



Interactive Map of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

GIS-based mapping tool

In partnership with the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information created an on-line GIS-based mapping tool of the sanctuary. The application uses Google Map, enabling the viewer to zoom in and out, and turn layers on or off.

In addition to East Flower Garden, West Flower Garden and Stetson Banks, this interactive page includes information about a number of other reefs and banks of the northwestern Gulf of Mexico. Many of these banks are currently under consideration for potential sanctuary boundary expansion. The interactive map has been used by Flower Garden Banks as a marine spatial planning tool. Current options include habitat characterization, regional bathymetry, jurisdictional and regulatory boundaries, buoy locations, oil and gas platforms and pipelines, shipping fairways, and cruise tracks for the sanctuary research vessel R/V MANTA. Another notable feature is the incorporation of Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) tracks with associated photos.

Partners

The underlying information, including bathymetry, ROV tracks and images, and biological information, is the result of an enormous effort by many partners: U.S. Geological Survey; University of New Hampshire; U.S. Minerals Management Service; NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration; National Undersea Research

Center – University of North Carolina at Wilmington; The Smithsonian Institution; long-term monitoring contractors, students, volunteers and interns; and dozens of marine scientists who assisted in the identification process.



MAP TOOL

Bathymetry, biological information, management zones, oil and gas activities, oceanographic data, and remotely operated vehicle tracks with associated underwater photographs are made available through this tool.

www.ncddc.noaa.gov/website/google_maps/FGB/mapsFGB.htm

For more information contact:

Emma Hickerson, Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Research Coordinator
(emma.hickerson@noaa.gov)

