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New Jersey Department of Transportation Bureau of Research



Location of Marinas in New Jersey

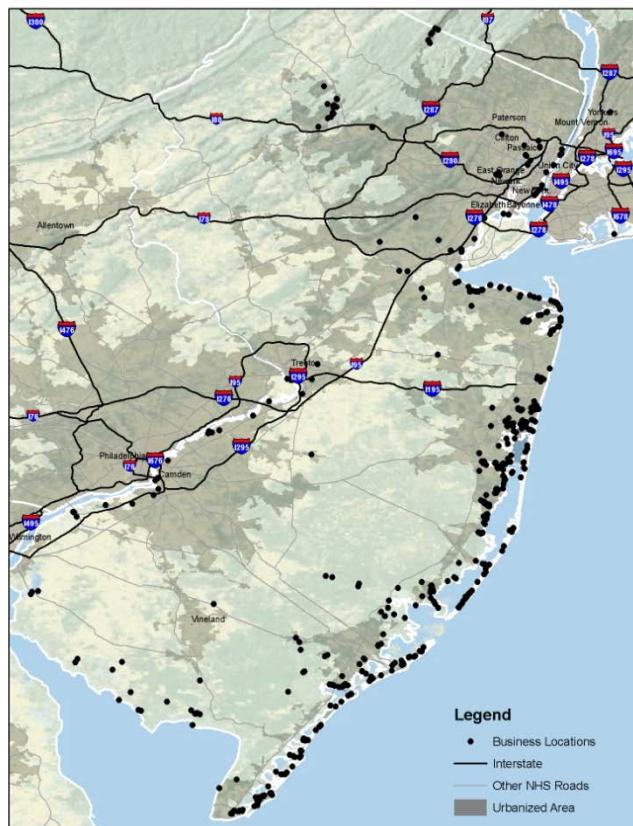
The New Jersey Department of Transportation Office of Marine Resources is interested in developing an improved database of marinas in the state to be better able to provide grants and other support to these businesses. Several methods of locating marinas were tested. The most effective method was to directly contact individual municipal tax assessors, though information availability varied from one municipality to another. A regular, rotating data collection effort from municipalities with marinas could produce a better understand of the locations of these businesses.

Background

The New Jersey Department of Transportation's Office of Maritime Resources (OMR) is the State's advocate for New Jersey's marine trade industry. The OMR does not have a comprehensive database to monitor and support these facilities. The OMR provides grant programs and other efforts to help promote and improve maritime industry in the state. An improved list of marinas in the State increases our ability to support marinas and other maritime resources that maybe eligible for these programs.

Research Objectives and Approach

Several methods were used to locate marinas, including a search of web sites that provide listings of marinas and related businesses and contacts with other New Jersey government agencies, county and local governments, and direct contacts with marinas. The conclusions of this research indicate that municipal tax assessors provided the most reliable and complete source of information, but collecting marinas from individual tax assessor offices is time consuming.



Findings

The findings of the research were as follows:

- Most state and county government agencies in New Jersey do not maintain information about marinas that would be useful to NJDOT OMR.
- The NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Land Use Regulation does maintain an index of records for the properties in the state of New Jersey from which information on marina properties could be extracted. However, this information was not available during the timeframe of the research effort.
- County departments of taxation, parks and recreation, and planning and development generally did not have information about marinas located within their jurisdictions, with some exceptions.
- Municipal tax assessors were the best source for identifying marinas in the state, but the process to collect the information is time consuming. Each tax assessor must be contacted individually, and not all were responsive.

Our recommendation is that the Office of Marine Resources (OMR) conduct targeted outreach to individual municipal tax assessor offices, with a focus on known gaps in the list of marinas. This will allow the OMR to develop relationships with the tax assessors that may enable more efficient and comprehensive data collection on marinas in the future using surveys or other methods.

For More Information Contact:

NJDOT Project Manager:	Stefanie Potapa
	609-530-2861
	Stefanie.potapa@dot.state.nj.us
Principal Investigator:	Hugh Louch
	<i>Cambridge Systematics</i>
	215-948-2829
	hlouch@camsys.com

A final report is available online at: <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/refdata/research/>. If you would like a copy of the full report, send an e-mail to: Research.Bureau@dot.state.nj.us.

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