

Beginning with Habitat

Agreement for the Release of Digital Data

Digital Data Available – all datasets are provided as shapefiles. Spatial information is mapped in Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projection, NAD 83, for zone 19N.

The recipient requesting access to any of these digital databases agrees to abide by the terms and guidelines specified below.

1. **Currency.** The information contained in the Beginning with Habitat databases changes as existing features are updated and new data are added. The information provided in this release will, therefore, become outdated. When discrepancies occur between the databases provided to the recipient and Beginning with Habitat's current databases, the data in Beginning with Habitat's databases will be the correct data.
2. **Comprehensiveness.** Site-specific or comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted for the entire state. The databases provided in this release cannot be relied on to provide a definitive statement of the presence or absence of important habitats or rare, endangered, or threatened species. These databases cannot be substituted for on-site surveys that may be required for environmental reviews/assessments or conservation planning.
3. **Resolution.** The scale at which the data were collected and mapped limits use and analysis of geographic data. These databases are intended for use at a scale of 1:24,000 or smaller (1:50,000 for example). Use of these databases (by zooming or enlarging) at a scale greater than 1:24,000 (1:12,000 for example) may produce unintended and potentially inaccurate results.
4. **Accuracy.** Appropriate use and interpretation of these databases depends on the source information and the intended purpose for which the data were mapped. Field observations, aerial photographs, satellite imagery, and computer modeling all were used to create the databases. Field observations and aerial photographs (depending on resolution and vintage) provide the most accurate data. Satellite imagery and computer modeling generally are used to map areas of potential habitat. Please read the metadata provided with each data layer carefully to understand fully the methods used to map different features and their intended use.
5. **Modifications.** Beginning with Habitat generally does not support any modifications to the provided databases. Modifications are not allowed except as specified below:
 - a. Conversion from the provided shapefile format to another database format (e.g., personal geodatabase, ARC/INFO coverage) is allowed.
 - b. Reprojection from UTM NAD83 Zone 19N to another projection and/or datum is allowed.
 - c. Manipulation of feature geometry in the existing database (e.g., merging/splitting features, editing boundaries) will not be allowed. Any modifications to feature geometries must be stored in a new database with accompanying metadata clearly explaining that feature geometries have been modified, how geometries were modified, and for what purpose they were modified.
 - d. Manipulation of feature attributes in the existing database fields will not be allowed. Any modifications to attribute values must be stored in a new attribute field with accompanying metadata clearly explaining how the original attribute values were modified and for what purpose they were modified.

Any errors introduced through modification of the provided databases, including those described above, will be the responsibility of the recipient. Beginning with Habitat does not recommend any modifications to these databases. All copies and distributions of modified data must clearly indicate how and why the data was changed from the original database.

6. Copies. The databases provided in this release may be copied onto the GIS system of the recipient where they may be accessible to staff of the recipient's agency or organization. The recipient may make additional copies of this data for backup purposes. The recipient may not make additional copies of these databases for any other agency, organization or individual. Requests for copies by other parties must be referred to Beginning with Habitat.
7. Distribution. The recipient may distribute the information from these databases to other agencies, organizations, or the public via publications, reports, or paper maps that reference Beginning with Habitat as the source of the data and the month and year that the data was provided. Two copies of any publications, reports or paper maps prepared with these data should be supplied to Beginning with Habitat. Digital representations of features from these databases within an Internet Mapping Service (IMS) must be as images only.
8. Questions regarding this data release, data interpretation, or the above guidelines should be directed to - maine.bwh@maine.gov