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Geologic Sea-Floor Mapping: Marine Data Model Case Study

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The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Woods Hole Science Center and the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) are collaborating on a project to conduct geologic sea-floor mapping in coastal Massachusetts. The goal of this project is to study the regional geologic framework of the area and produce maps of bathymetry, shaded relief, and interpretation of the sea-floor geology. In addition, these data will provide the basis for additional studies, such as benthic habitat mapping. This paper will discuss the application of the Marine Data Model to shallow-water geologic sea-floor mapping in Massachusetts. This case study will investigate the utility of the Model for both data management and data analysis of common marine geological data sets including bathymetry, sidescan-sonar mosaics, seismic-reflection profiles, surficial sediment samples, bottom photographs, bottom video, and sound velocity profiles.

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