



**2020 Covered Agency Annual Report
and Self-Assessment**
for
Department of Commerce

Geospatial Data Act of 2018
Section 759(a) Requirements

March 19, 2021



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Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
ATO	Authorization to Operate
CA	Covered Agency
FGDC	Federal Geographic Data Committee
GDA	Geospatial Data Act
NGAC	National Geospatial Advisory Committee
NGDA	National Geospatial Data Asset(s)
NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructure
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
Agency Acronym	Agency
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DOC	Department of Commerce
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOJ	Department of Justice
DOL	Department of Labor
DOS	Department of State
DOT	Department of Transportation
ED	Department of Education
GSA	General Services Administration
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Treasury	Department of Treasury
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	Environmental Protection Agency
VA	Department of Veterans Affairs

Table of Acronyms.

Introduction

Section 759 (b) of the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) requires each covered agency¹ to submit to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) “an annual report regarding the achievements of the covered agency in preparing and implementing the strategy described in subsection (a)(1) and complying with the other requirements under subsection (a).” [<https://fgdc.gov/gda/online>]

This document serves as the Department of Commerce’s baseline annual report to the FGDC covering the period from October 5, 2018 – when the GDA was enacted – through Fiscal Year 2020 (September 30, 2020). The report was developed through a self-assessment template developed by the FGDC agencies. Subsequent annual reports will each span one fiscal year. The report includes a rating for each covered agency responsibility of "meets expectations," "made progress toward expectations," or "fails to meet expectations," as required by the GDA. A summary and evaluation of all of the covered agency reports will be generated by FGDC and provided to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) for review and comment. The summary reports, along with the NGAC comments, will also become part of the biennial FGDC GDA report to Congress and will be published online.

This report is based on a standardized questionnaire and self-assessment score for each covered agency responsibility. The Department of Commerce has maintained documentation supporting the responses provided for this assessment. This information may be reviewed as part of the biennial Inspector General (IG) audits of covered agencies.

A recommended self-assessment key has been provided for each responsibility. In some cases, optional text is provided for additional insights or to justify a self-assessment selection. Any optional responses provided are not a factor in the self-assessment. Please note that covered agencies are not expected to “meet expectations” in all areas for this first reporting cycle.

Where data or datasets are referenced,² information relates to all geospatial datasets owned or managed by the Department of Commerce that are, or should be, available to the public.

To support a more comprehensive picture of agency compliance and related activities, each agency had the option to submit up to a 2-page document, using the survey, as part of the agency’s submission. If provided, the document may include highlights and examples that can supplement the FGDC report to Congress, support the feedback process with the NGAC, or provide context to Office of the Inspector General (OIG) findings. The Department of Commerce submitted a 2-page document that has been included in this report as Appendix B.

The Department of Commerce self-assessment GDA Covered Agency Annual Report was initially submitted during February 2021.

¹ GDA definition of *agency*: <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/online#the-term-“covered-agency”-—means—an-executive-department-as-def>

² GDA definition of *geospatial data*: <https://www.fgdc.gov/gda/online#the-term-%E2%80%98%E2%80%98geospatial-data%E2%80%99%E2%80%99%E2%80%94means-information-that-is-tied-to-a>

Self-Assessment for Department of Commerce

759(a)(1) Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies

GDA Requirement	Prepare, maintain, publish, and implement a strategy for advancing geographic information and related geospatial data and activities appropriate to the mission of the covered agency, in support of the strategic plan for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure
Agency Self-Assessment	Made Progress Towards Expectations
KEY to Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to Question 1.4 • Made progress toward expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to Questions 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3 • Fails to meet expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No to Questions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4

Clarifying Text: FGDC developed and released a new national strategic plan for the development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) [GDA Sec. 755(c)], which was approved by the FGDC Steering Committee in November 2020. Covered Agency Geospatial Strategies [GDA Sec. 759(a)(1)], which will support the goals in the NSDI strategic plan, are due to be completed and submitted for agency approval by February 26, 2021, per FGDC guidance. For more information, please visit <http://fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan>.

1.1 Has your agency reviewed the draft NSDI strategic plan?

- Yes

1.2 Has your agency developed a plan and timeline to complete development of the Covered Agency Geospatial Strategy appropriate to the agency's mission as required by GDA Sec.759(a)(1)?

- Yes

1.3 Is your Covered Agency Geospatial Strategy on schedule to be completed and submitted for agency approval by February 26, 2021?

- Yes

1.4 Has your agency completed and implemented your plan?

- No

1.5 If your plan is online? If yes, please provide the URL:

- No

1.6 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(1), "Prepare and implement a strategy for advancing geospatial data activities appropriate to the agency's mission."

The Commerce Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI) is leading the alignment and integration of the Commerce Geospatial Strategy with the overall Commerce mission and strategic plan. The current Commerce Geospatial Strategy was in effect for FY 2014 – 2018 and the development of a new Commerce geospatial strategy was delayed while the new NSDI Strategic Plan was developed per the GDA. A new strategy is under active development by the Commerce Geospatial Working Group (CGWG), with members providing content and serving as reviewers. Subject matter experts are coordinated across Commerce to provide input to the new plan including the Commerce Data Governance Board. The Commerce Geospatial Strategic Plan is also tightly integrated with the draft Commerce Open Data Plan. External coordination with members of the FGDC is also underway through the Interagency GDA Working Group and the FGDC Steering Committee. Per the Commerce Inspector General (IG) Audit # OIG-21-001-A, the Commerce Geospatial Strategy will be submitted by March 31, 2021.

