submitted to justify any approach other than full, unrestricted public access.*

**7.1. Do these data comply with the Data Access directive?**

Yes

**7.1.1. If the data are not to be made available to the public at all, or with limitations, has a Waiver (Appendix A of Data Access directive) been filed?**

**7.1.2. If there are limitations to public data access, describe how data are protected from unauthorized access or disclosure:**

**7.2. Name of organization of facility providing data access:**

NMFS Office of Science and Technology (OST)

**7.2.1. If data hosting service is needed, please indicate:**

No

**7.2.2. URL of data access service, if known:**

[http://cetsound.noaa.gov/Assets/cetsound/data/CetMap\\_BIA\\_WGS84.zip](http://cetsound.noaa.gov/Assets/cetsound/data/CetMap_BIA_WGS84.zip)

[http://services2.arcgis.com/C8EMgrsFcRFL6LrL/arcgis/rest/services/CetMap\\_BIA/FeatureServer](http://services2.arcgis.com/C8EMgrsFcRFL6LrL/arcgis/rest/services/CetMap_BIA/FeatureServer)

**7.3. Data access methods or services offered:**

Data may be downloaded on demand using the URLs provided.

**7.4. Approximate delay between data collection and dissemination:**

0 Days

**7.4.1. If delay is longer than latency of automated processing, indicate under what authority data access is delayed:**

## 8. Data Preservation and Protection

*The NOAA Procedure for Scientific Records Appraisal and Archive Approval describes how to identify, appraise and decide what scientific records are to be preserved in a NOAA archive.*

### 8.1. Actual or planned long-term data archive location:

*(Specify NCEI-MD, NCEI-CO, NCEI-NC, NCEI-MS, World Data Center (WDC) facility, Other, To Be Determined, Unable to Archive, or No Archiving Intended)*

NCEI\_MD

#### 8.1.1. If World Data Center or Other, specify:

#### 8.1.2. If To Be Determined, Unable to Archive or No Archiving Intended, explain:

### 8.2. Data storage facility prior to being sent to an archive facility (if any):

NMFS Office of Science and Technology - Silver Spring, MD

Location Description:

### 8.3. Approximate delay between data collection and submission to an archive facility:

200 Days

### 8.4. How will the data be protected from accidental or malicious modification or deletion prior to receipt by the archive?

*Discuss data back-up, disaster recovery/contingency planning, and off-site data storage relevant to the data collection*

This application is hosted by the Office of Science and Technology within the NOAA System 4020 and is compliant with all applicable Federal Government security policies.

Edit access to data is subject to role-based authentication and access control.

Data are currently stored on secure and backed up NOAA system.

## 9. Additional Line Office or Staff Office Questions

*Line and Staff Offices may extend this template by inserting additional questions in this section.*