README for "National Waterway Network 1996-Present" dataset.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Navigation Data Center; U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)[distributor]
2021-04-14

LINKS TO DATASET

A. Dataset archive link:
https://doi.org/10.21949/1520809

SUMMARY OF DATASET

The National Waterway Network is a comprehensive network database of the nation's navigable waterways. The data set covers the 48 contiguous states plus the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and water links between. The nominal scale of the dataset varies with the source material. The majority of the information is at 1:100,000 with larger scales used in harbor/bay/port areas and smaller scales used in open waters.

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A. GENERAL INFORMATION
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0. Title of Dataset:
   National Waterway Network 1996-Present [datasets]

1. Description of Dataset:
   The National Waterway Network is a comprehensive network database of the nation's navigable
   waterways. The data set covers the 48 contiguous states plus the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Alaska,
   Puerto Rico and water links between. The nominal scale of the dataset varies with the source material.
   The majority of the information is at 1:100,000 with larger scales used in harbor/bay/port areas and
   smaller scales used in open waters.

2. Dataset archive link:
   https://doi.org/10.21949/1520809

3. Authorship Information:
   Principal Data Creator or Data Manager Contact Information
        Institution: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
        Address: 7701 Telegraph Rd, Alexandria VA 22315
        Email: WSD-REACHBACK@usace.army.mil

   Data Distributor Contact Information
        Name: National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)
        Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), The Office of
        Spatial Analysis and Visualization (OSAV)
        Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington D.C. 20590
        Email: ntad@dot.gov

4. Date of data collection and update interval:
   Every 2 weeks

5. Geographic location of data collection:
   United States of America.

6. Information about funding sources that supported the collection of the data:
   U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

B. SHARING/ACCESS & POLICIES INFORMATION
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0. Recommended citation for the data:
   U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Army Geospatial Center; U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics [distributor]. (2020). National Waterway Network 1996-Present [datasets]. https://doi.org/10.21949/1520809.

1. Licenses/restrictions placed on the data:
   These data are in the Public Domain.

2. Was data derived from another source?:
   No.

3. This dataset and its documentation was created to meet the requirements enumerated in the U.S. Department of Transportation's 'Plan to Increase Public Access to the Results of Federally-Funded Scientific Research' Version 1.1 << https://doi.org/10.21949/1520559 >> and guidelines suggested by the DOT Public Access website << https://doi.org/10.21949/1503647 >>, in effect and current as of December 03, 2020.

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C. DATA & RELATED FILE OVERVIEW
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1. File List for the bts_NTAD_Waterway_Data_Package.zip collection

    A. Filename:
     waterway_XXXX.zip
       Short description:
       Compressed file folders containing the geospatial data for National Waterway Network 1996
       -Present dataset.

    B. Filename:
     bts_waterway_DMP_20210414.pdf
       Short description:
       A PDF file containing the Data Management Plan that was created for current and future
       management of the data and associated files.

    C. Filename:
     bts_waterway_20210414_README.txt
       Short description:
       The README.txt file that includes human-readable information about the data, variable
       definitions, contact information, and other contextual information. The file you are reading now.

2. File List for the waterway_XXXX.zip collection

    A. Filename:
     waterway.shp
       Short description:
       A shapefile containing the geospatial data for National Waterway Network 1996-Present dataset.
       This includes associated files with extensions .prj, .dbf, .sbn, .sbx, .shx.

    B. Filename:
     waterway.txt
       Short description:
       A text file containing key metadata and documentation information such as methodology,
       procedures, data dictionary, etc.

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D. METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION
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1. Description of methods used for collection/generation of data:
Merging of inland and offshore waterway networks. A specialized program was written to merge the two networks. In general, Vanderbilt node locations were accepted as authoritative when both data sets had the same elements. This meant moving an Oak Ridge link incident to that node. If the link was classified geographically ocean or Great Lakes, and a Vanderbilt link or chain existed with the same ID and endpoints, the Oak Ridge link was discarded, after transfer of Oak Ridge attributes. If the Oak Ridge link was within 2 km of the new end nodes' location: and 1) if a duplicate Vanderbilt link existed with a higher source code, it replaced the Oak Ridge link, or 2) the Oak Ridge link was moved by a logistic adjustment to the new location. (This causes modest disruption to the preponderance of the shape, yet assured that the angle of approach to the displaced end node location was preserved.) If the link was functionally classed "deep draft" and a duplicate Vanderbilt link had an authoritative source code, the Oak Ridge link was replaced. Otherwise an additional shape point was added at the end to snap to the new node location without disrupting the original link shape. If the link had a Vanderbilt duplicate with the same ID, the Oak Ridge link was so flagged to be manually resolved. The composite network was then cleaned manually, resolving all cases of still remaining duplicate links and deciding case-by-case how to smooth or otherwise accommodate a highly displaced Oak Ridge shape into the Vanderbilt digitized node location, using TIGER shorelines as a background.

2. Instrument- or software-specific information needed to interpret the data:
   The data and documentation files can be opened with Esri ArcMap and any GIS software package.

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E. DATA-SPECIFIC INFORMATION
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1. XXXXXX data table
   Data is updated every two weeks. Dataset Manager is contacted to verify changes to data resulting in NTAD update. The metadata is updated in the same manner. For the most recent data, please visit the NTAD catalog at https://data-usdot.opendata.arcgis.com/

A. Number of variables (columns):
   The data dictionary found in (TXT documentation) provides definitions for the variables

B. Data Dictionary/Variable List:
   Because of the large number of variables, please refer to the Data Dictionary found within the file waterway.txt for names, definitions, and formats of variables.

C. Missing data codes:
   None

F. UPDATE LOG

This bts_Waterway_202104_README.txt file was originally created on 2021-04-14 by Dominic Menegus, Geographer, dominic.menegus@dot.gov

[Note changes or update to the readme.txt file, e.g.:]

2021-04-14: Original file created