759(a)(2) Support Data Sharing

GDA Requirement	Collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data such that the resulting data, information, or products can be readily shared with other federal agencies and non-federal users.
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations
KEY to Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Data is currently shared</i> selections for all agency appropriate parties for Question 2.1 and Yes to Questions 2.2 and 2.3 • Made progress toward expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Data is currently shared</i> selections for some appropriate parties for Question 2.1, or Question 2.2 and 2.3 have a mix of answers • Fails to meet expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No to Questions 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3

Clarifying text:

- This section does not include efforts related to partners, which are covered under Question 7, Section 756(a)(7).
- Review the [GDA definition of geospatial data](#) to consider the questions in this section.
- Remember, your answers should include information about all geospatial datasets owned or managed by your agency that are, or should be, available to the public, not just National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Datasets.
- Sharing standards-based data on the Internet using standard protocols and formats makes it

part of the NSDI.

- Additional detail on the definition of geospatial data may be provided by OMB Circular A-16 when finalized.
- Data that will not or cannot be distributed to the public does not need to be considered for GDA-related responses.

2.1 Does your agency ensure that all eligible geospatial data is managed so it can be shared and is it provided in standard formats, as appropriate? (This will include agency open government and transparency guidelines.)

The following items were selected from a picklist:ⁱ

- Data is currently openly shared to the public.

2.2 Does your agency disseminate eligible geospatial data in a way that can be readily shared in open formats (for example using machine readable formats or searchable metadata)?

- Yes, eligible geospatial data and metadata are shared in open formats.

2.3 Are maintenance processes in place to ensure other Federal agencies and non-federal users have access to the most recent data in addition to data and metadata updates and corrections?

- Yes, agency policies exist to ensure all programs implement data maintenance processes.

2.4 Optional Question: Use the following section to document up to 5 key examples of ongoing or planned activities that ensure eligible geospatial data and associated metadata can be easily shared, understood, and re-used by others, now and in the future.

Title	Description
Commerce Geospatial Data Catalogs	Commerce makes geospatial information and services more useful to the public by providing open, online access to current, accurate, and national data products created using industry-standard formats and catalogued in a standardized locations on agency websites, Data.gov, and the National GeoPlatform for Commerce’s NGDA Theme datasets and many others to meet our geospatial mission. Specific examples of Commerce led NGDA Themes include: Climate & Weather https://www.geoplatform.gov/ngda/climate/ [NOAA] Elevation https://www.geoplatform.gov/ngda/elevation/ [NOAA] Geodetic Control https://www.geoplatform.gov/ngda/geodeticcontrol/ Water, Oceans & Coasts https://www.geoplatform.gov/ngda/waterocean/ [NOAA] Governmental Units and Administrative & Statistical Boundaries Theme https://www.geoplatform.gov/ngda/govunits/ [Census] Address Theme https://www.geoplatform.gov/ngda/address/ [Census]

<p>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Data Discovery Portal</p>	<p>https://data.noaa.gov. The NOAA Data Catalog (https://data.noaa.gov/datasetsearch) is an inventory of all NOAA data collections and includes 91,948 datasets with fully compliant metadata as of 02/19/2021. The user interface allows web-based searching by keywords and other attributes; machine-to-machine searching is available using the OGC CSW protocol (Open Geospatial Consortium Catalog Service for the Web). The NOAA OneStop Platform (https://data.noaa.gov/onestop) provides enhanced collection and granule searching for only those datasets archived at the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI). Emphasis is on both improved search relevancy and overall user experience.</p>
<p>Governmental Units and Administrative & Statistical Boundaries Theme</p>	<p>https://www.geoplatform.gov/ngda/govunits/; Boundaries that delineate geographic areas for uses such as governance and the general provision of services (e.g., States, American Indian reservations, counties, cities, towns, etc.), administration and/or for a specific purpose (e.g., Congressional Districts, school districts, fire districts, Alaska Native Regional Corporations, etc.), and/or provision of statistical data (census tracts, census blocks, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, etc.). Boundaries for these various types of geographic areas are either defined through a documented legal description or through criteria and guidelines. Other boundaries may include international limits, those of federal land ownership, the extent of administrative regions for various federal agencies, as well as the jurisdictional offshore limits of U.S. sovereignty.</p>
<p>Address Theme</p>	<p>https://www.geoplatform.gov/ngda/address/; The Address Theme consists of the data elements, attributes, and metadata that specify a fixed geographic location by reference to a thoroughfare or landmark, or specify a point of postal delivery, or both. The address theme does not include information about occupants or addressees nor does it include the attribute information about any features that may be specified by an address point. The address theme may include linkages to these feature attributes and other location reference methods.</p>
<p>Geodetic Control</p>	<p>https://www.geoplatform.gov/ngda/geodeticcontrol/; NOAA's Geodetic Control Survey control points or other related data sets which are accurately tied to the National Spatial Reference System (the official, common federal system for establishing coordinates for geospatial data that are consistent nationwide). Geodetic control examples include: passive geodetic control marks, active geodetic observing systems, data from Global Navigation Satellite Systems (e.g., GPS), gravity measurements, and models of the earth's gravity field (geoid).</p>

2.5 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(2), "collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data such that the resulting data, information, or products can be readily shared with other Federal agencies and non-Federal users."

