

DMR's Seafloor Mapping in the Gulf of Maine

Maine Department of Marine Resources
Bureau of Marine Science
Division of Ecology and the Environment

Jesse Minor, MCMC program lead
jesse.minor@maine.gov

Peyton Benson, MCMC lead hydrographer
peyton.benson@maine.gov

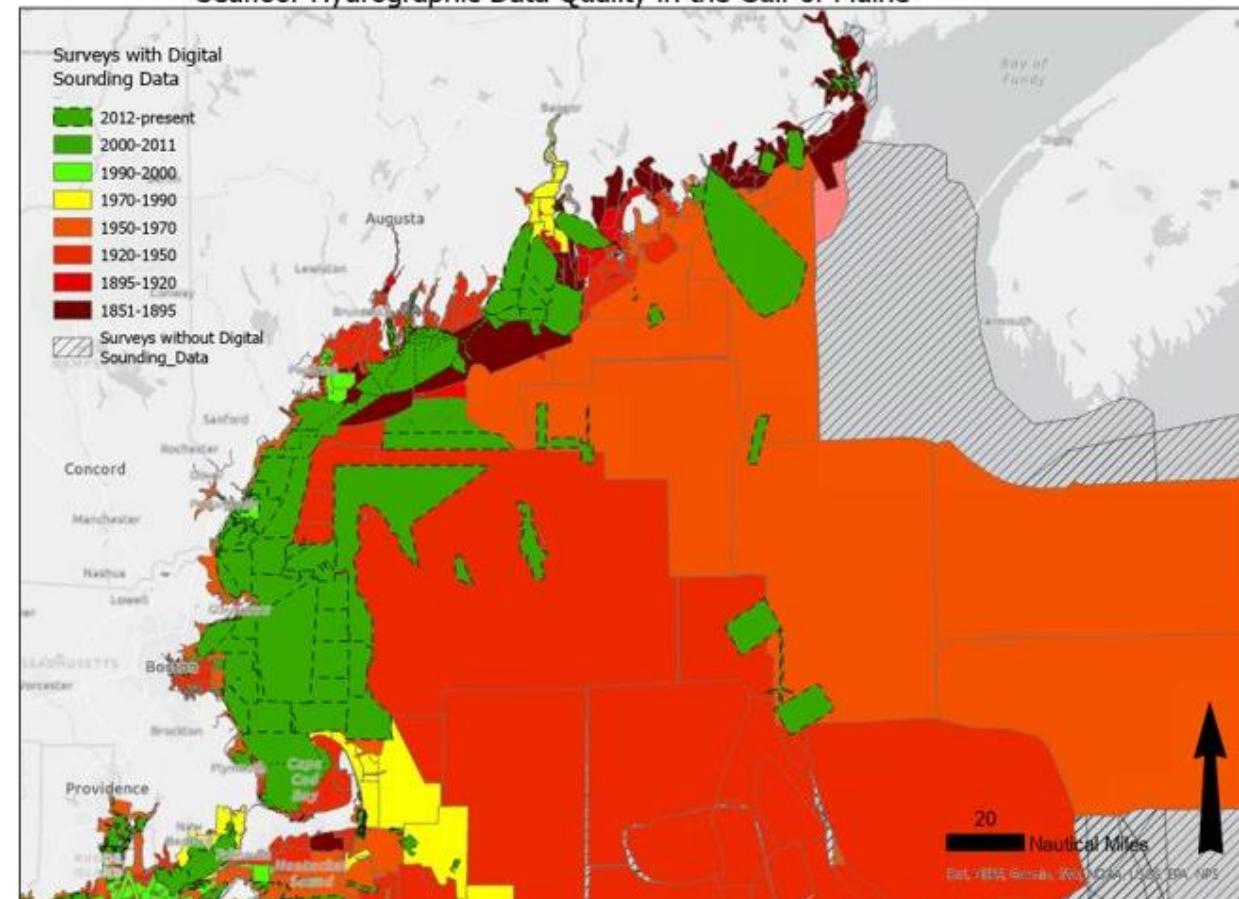


Enhanced Mapping Efforts in 2024

Partnership with Governor's Energy Office:

- Contract 2 additional commercial fishing vessels for sonar surveys
 - F/V Amy Gale continues existing priority mapping
- Staff 3 sonar-equipped vessels with hydrographer and wildlife observers
 - 7 temporary/seasonal positions
 - Funding for a new sonar system
 - Multi-day continuous survey operations
- Rapidly fill data gaps relevant to potential offshore wind development
 - Result: habitat maps and seafloor classification

