



## UNCREWED SURFACE VEHICLES IN WATER

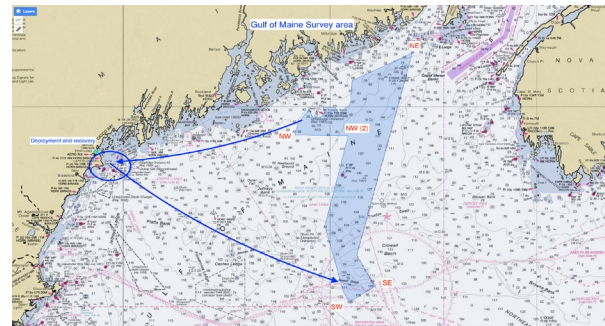
Gulf of Maine Mapping Project  
28 August 2023 to 18 October 2023

SAILDRONE, INC. will be conducting research to collect high resolution seafloor bathymetry and backscatter data with up to two Uncrewed Surface Vehicles (USVs), called SAILDRONE VOYAGERS, in the eastern third of the Gulf of Maine. These vehicles will conduct 24-hour operations from 28 August through 18 October, weather permitting November.

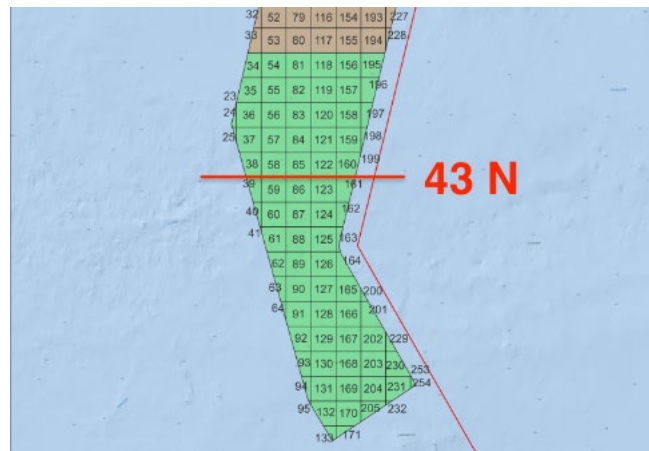
SAILDRONE VOYAGERS are primarily wind-propelled and solar powered Uncrewed Surface Vehicles (USVs) operating exclusively at the surface, except for sound velocity profile (SVP) casts that occur every 3 hours. These SVP casts are taken throughout most of the water column but do not contact the seabed and should not interfere with fishing gear or other structures on the seafloor.

The two vehicles will be working in the same general section of the study area but could be 5-10 miles apart from each other surveying separate tracklines in adjacent blocks. Fishing vessel operators who use fixed gears should avoid setting gear in areas planned for survey to help limit any risk of entanglement between the Saildrone Voyagers' SVP casts and vertical lines. The polygonal area of operation is depicted in the chart and coordinates below.

NE	44°23'58.6"N	67°12'09.2"N
NW	43°47'26.3"N	68°18'56.1"N
NW (2)	43°47'03.2"N	67°49'22.9"N
SW	42°32'05.7"N	67°48'43.2"N
SE	42°38'01.8"N	67°36'17.5"N



Phase 1 of the survey operations will be focused on the southern portion of the survey area, with the first two weeks of operations scheduled to be conducted south of 43° N. As the survey progresses, updates on Voyager locations will be shared bi-weekly.





SAILDRONE VOYAGERS are equipped with radar, Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), and cameras. They operate at speeds between 2-4 kts, moving between a series of predetermined waypoints. Vehicles are monitored remotely 24/7 by the SAILDRONE Mission Control Team.

**VESSELS ARE REQUESTED TO TRANSIT THE AREA WITH CAUTION AND REMAIN GREATER THAN 500 METERS AWAY FROM THE USVs.**



USV	AIS Identification	RADAR Reflector	Color	Lights	L	W	D	H
2022	SD 2022 Unspecified MMSI: 338434815	Yes	Orange	Tri-Color	33'	4'	7'	21'
2023	SD 2023 Unspecified MMSI: 338434837	Yes	Orange	Tri-Color	33'	4'	7'	21'

If you need more specific information regarding the location of the vessel to avoid interactions with fishing operations, or have other questions about the mission, please contact:

Saildrone Mission Control (24/7): [missioncontrol@saildrone.com](mailto:missioncontrol@saildrone.com); 510-722-6070

Saildrone Program Manager: [kitch.kennedy@saildrone.com](mailto:kitch.kennedy@saildrone.com)

For more information about the research, please contact Heather Coleman at NOAA Fisheries: [heather.coleman@noaa.gov](mailto:heather.coleman@noaa.gov).