Commerce is compliant with GDA Sec. 759(a)(2) and agency statutes for data accessibility and hosts all of its geospatial data on agency websites. All geospatial data that Commerce produces from its programs and partnerships is openly available online with the exception of data protected from disclosure. For example, Commerce does not release Personally Identifiable Information (PII) as defined by the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. § 552. In addition, some NOAA Fisheries data are protected from disclosure under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended, 16 USC § 1881a. Some Census Bureau data are protected by 13 U.S.C. § 9. Commerce provides long-term stewardship and preservation of our data per NARA guidelines.

759(a)(3) Promote Data Integration

GDA Requirement	Promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations
KEY to Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to Question 3.1 • Made progress toward expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partial to Question 3.1 • Fails to meet expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No to Question 3.1

3.1 Has your agency taken action to promote integration of data from multiple sources?

- Yes. The agency has taken appropriate action to promote data integration.

3.1.a If yes or partial to Question 3.1, in what ways does your agency promote data integration from multiple sources?

The following items were selected from a picklist:ⁱⁱ

- Hosts a data sharing infrastructure where partners and/or data users can share and discover data.
- Develops a data integration toolkit or APIs to promote integration of agency data in external applications.
- Develops data integration processes to promote integration of non-agency data into applications.
- Provides data in openly standardized readable formats or as downloadable file packages.
- Develops data sharing agreements or Memoranda Of Agreement (MOA) with public and private partners for ingest or sharing of data.

3.2 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(3), "promote the integration of geospatial data from all sources."

Commerce promotes the integration of geospatial data from all sources. The Census Bureau integrates high-quality data provided by more than 40,000 tribal, federal, state, and local government partners to validate and update address, feature, and boundary information in the Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) System. NOAA has established partnership programs and federal agency agreements with a wide range of government, private, and academic partners across the NOAA mission areas. In addition to these productive partnerships, NOAA promotes the use of data discovery and access platforms such as the NOAA GeoPlatform, US GeoPlatform, Digital Coast, and a number of other systems in order to enhance the availability of data and promote data integration.

759(a)(4) Ensure Records Retention Schedule for Geospatial Data

GDA Requirement	Ensure that data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities are included on agency record schedules that have been approved by the National Archives and Records Administration
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations
KEY to Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to Questions 4.1 and 4.2 • Made progress toward expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes or Partial to Questions 4.1 and 4.2 or ○ No to either 4.1 or 4.2 • Fails to meet expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No to Questions 4.1 and 4.2

4.1 To ensure approved National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) schedules are in place, does the appraisal process for your agency to determine which data is archived include geospatial data?

- Yes. The agency program's archiving appraisal process is inclusive of data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities.

4.2 Are geospatial data assets included on agency record schedules?

- Yes. Agency record schedules are inclusive of data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities.

4.3 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(4), "ensure that data information products and other records created in geospatial data and activities are included on agency record schedules that have been approved by the National Archives and Records Administration."

The most recent Census Bureau geospatial data products and records have been entered onto an agency records schedule (DAA-0029-0004) which was approved by the NARA in December 2019. NOAA has numerous records schedules covering geospatial content related to remote sensing, nautical charts, forecasting maps, aerial photography and geodetic survey. All records schedules associated with geospatial records can be found in chapters 1300, 1400, 1600 of the NOAA Records Control Manual (https://www.corporateservices.noaa.gov/audit/records_management/schedules/index.html). The applicable record schedules specify whether records and data are transferred to the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) data archive, Federal Records Center (FRC), or if they are destroyed or accessioned in NARA for permanent preservation.

759(a)(5) Allocate Resources for Geospatial Data Management Responsibilities

GDA Requirement	Allocate resources to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship with regard to related activities of the covered agency, and as necessary to support the activities of the Committee
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations
KEY to Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to Question 5.1 • Made progress toward expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Partial to Question 5.1 • Fails to meet expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No to Question 5.1

5.1 Are adequate geospatial program resources (including full- or part-time federal employees or contractors) allocated to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship with regard to related activities of the covered agency, and as necessary to support the activities of the Committee?

Clarifying text: Analyses of the requirements for the GDA are ongoing and it is anticipated that agencies will answer based on currently understood or anticipated requirements. Additional details can be provided in the 5.2 Brief Summary and in your agency’s 2-page PDF.

- Yes

5.2 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(5), "allocate resources to fulfill the responsibilities of effective geospatial data collection, production, and stewardship with regard to related activities of the covered agency, and as necessary to support the activities of the Committee."