Seafloor Hydrographic Data Quality in the Gulf of Maine



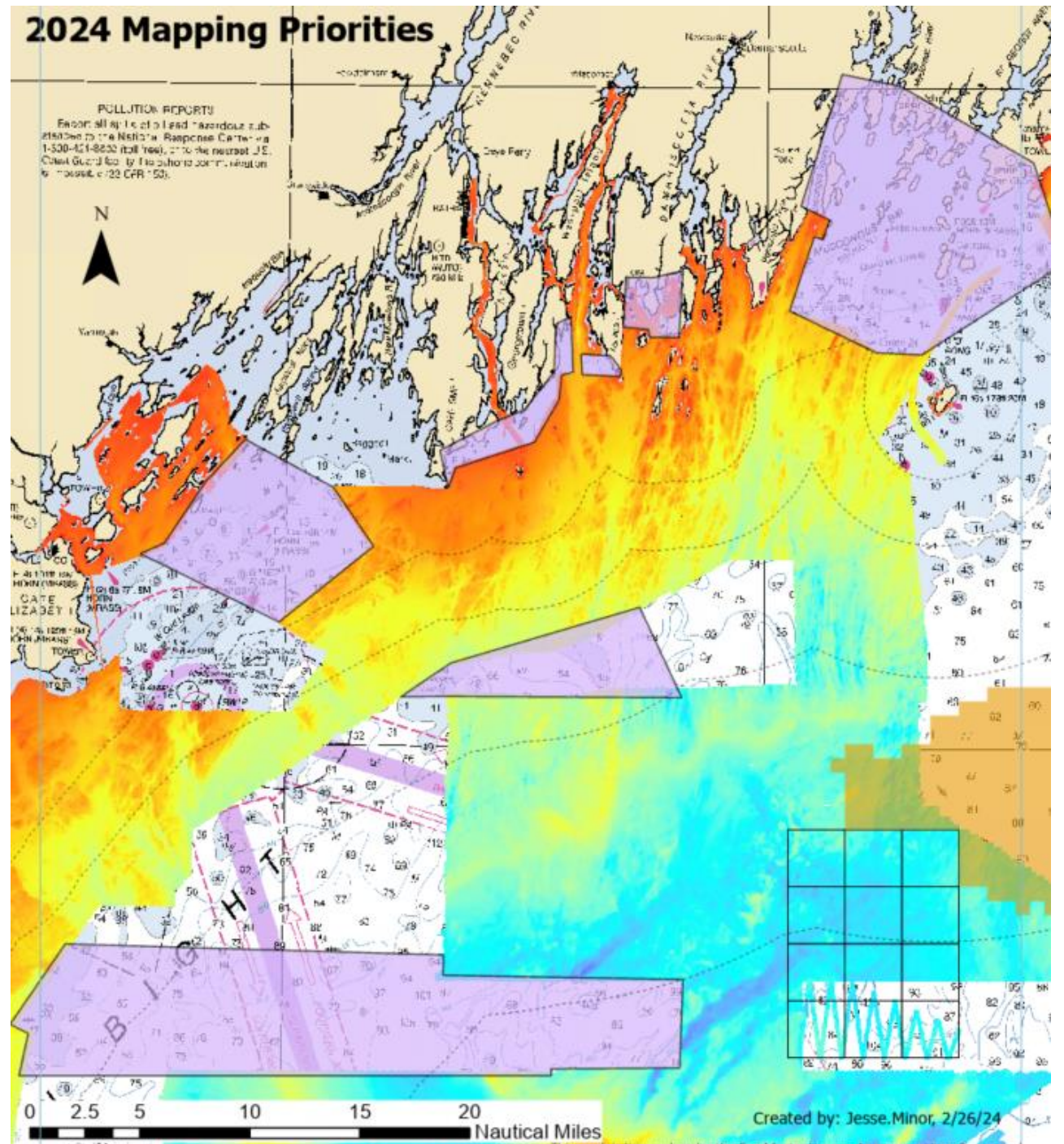
Existing Mapping Priorities

Inshore:

- Muscongus Bay
- Midcoast data gaps
- outer Casco Bay

Offshore:

