Global Estuary Database (2003)

Estuaries

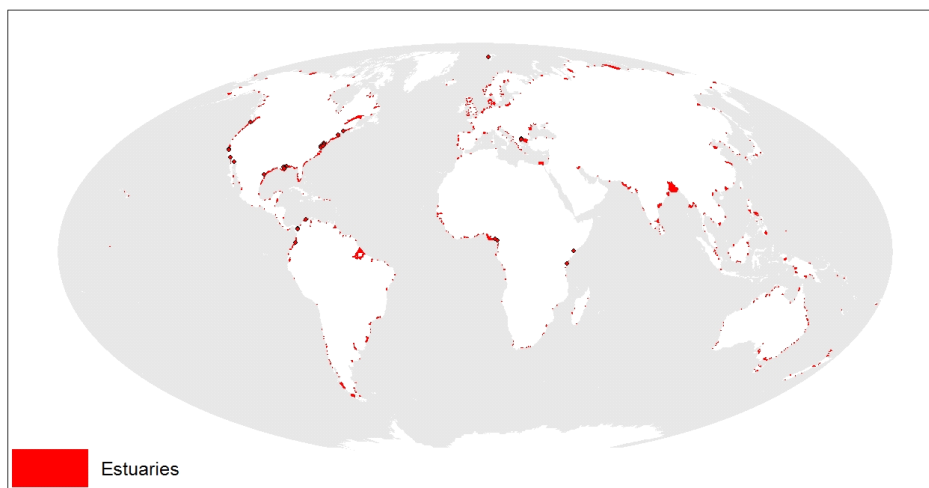|	
Description:	This dataset shows the global distribution of over 1,300 estuaries, including some lagoon systems and fjords. The majority of estuaries are represented by polygons, except for 44 records for which points are available. This dataset was developed by Sea Around Us (www.seaaroundus.org).
Citation(s):	Alder J (2003). Putting the coast in the "Sea Around Us". The Sea Around Us Newsletter 15: 1-2. URL: http://seaaroundus.org/newsletter/Issue15.pdf; http://data.unep-wcmc.org/datasets/23 (version 2.0) Other cited reference(s): Watson R, Alder J, Booth
Temporal range:	2003
Geographical range:	Global
Supplementary information:	Attribute table: estuary ID number (ID Number), estuary name (LABEL), ISO3 country code (COUNTRY), continent (CONTINENT), average discharge in m3.s-1 (cubic metres per second) (DISCHARGE), the years between which the discharge was measured (YEAR_START, YEAR_END), river system (RIVER_SYS), data sources (REF1, REF2). Data sources can be accessed by matching the number in the attribute table (REF1, REF2) with the associated record in the excel file ("UBC-003-SAU-Estuaries2003-References.xlsx") which accompanies the data.
Purpose of creation:	The global estuary database is the first to be designed at a global scale and the first to include digitized shape cells for each estuary. The dataset was created by Sea Around Us (http://www.seaaroundus.org/).
Creation methodology:	Water bodies were selected so as to include the estuaries of all the world's major rivers, as well as the small estuaries of countries without major rivers. As such, no specific minimum size/discharge was applied to determine inclusion of estuaries in the dataset. The information has been gathered from a large number of sources, including reports, journals and electronic resources. Overall, the database accounts for over 80% of the world's freshwater discharge, and contains information about the name, location, surface area (in km2) and mean freshwater input (in m3.s-1)

(cubic metres per second), calculated over a specified number of years.

In 2014, the "Sea Around Us" (University of British Columbia), provided UNEP-WCMC with two spatial datasets: (1) a polygon dataset with no attribute information (apart from ID_NUMBER), and (2) a point dataset with detailed attribute and source information. Using the matching estuary ID numbers, UNEP-WCMC populated the polygon dataset's attribute table ("UBC-003-SAU-Estuaries2003-Polygons.shp") with the relevant information from the point dataset. Where an estuary did not have a corresponding polygon, the information has been retained as point data ("UBC-003-SAU-Estuaries2003-Points-woCorrespondingPolygon.shp"): this dataset (and the original point dataset "UBC-003-SAU-Estuaries2003-AllPoints.shp") are not distributed.

Version:	2.0 (2014)
Data lineage:	This is a modified version of the 2003 version of the dataset. See 'Creation methodology' for details.
Category:	Biogeographic classification
Keywords:	Estuaries, coastal, marine
Similar datasets:	None
Limitations:	There appears to be shifting in some locations. The dataset is not comprehensive and does not include every estuary in the world. The estuaries included are of varying spatial resolutions. These data also include some lagoons and fjords.
Maintenance frequency:	Data are not being updated.
Main access/use constraint:	UNEP-WCMC General Data License (excluding WDPA). See www.unep-wcmc.org/policies/general-data-license-excluding-wdpa#data_policy and www.unep-wcmc.org/policies. For commercial use, please contact business-support@unep-wcmc.org.
Other access/use constraints:	Please cite the data source in all publications.
Contact organisation:	Sea Around Us, University of British Columbia

Organisation type:	Owner	Acronym:	UBC
Name:	Dr. Dirk Zeller	Position:	Senior Researcher
City:	Vancouver	Country:	Canada
E-mail:	d.zeller@fisheries.ubc.ca		
Web site:	www.seaaroundus.org		
Data format(s):	Vector (point; .shp), Vector (polygon; .shp)		
Distribution format(s):	Vector (polygon; .shp)	Dataset size (uncompressed):	4.8 Mb

Dataset ID: UBC-003

Webpage and/or   http://data.unep-wcmc.org/datasets/23
download:

Other webpage: www.seaaroundus.org

Web map service: https://gis.unep-
                 wcmc.org/arcgis/rest/services/marine/UBC_003_SAU_Estuaries/MapServer

Factsheet: www.marbef.org/wiki/estuaries

Resolution, scale:	Not applicable	Reference system:	WGS 1984
West bounding:	-178.9	East bounding:	178.6
South bounding:	-53.6	North bounding:	78.2
Metadata standard:	UNEP-WCMC Specific	Date of metadata:	29/05/2015