For the current reporting period, Commerce was able to allocate sufficient resources to fulfill these responsibilities. Staff across the department devoted substantial time to GDA implementation planning and reporting, in addition to the usual mission-related geospatial data management. As GDA implementation continues to ramp up in the future, there is concern that level funding would create a conflict between mission requirements and GDA reporting / administrative responsibilities. A key Census Bureau challenge moving forward is receiving an appropriation for the Geographic Support Program at the level requested in the President’s Budget. Funding levels below the request impact the ability of this program to deliver the current and accurate geospatial products and activities, human resources, and services required. For NOAA, limited resources across geospatial programs could lead to compromises in our ability to meet both mission and GDA requirements.

759(a)(6) Use Data Standards

GDA Requirement	Use the geospatial data standards, including the standards for metadata for geospatial data, and other appropriate standards, including documenting geospatial data with the relevant metadata and making metadata available through the GeoPlatform
Agency Self-Assessment	Made Progress Towards Expectations
KEY to Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to Questions 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 • Made progress toward expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any other combination of Yes, No, and Partial to Questions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3 • Fails to meet expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No to Questions 6.1, 6.2, and 6.3

6.1. Are defined data standards used in collecting, processing, and/or disseminating the data being addressed?

The following items were selected from a picklist:ⁱⁱⁱ

- Yes. Eligible geospatial datasets use FGDC-endorsed data standards.

6.2 Does your agency maintain its metadata in an FGDC-endorsed, or ISO-compliant geospatial metadata standard format?

Clarifying text: Question does not include legacy datasets that are static and no longer modified or otherwise managed. Also, see the list of endorsed FGDC-endorsed standards <https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/>.

The following items were selected from a picklist:^{iv}

- Yes. Eligible datasets have well maintained FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata.

6.3 Is your agency geospatial metadata available through GeoPlatform.gov?

Clarifying Text: For the scope of the requirement, Section 758(b)(1)(A)(iv) provides for “includ[ing] download access to all open geospatial data directly or indirectly collected by covered agencies” and Section 759(a)(6) requires that “metadata [be] available through the GeoPlatform.”

- Partial. Some metadata for some public datasets are available via GeoPlatform.gov.

6.4 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(6), "use the geospatial data standards, including the standards for metadata for geospatial data, and other appropriate standards, including documenting geospatial data with the relevant metadata and making metadata available through the GeoPlatform."

Commerce currently maintains a large volume of publicly-accessible geospatial data products, along with their associated metadata, on the GeoPlatform. Commerce performs quality control and quality assurance on all internal and public-use geospatial data products and metadata prior to upload on the GeoPlatform. Recent analysis has identified harvesting issues that resulted in outdated or missing Commerce metadata on the GeoPlatform. As a result, Commerce commits to support a Department of the Interior effort to design and implement internal controls to validate the accuracy and currency of metadata associated with public geospatial data products available on the GeoPlatform. Commerce has volunteered to serve as the pilot agency for testing of metadata harvesting approaches with Data.gov and the GeoPlatform. Commerce will complete a validation of the dates and accuracy of associated geospatial products currently available on the GeoPlatform by March 31, 2021.

759(a)(7) Support Coordination and Partnerships

GDA Requirement	Coordinate and work in partnership with other Federal agencies, agencies of State, tribal, and local governments, institutions of higher education, and the private sector to efficiently and cost-effectively collect, integrate, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data, building upon existing non-federal geospatial data to the extent possible
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations
KEY to Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to Questions 7.1 and Yes or Not applicable to Question 7.2 • Made progress toward expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any combination of Yes, Not applicable, Partial, or No to Questions 7.1 and 7.2 • Fails to meet expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No to Questions 7.1 and 7.2

7.1 Are there processes in place to ensure that, when appropriate, partners and stakeholders have visibility into agency geospatial data management activities (e.g., collection, integration, maintenance, dissemination and preservation)?

- Yes. There are processes in place for all agency mission areas.

7.1.a If yes or partial to Question 7.1, which external partners and stakeholders are involved in data management activities?

Clarifying text: The selection list provided was taken from the GDA Section 754(b)(C).

- Other federal agencies
- States
- Local governments
- Regional governments
- Tribal governments
- Private sector entities
- Geospatial information user industries
- Professional associations
- Scholarly associations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Academia
- Licensed geospatial data acquisition professionals
- Other [textboxes provided below]

Other Partner or Stakeholder Category
International Boundary Commission and International Boundary and Water Commission boundaries are integrated.]

7.1.b If yes or partial to Question 7.1, what processes are in place to ensure partners and stakeholders are involved?

Clarifying text: When answering this question think about activities such as using surveys, listening sessions, Request for Information, booths at stakeholder conferences.

- Market research
- Partnership outreach activities
- Expert consultations
- Advisory committee(s)
- Working group(s) and sub-committee(s)
- Steering committees
- Councils
- Engage with trade groups
- Feedback opportunities (e.g., contact email/phone, call center)
- Federal Register Notices
- Memoranda of Understanding

7.2 Does your agency build upon existing non-federal geospatial data?

- Yes. Agency builds upon existing non-federal geospatial data to the extent possible.

