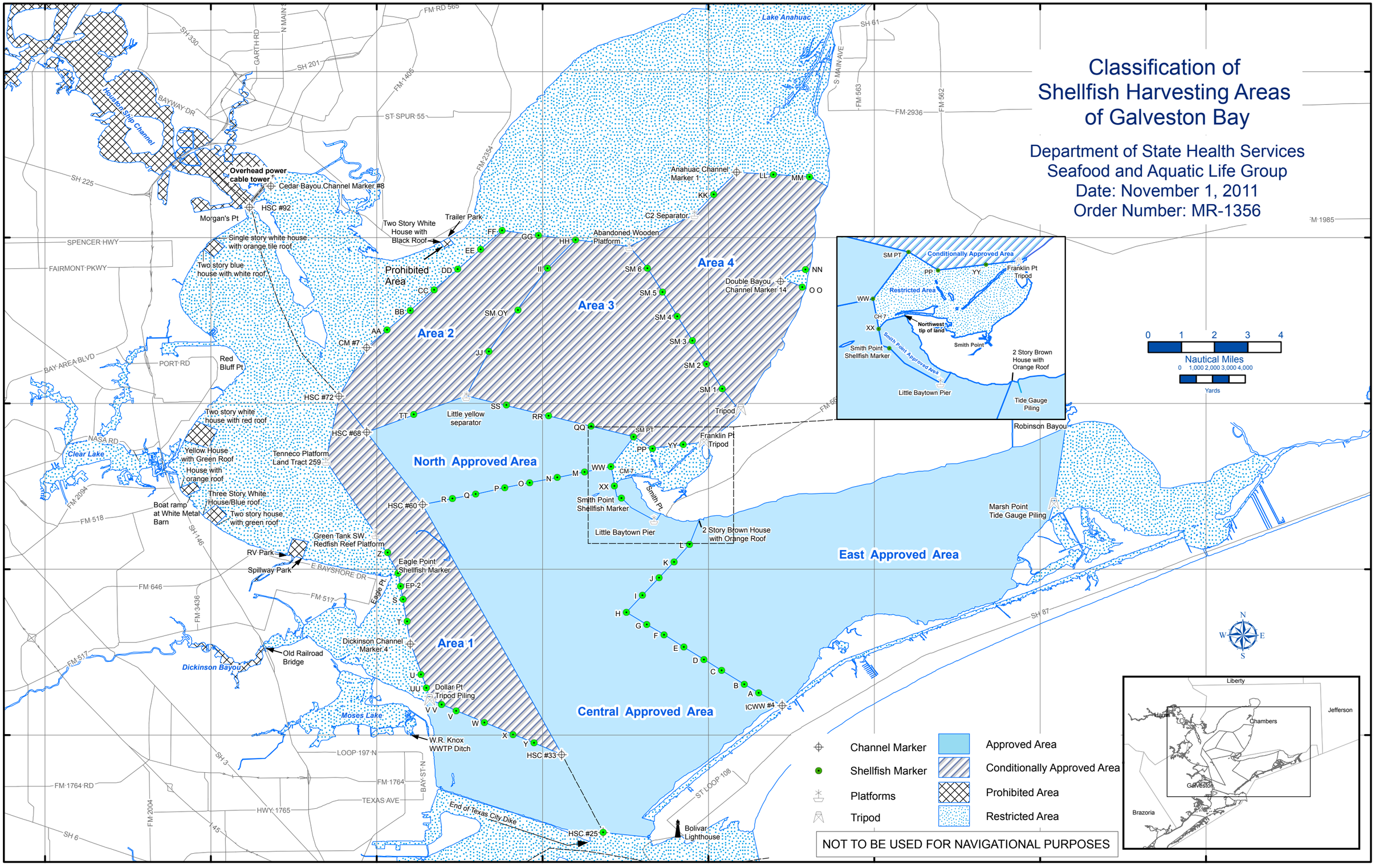
Classification of Shellfish Harvesting Areas of Galveston Bay

Department of State Health Services
Seafood and Aquatic Life Group
Date: November 1, 2011
Order Number: MR-1356



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The status of shellfish growing waters in Texas estuaries is subject to change by the Texas Department of State Health Services at any time. These changes may be due to high rainfall and runoff, flooding, hurricanes and other extreme weather conditions, major spills, red tides, or the failure or inefficient operation of wastewater treatment facilities. Current status of shellfish harvesting areas may be obtained from your local Texas Parks and Wildlife Department office or by calling, **toll-free (in state only), 1-800-685-0361.**

PROHIBITED AREAS: All areas not specifically designated as Prohibited, Restricted, Conditionally Approved, or Approved are classified as Prohibited and are closed to the harvesting of molluscan shellfish.