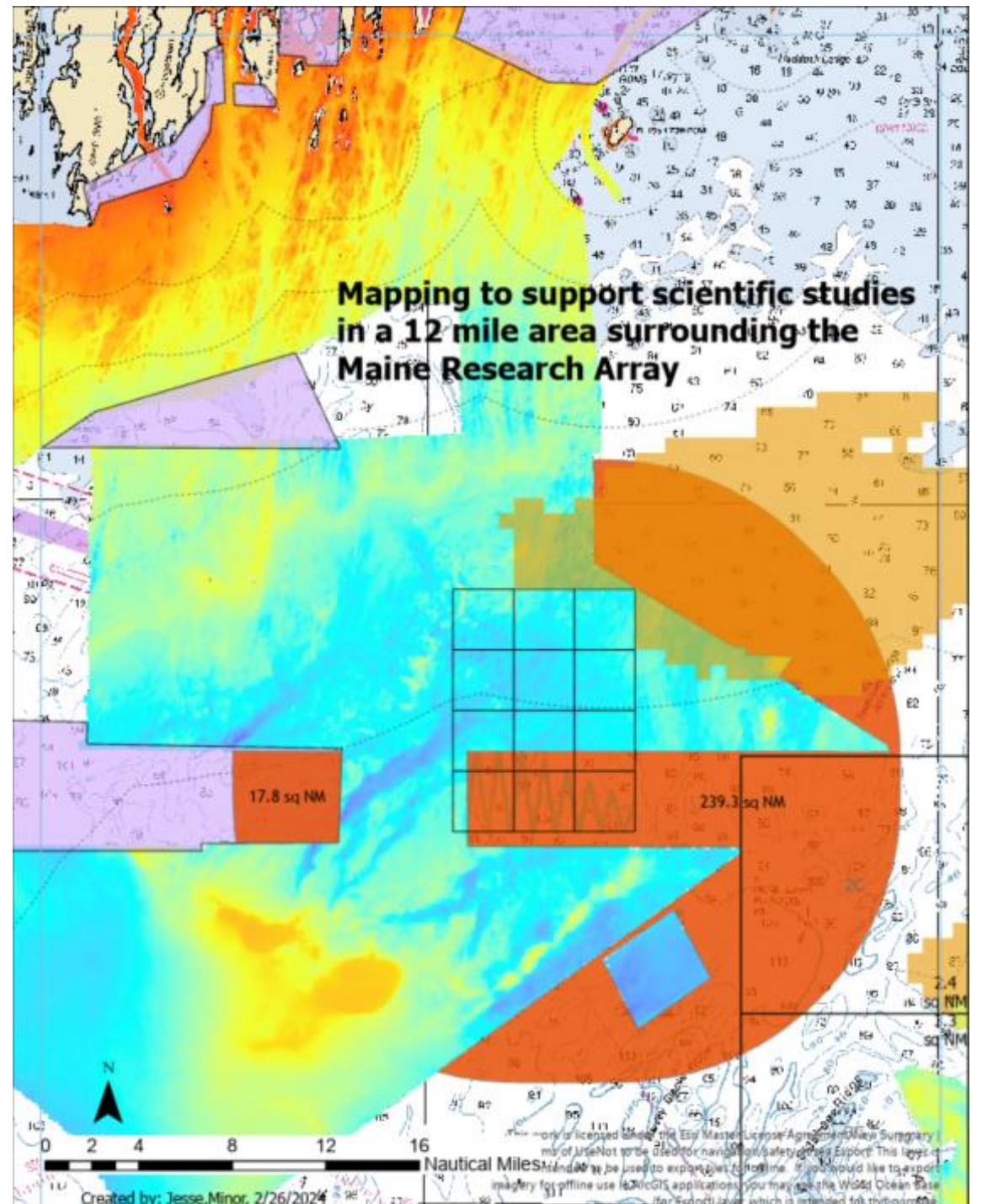
- The “Triangle”
- The “Pistol” west of the Research Array



New Mapping Priorities

Maine Research Array:

- Data gaps in and near the potential lease area
- Multiple DMR and partner scientific studies occurring within 12 miles of the potential lease area



Expanded Mapping Priorities

BOEM-designated Wind Energy Areas:

- Very little bathymetry in the WEAs
- Focus
 - east of Cashes Ledge
 - Data gap between MERA and WEAs
- Target
 - 840 nmi² survey area