7.2.a If yes or partial to Question 7.2, what ways do you build upon existing non-federal geospatial data?

- Procurement/acquisition/grant
- Research partnership
- Cooperative data collection or crowd sourcing
- Mission assignments or Interagency Agreements
- MOAs/data sharing agreements

7.3 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(7), "coordinate and work in partnership with other Federal agencies, agencies of State, tribal, and local governments, institutions of higher education, and the private sector to efficiently and cost-effectively collect, integrate, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data, building upon existing non-Federal geospatial data to the extent possible."

A comprehensive list of the Census Bureau's geographic partnership programs can be found here: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/partnerships.html>. NOAA has established partnerships with a wide range of government, private, and academic partners across the NOAA mission areas. Many of NOAA's geospatial datasets integrate geospatial data from various government and non-

government sources. Partnerships are covered by Memorandums of Agreement, Memorandums of Understanding, and other similar agreements.

759(a)(8) Promote Application of Geospatial Data Assets

GDA Requirement	Use geospatial information to— (A) make Federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public; (B) enhance operations; (C) support decision making; and (D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress;
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations
KEY to Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 • Made progress toward expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Any combination of Yes, Partial and No to Questions 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 • Fails to meet expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No to 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3

759(a)(8)(A) make Federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public;

8.1 Does your agency leverage geospatial information to make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public?

- Yes

759(a)(8) (B) enhance operations;759(a)(8) (C) support decision making

8.2 Does your agency leverage geospatial information to improve operations and decision-making?

- Yes. Agency broadly leverages geospatial information in operations improvements or decision-making.

759(a)(8) (D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress

8.3 Does your agency leverage geospatial information to enhance reporting to the public or to Congress?

- Yes. Agency broadly leverages geospatial information to enhance public and Congressional reporting.

8.3.a If yes or partial, for which of these audiences does your agency leverage geospatial information to enhance reporting?

- Public reports (e.g., fact sheets, data briefs, Annual reports, other published Agency reports).
- Congressional Reports.
- Internal Agency and leadership plans, reports and communications.

8.4 Optional Question: You may provide up to 5 key examples and links that demonstrate how geospatial data assets are used, internally and externally, to make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public; enhance operations; support decision making; and/or enhance reporting to the public and to Congress.

Example
2020 Census Public Law 94-171 Redistricting Data TIGER/Line shapefiles - https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/rdo/summary-files.html#P2
Protected Areas Database uses Census Bureau American Indian/Alaskan Native Areas dataset and others - https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/science-analytics-and-synthesis/gap/science/introduction-pad-us-viewer?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects
NOAA's Digital Coast -- https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/
Sea Level Rise Viewer --Web Mapping Tool - https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/tools/slr.html
Climate at a Glance --Global Interactive Mapping - https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/

8.5 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(8), "use geospatial information to—

- (A) make federal geospatial information and services more useful to the public;**
- (B) enhance operations;**
- (C) support decision making; and**
- (D) enhance reporting to the public and to Congress;"**

Census Bureau staff led the foundational work and developmental planning for the multi-agency Puerto Rico Address Data Working Group <https://communities.geoplatform.gov/ngda-address/puerto-rico-address-data-working-group/>. This group was made up of stakeholders who shared a mission requirement to collect and manage Puerto Rico address data. This effort was featured as an example of the Federal Data Strategy in action <https://strategy.Data.gov/proof-points/2019/07/26/pradwg/>. The final report summarized the group’s three phases: to identify proven practices, challenges, and data goals and needs. The NOAA GeoPlatform (<https://noaa.maps.arcgis.com/>) is NOAA's instance of ArcGIS Online, and serves as a platform for publishing data, creating maps, applications and story maps to the public that highlight NOAA's critical geospatial data assets.

759(a)(9) Protection of Privacy and Confidentiality

GDA Requirement	Protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with Federal policy and law
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations
KEY to Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to Questions 9.1 and 9.2 • Made progress toward expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes or Partial to Questions 9.1 or 9.2 • Fails to meet expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No to Questions 9.1 or 9.2

9.1 Are agency Privacy Threshold Assessment or Privacy Impact Assessment (PTA/PIA) processes inclusive of your geospatial data?

Clarifying Text: The Privacy Threshold Assessment/Analysis would be the mechanism that agencies use to determine if PII is, or is not collected, and whether a Privacy Impact Assessment needs to be done for an information system.

- Yes. The agency's PTA/PIA processes are inclusive of all agency data.

9.2 Are the IT systems and applications that maintain and support your geospatial data covered by a current Authorization to Operate (ATO)?

- Yes. All agency geospatial data is housed in a system covered by a current ATO and is appropriately protected in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

9.3 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(9), "protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with Federal policy and law."

Commerce complies with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA), FIPS 200: Minimum Security Requirements for Federal Information and Information Systems, the Government Act of 2002, and the OMB Circular A-130: Management of Federal Information Resources, which states that federal agencies are required to meet minimum security and privacy standards for information and information systems. Per NIST guidance, Commerce information systems enter a state of ongoing authorization following issuance of an initial authorization.