That area off Umbrella Point between the east end of trailer park and the two story white house with black roof out to 300 yards offshore.

That area of the Houston Ship Channel and Tabbs Bay upstream of a line from the easternmost overhead power cable tower at Evergreen Point, to Cedar Bayou Channel Marker 8, to Houston Ship Channel Marker 92 to Morgan's Point.

That area between the single story white house with the orange tile roof and the two story blue house with the white roof out to 300 yards offshore.

That area between the two story white house with the red roof and yellow house with green roof out to 300 yards offshore.

That area between the house with orange roof and boat ramp at the white metal barn out to 500 yards offshore.

That area between the three story white house with blue roof and the two story house with green roof out to 500 yards offshore.

That area between the Spillway Park and the RV Park out to 400 yards offshore.

That area of Dickinson Bayou upstream from the old railroad bridge at State Highway 146.

That area 150 yards east and west of Wallace R. Knox WWTP ditch at the southeast side of Moses Lake and out 300 yards offshore.

All residential subdivision channels and harbor areas up to a radius of 300 yards offshore from the shoreline where the channels become land bound.

All areas within a 50 yard radius of recreational cabins and houseboats located on the bay.

All marked areas around transient or temporarily occupied structures (such as manned drilling rigs) which are potential pollution sources, but which are not indicated on this map because of their transient nature. These areas are described by separate Marine Order. Details can be obtained from the Texas Department of State Services or the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

RESTRICTED AREAS: (closed to the harvesting of shellfish for direct marketing)

The area of East Galveston Bay east of a line from the entrance to Robinson Bayou south to the tide gauge at Marsh Point.

All of the Intracoastal Waterway where it becomes land bound at Bolivar Peninsula.

All area South of a line beginning at the Port Bolivar Lighthouse, to Houston Ship Channel (HSC) Marker #25, to the end of the Texas City Dike. All areas excluding the prohibited areas described above and inshore of a line from the Dollar Point shoreline, to the tripod piling off Dollar Point, to GAL Shellfish Marker (SM) UU, to GAL SM U, to Dickinson Channel Marker 4, to GAL SM T, to GAL SM S, to Eagle Point Shellfish Marker 2, to Eagle Point Shellfish Marker, to GAL SM Z, to American Exploration Co. Southwest Redfish Reef Platform "Green Tank" (29°31'03.5" N, 94°55'02.1" W), to Tenneco Platform State Land Tract 259(29°33'16.7" N, 94°56'32.7" W), to HSC Marker 72, to Channel Marker 7, to GAL SM AA, to GAL SM BB, to GAL SM CC, to GAL SM DD, to GAL SM EE, to GAL SM FF, to GAL SM GG, to GAL SM HH, to abandoned wooden platform(29°39'43.5" N, 94°45'24.0" W), to Separator C-2(29°40'41.4" N, 94°45'24.0" W), to GAL SM KK, to Anahuac Channel Marker 1, to GAL SM LL, to GAL SM MM, due east to the shore. All areas inside a line starting at the shoreline ¼ statute miles north of the Double Bayou Channel entrance, due west to GAL SM NN, to Double Bayou Channel Marker 14, to GAL SM O, due east to the shore ¼ statute miles below the Double Bayou Channel entrance. All areas inside a line from the shore starting at the tripod on Franklin Point, to GAL SM YY, to GAL SM PP, to GAL SM PT, to GAL SM WW, to GAL SM XX, to northwest tip of Smith Point, along the shoreline eastward, returning to the tripod on Franklin Point.

CONDITIONALLY APPROVED AREAS: (Subject to status changes based upon meteorological or hydrological conditions) If unsure of current status, contact your local Texas Parks ands Wildlife Department office, or call, toll-free (in state only), 1-800-685-0361.

Area 1:
Area1 is located inside a line beginning at HSC Marker 33, following the HSC, to HSC Marker 68, to HSC Marker 72, to Tenneco Platform State Land Tract 259(29°33'16.7" N, 94°56'32.7" W), to American Exploration Co. Southwest Redfish Reef Platform "Green Tank"(29°31'03.5" N, 94°55'02.1"W), to GAL SM Z, to Eagle Point Shellfish Marker 2, to Eagle Point Shellfish Marker, to GAL SM S, to GAL SM T, to Dickinson Channel Marker 4, to GAL SM U, to GAL SM UU, to piling tripod off Dollar Point, to GAL SM VV, to GAL SM V, to GAL SM W, to GAL SM X, to GAL SM Y, and returning to HSC Marker 33.

Area 2:
Area 2 is located inside of a line beginning at HSC Marker 72, to HSC Marker 68, to GAL SM TT, to the Little Yellow Separator(29°35'14.6" N, 94°52'17.8" W), to GAL SM JJ, to GAL SM OY, to GAL SM II, to GAL SM HH, to GAL SM GG, to GAL SM FF, to GAL SM EE, to GAL SM DD, to GAL SM CC, to GAL SM BB, to GAL SM AA, to Channel Marker #7(29°36'40.6" N, 94°55'18.4" W), and to HSC Marker 72.

Area 3:
Area 3 is located inside of a line from GAL SM PT, to GAL SM QQ, to GAL SM RR, to GAL SM SS, to the Little Yellow Separator(29°35'14.6" N, 94°52'17.8" W), to GAL SM JJ, to the Sunoco Separator 1 "Old Yellow"(29°38'05.5" N, 94°50'49.1" W), to GAL SM II, to GAL SM HH, to the Abandoned Wooden Platform(29°39'43.5" N, 94°47'22.3" W), to GAL SM 6, to GAL SM 5, to GAL SM 4, to GAL SM 3, to GAL SM 2, to GAL SM 1, to the piling tripod in the Trinity River Channel, southwest along the shoreline, to the piling tripod located on Franklin Point in the Trinity River Channel, to GAL SM YY, to GAL SM PP, and returning to GAL SM PT.

Area 4:
Area 4 is located inside of a line from the abandoned Wooden platform(29°39'43.5" N, 94°47'22.3" W), to Separator C-2(29°40'41.4" N, 94°45'24.0" W), to GAL SM KK, to Anahuac Channel Marker 1, to GAL SM LL, to GAL SM MM, due east to the shore, southward along the shoreline to ¼ statute miles north of the Double Bayou Channel entrance, due west to GAL SM NN, to Double Bayou Channel Marker 14, to GAL SM OO, due east to the shore ¼ statute miles below the Double Bayou Channel entrance, southwest along the shoreline, to the tripod piling in the Trinity River Channel, to GAL SM 1, to GAL SM 2, to GAL SM 3, to GAL SM 4, to GAL SM 5, to GAL SM 6, and returning to the Abandoned Wooded Platform(29°39'43.5" N, 94°47'22.3" W).

APPROVED AREAS: For current status, contact your local Texas Parks and Wildlife Department office, or call, toll-free (in state only), 1-800-685-0361.

Smith Point Approved Area:
The Smith Point Approved Area is all inside of a line beginning at the northwest tip of Smith Point, to Trinity River Channel Marker #7, to SM XX, to the Smith Point Shellfish Marker, to the end of the Little Baytown Pier, to the shore, then following to the northwest tip of Smith Point.

North Approved Area:
The North Approved Area is all area inside of a line beginning at GAL SM PT, to GAL SM WW, to GAL SM M, to GAL SM N, to GAL SM O, to GAL SM P, to GAL SM Q, to GAL SM R, to HSC Channel Marker 68, to GAL SM TT, to the Little Yellow Separator(29°35'14.6" N, 94°52'17.8" W), to GAL SM SS, to GAL SM RR, to GAL SM QQ, and returning to GAL SM PT.

Central Approved Area:
The Central Approved Area is all area inside of a line beginning at GAL SM WW, to GAL SM XX, to Smith Point Shellfish Marker, to the end of Little Baytown Pier(29°31'38.0" N, 94°46'37.8" W), to the shore, eastward along the shoreline to the two story brown house with orange roof, to GAL SM L, to GAL SM K, to GAL SM J, to GAL SM I, to GAL SM H, to GAL SM G, to GAL SM F, to GAL SM E, to GAL SM D, to GAL SM C, to GAL SM B, to GAL SM A, to Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW) Marker 4 at Sievers Cove, along the shoreline to the Port Bolivar Lighthouse, to HSC Channel Marker 25, to the end of the Texas City Dike, along the north shoreline of the Texas City Dike, to the Texas City Levee and along the levee shoreline, to the tripod piling off Dollar Point, to GAL SM VV, to GAL SM V, to GAL SM W, to GAL SM X, to GAL SM Y, to HSC Marker 33, to HSC Marker 60, to GAL SM R, to GAL SM Q, to GAL SM P, to GAL SM O, to GAL SM N, to GAL SM M, and returning to GAL SM WW.

East Approved Area:
The East Approved Area is all area inside of line beginning at the Intracoastal Waterway Channel Marker 4 at Sievers Cove, to GAL SM A, to GAL SM B, to GAL SM C, to GAL SM D, to GAL SM E, to GAL SM F, to GAL SM G, to GAL SM H, to GAL SM I, to GAL SM J, to GAL SM K, to GAL SM L, to the two story brown house with orange roof , along the shoreline to the mouth of Robinson Bayou, south to the tide gauge at Marsh Point, then following the shoreline to Intracoastal Waterway Channel Marker 4 at Sievers Cove.