759(a)(10) Declassified Data

GDA Requirement	Participate in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become a part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations
KEY to Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes or Not applicable to Question 10.1 • Fails to meet expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No to Question 10.1

10.1 If your Agency handles classified geospatial datasets, does it have a process to review declassified datasets for inclusion in the NSDI?

Clarifying text: Sharing standards-based data on the Internet using standard protocols and formats makes it part of the NSDI.

- Not applicable: The agency does not handle classified data.

10.2 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(10), "participate in determining, when applicable, whether declassified data can contribute to and become a part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure."

N/A for Census Bureau & NOAA. The Department of Commerce doesn't have a formal process for determining whether declassified data at the Department can contribute to and become part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. Any classified geospatial data the Department uses in its mission activities originates from other Departments and agencies and as such the Department is not the originating entity and therefore doesn't have the authority to declassify the original data. The Department has worked with originating agencies to declassify derivative products for specific use cases; however in those cases the declassification and product dissemination was the responsibility of the originating agency. The Department maintains situational awareness of classified geospatial data through its involvement with the Civil Applications Committee.

759(a)(11) Non-Duplication of Data

GDA Requirement	Search all sources, including the GeoPlatform, to determine if existing Federal, State, local, or private geospatial data meets the needs of the covered agency before expending funds for geospatial data collection
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations
KEY to Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No to Question 11.1 or ○ Yes to Questions 11.1 and 11.2 and all agency appropriate responses to Question 11.3 • Made progress toward expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to Question 11.1 and Partial or No to Question 11.2 and agency appropriate responses to Question 11.3 • Fails to meet expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to Question 11.1 and No to Question 11.2 and <i>No additional assessments are done</i> selected for Question 11.3

11.1 Has your agency expended funds for geospatial data collection for the reporting period?

Clarifying text: “Expended funds” may include grant distribution, agency collection, or procurement of data.

- Yes

11.2 As per [OMB Circular A-11 Guidance](#) (Section 25, Page 3), has your agency searched the [GeoPlatform Marketplace](#) prior to making planned geospatial data investments to determine if an existing source for that data is available and meets mission requirements?

- Yes. Agency has searched GeoPlatform Marketplace prior to all geospatial data investments.

11.3 Has your agency searched other sources to determine if data necessary to meet requirements already exists (either within or outside the agency) before collecting or acquiring new data?

The following items were selected from a picklist:’

- Market research
- Cross-agency or partner coordination
- Expert consultation
- Database search
- Agency follows a documented process or official policy

11.4 Optional Question: You may provide examples of cases where the agency did find existing data that met its needs or partnered on a joint data acquisition.

- Not applicable.

11.5 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(11), "Search all sources, including the GeoPlatform, to determine if existing Federal, State, local, or private geospatial data meets the needs of the covered agency before expending funds for geospatial data collection."

Please see the Department of Commerce Policy on Planned Geospatial Acquisitions [https://www.cio.noaa.gov/pdfs/Commerce_Policy_on_Planned_Geospatial_Acquisitions.pdf], Section 4: Policy which states, "In order to avoid duplication of geospatial data, offices and operating units within the Department shall not expend funds to acquire or produce geospatial data, if an existing source for that data is available and meets mission requirements. Departmental Offices and operating units shall coordinate with other organizations, whether within or outside of the Department, if another organization is planning on acquiring or producing data ... [that] will meet its needs." Commerce participates in the Marketplace; however, due to lack of current information in the Marketplace, other resources are utilized as well such as community-owned and maintained systems. As part of the IG audit, Commerce is updating the Policy on Planned Geospatial Acquisitions.

759(a)(12) Ensuring High-Quality Data

GDA Requirement	To the maximum extent practicable, ensure that a person receiving Federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations
KEY to Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No to Question 12.1 or ○ Yes to Question 12.1 and all appropriate selections for Question 12.2 • Made progress toward expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to Question 12.1 and some agency appropriate selections for Question 12.2 • Fails to meet expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to Question 12.1 and <i>No official documented Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) process is in place for acquisition of geospatial data</i> selected for Question 12.2

12.1 Has your agency expended funds for geospatial data collection from non-federal sources during the reporting period?

Clarifying text: The requirement for "a person receiving Federal funds" has been interpreted to mean non-federal organizations or corporations who are, for example, contract or grant recipients.

- Yes

12.2 What methods does your agency employ to ensure quality in geospatial data collected from non-federal sources?

The following items were selected from a picklist:^{vi}

- Evaluate data for quality prior to any acquisition.
- Geospatial data quality standards are specified in contract documents.
- Staff data experts review and approve geospatial data deliverables.
- The Agency acquires data from another federal Agency that is responsible for QA/QC.

12.3 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(12), "to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that a person receiving Federal funds for geospatial data collection provides high-quality data."

Commerce ensures that the data collected by non-federal sources are high-quality. While not applicable to Census, NOAA meets the requirements. For example, datasets that are part of the Elevation and Water - Oceans & Coast Theme adhere to strict international standards for data quality. Whether the data is collected by NOAA or by private entities contracted by or receiving grants from NOAA, the same standards and policies apply. The Data Sharing Directive for NOAA Grants, Cooperative Agreements and Contracts specifies requirements: "Data should be available in at least one machine-readable format, preferably a widely-used or open-standard format, and should be accompanied by machine-readable documentation (metadata), preferably based on widely-used or international standards." In addition, NOAA regularly meets with partners to share research initiatives and progress, and to discuss ways to further our partnerships.

759(a)(13) Point of Contact

GDA Requirement	Appoint a contact to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes used by the covered agency
Agency Self-Assessment	Meets Expectations
KEY to Self-Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes to Question 13.1 • Fails to meet expectations = <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No to Question 13.1

13.1 Has your agency appointed a POC to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the NGDA data themes used by the covered agency?

Clarifying text: OMB Circular A-16 may include additional guidance on covered agency responsibilities for theme coordination.

- Yes. An agency POC has been appointed.

13.2 Brief Summary (Limit 1000 characters, or approximately 150 words): Please provide a brief description of agency actions and accomplishments in addressing Sec. 759(a)(13), "appoint a contact to coordinate with the lead covered agencies for collection, acquisition, maintenance, and dissemination of the National Geospatial Data Asset data themes used by the covered agency."

The Commerce Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information is Tony LaVoi, Acting NOAA Chief Data Officer. Census Bureau leads or co-leads 2 NGDA themes and participates in the activities of 5 others. NOAA leads or co-leads 4 NGDA themes and participates in the activities of 3 others. Census Bureau and NOAA have appointed contacts to all of them. Address Theme: Matthew Zimolzak, Census Co-Lead Biodiversity and Ecosystems: Nicolle Rutherford, NOAA Member Cadastre Theme: Laura Waggoner, Census Member Climate and Weather Theme: Kari Sheets, NOAA Lead Elevation Theme: Ashley Chappel, NOAA Co-Lead, Peter Reid, Census Member Geodetic Control Theme: Dan Roman, NOAA Lead; Peter Reid, Census Member Governmental Units Theme: Dierdre Bevington-Attardi, Census Lead Imagery Theme: Peter Reid, Census Member, Doug Graham, NOAA Member Land Use - Land Cover Theme: Nate Herold, NOAA Member Transportation Theme: David Cackowski, Census Member Water - Oceans and Coasts Theme: Patrick Keown, NOAA Lead.

Appendix A: Survey Picklists

This appendix provides the full set of choices presented in the self-assessment survey as “check all that apply” responses used to generate this covered agency report.

ⁱ Question 2.1 Picklist

- Data is currently openly shared to the public.
- Data is currently shared on a limited basis with federal partners.
- Data is currently shared on a limited basis with non-federal users.
- No data is currently shared to other federal agencies or non-federal users. (Note: For some agencies, this may be an appropriate response).

ⁱⁱ Question 3.1.a. Picklist

- Hosts a data sharing infrastructure where partners and/or data users can share and discover data.
- Develops a data integration toolkit or APIs to promote integration of agency data in external applications.
- Develops data integration processes to promote integration of non-agency data into applications.
- Provides data in openly standardized readable formats or as downloadable file packages.
- Develops data sharing agreements or Memoranda Of Agreement (MOA) with public and private partners for ingest or sharing of data.
- Other (Textboxes provided)

ⁱⁱⁱ Question 6.1 Picklist

- Yes. Eligible geospatial datasets use FGDC-endorsed data standards.
- Yes. Eligible geospatial datasets use data standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.
- Partial. Some eligible geospatial datasets use FGDC-endorsed data standards.
- Partial. Some eligible geospatial datasets use data standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.
- No. Eligible agency geospatial datasets do not use FGDC-endorsed data standards or standards that comply with OMB Circular A-119.

^{iv} Question 6.2 Picklist

- Yes. Eligible non-legacy datasets have well maintained FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata.
- Partial. Some eligible datasets have well maintained FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata.
- Partial. Some eligible datasets have FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata, that needs to be reviewed or refreshed.
- No. Agency datasets do not use FGDC-endorsed or current ISO-compliant geospatial metadata standards.

^v Question 11.3 Picklist

- Market research
- Cross-agency or partner coordination
- Expert consultation
- Database search
- Agency follows a documented process or official policy
- No additional assessments are done
- Other (Textboxes provided)

^{vi} Question 12.2 Picklist

- Evaluate data for quality prior to any acquisition.
- Geospatial data quality standards are specified in contract documents.
- Independent verification and validation (IV&V).
- Staff data experts review and approve geospatial data deliverables.
- Data standards are enforced through automated processes such as database controls or script tools.
- The agency acquires data from another federal agency that is responsible for QA/QC.
- No official documented QA/QC process is in place for acquisition of geospatial data.
- Other (Textboxes provided).

Appendix B: Optional 2-Page Document

Commerce GDA Covered Agency Report Executive Summary – February 19, 2021

The Department of Commerce (Commerce) stewards geospatial data as required by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018 (GDA). Commerce leads or co-leads six (6) of the 18 National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Themes. Commerce led one of four FGDC GDA Tiger Teams tasked with various activities including the development of the initial annual Covered Agency and Lead Covered Agency report templates and co-led the GDA Interagency Working Group. Commerce served a critical role on the [Office of Management and Budget Circular A-16](#) revision writing team. Commerce staff played a lead role in the development of the three most recent FGDC National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategic Planning activities including the most recent [NSDI Strategic Plan \(2021-2024\)](#), the NSDI Assessment of 2017, and the NSDI Strategic Plan 2014-2016.

Commerce continues to be a dedicated leader in the federal geospatial community and fully engaged in the GDA process. NOAA's Chief Data Officer serves as the Commerce Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information (SAOGI) on the FGDC Steering Committee and the Commerce Data Governance Board (CDGB). The CDGB was established to meet the requirements under the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act). The CDGB chartered the Commerce Geospatial Working Group (CGWG), cochaired by NOAA and Census, to coordinate the implementation of the GDA requirements for the development of a Commerce Geospatial Strategy. The Commerce SAOGI is also a member of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) and has assisted NGAC members in understanding the Federal approach to addressing the GDA requirements, as well as helping to develop NGAC's role in the GDA reporting process.

In order to ensure Commerce meets all applicable GDA requirements, core Commerce geospatial management responsibilities include:

- **Data quality and standards compliance:** geospatial data collection and creation practices should comply with all applicable data quality and industry standards [e.g., Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)].
- **Data documentation:** all geospatial data and services include metadata documentation compliant with international (ISO-19115.x) or federal (FGDC) metadata standards to describe data quality and appropriate use characteristics.
- **Discoverability and access:** all geospatial data is registered in applicable data discovery portals (e.g., data.gov) and accessible in a range of data and mapping service formats to meet the greatest set of user requirements (e.g., data download, OGC mapping services).
- **Value-add:** where applicable, data owners provide additional information and/or decision-support tools to maximize the value and return on investment of Commerce geospatial data products.
- **Archiving:** Commerce geospatial data products and records are entered onto an agency records schedule which was approved by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Also, NOAA data owners are required to meet the Public Access to Research Results (PARR) guidelines.

The U.S. Census Bureau's (Census Bureau) Geographic Support (GS) Program supports and maintains the geographic and cartographic infrastructure necessary for the Census Bureau's data collection processing, tabulation, and dissemination programs for the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island Area Territories. This program provides the most current, accurate, and complete address, feature, imagery, and boundary data to the Census Bureau's customers and data users and builds the geographic foundation for every economic and social data product produced by the Census Bureau. The GS Program maintains the Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) System where all Census Bureau geospatial data is managed and stored. Publicly available data products are refreshed and published twice a year as shapefiles, geodatabases, and web map services. In addition to providing the geospatial infrastructure to support the Census Bureau, the Geographic Support Program contributes geospatial data to three of the eighteen NGDA themes. The MAF/TIGER System is the source for the thirty-five (35) NGDAs representing governmental units and roads, and the geographic reference files that are needed for all Census Bureau programs, censuses, surveys, and related field operations, such as the Economic Census, the Current Population Survey (CPS), the intercensal Demographic Analysis (DA) estimates, the Population Estimates Program (PEP), the American Community Survey (ACS), and the decennial census. Address records and address point data collected by the Census Bureau are specifically protected from disclosure by Title 13 U.S.C. § 9.

The Census Bureau integrates high-quality data provided by more than 40,000 tribal, federal, state, and local government partners to validate and update address, feature, and boundary information in the MAF/TIGER System. Census Bureau programs, such as the Boundary and Annexation Survey, the Participant Statistical Areas Program, Redistricting Data Program, and the Local Update of Census Addresses Operation were conducted during the decade leading up to the 2020 Census <https://www.census.gov/programssurveys/geography/about/partnerships.html>. In addition, Census Bureau data is available through [Census TIGERweb GeoServices REST API](#), as well as geospatial tools such as the [Census Geocoder](#) or the [Response Outreach Area Mapper \(ROAM\)](#). Data sharing agreements with other federal agencies such as U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has led to collaboration on MAF/TIGER roads data used in the USGS Topographic Map Series, The National Map, and the Geographic Names Information System.

Geospatial data are foundational to the mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Observations form the basis of NOAA's products and services; these are continuously collected from the bottom of the seafloor to the top of the atmosphere and beyond. Geospatial technologies are at the core of supporting NOAA's mission while providing the framework to collect, store, analyze, and disseminate "NOAA's Environmental Intelligence." NOAA is the authoritative source for multiple national datasets that form the foundation for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, to include geodetic control, nautical charts, coastal elevation, weather and climate models, critical habitat, and satellite and observational platforms.

NOAA's data holdings are vast, complex, and distributed, reflecting the diversity and footprint of NOAA's mission. Likewise, the systems and infrastructure that process, store, and disseminate NOAA's data are complex, distributed, and rarely shared across the agency. In the foreseeable future, the volume and velocity of our data are expected to increase exponentially with the advent of new observing systems and data-acquisition capabilities, placing a premium on our capacity and wherewithal to scale the information technology (IT) infrastructure and services to support this growth. Aligning NOAA's capabilities with the constantly evolving needs of our stakeholders requires both collaboration and partnerships to deliver data and services in a way that stakeholders expect to consume them.