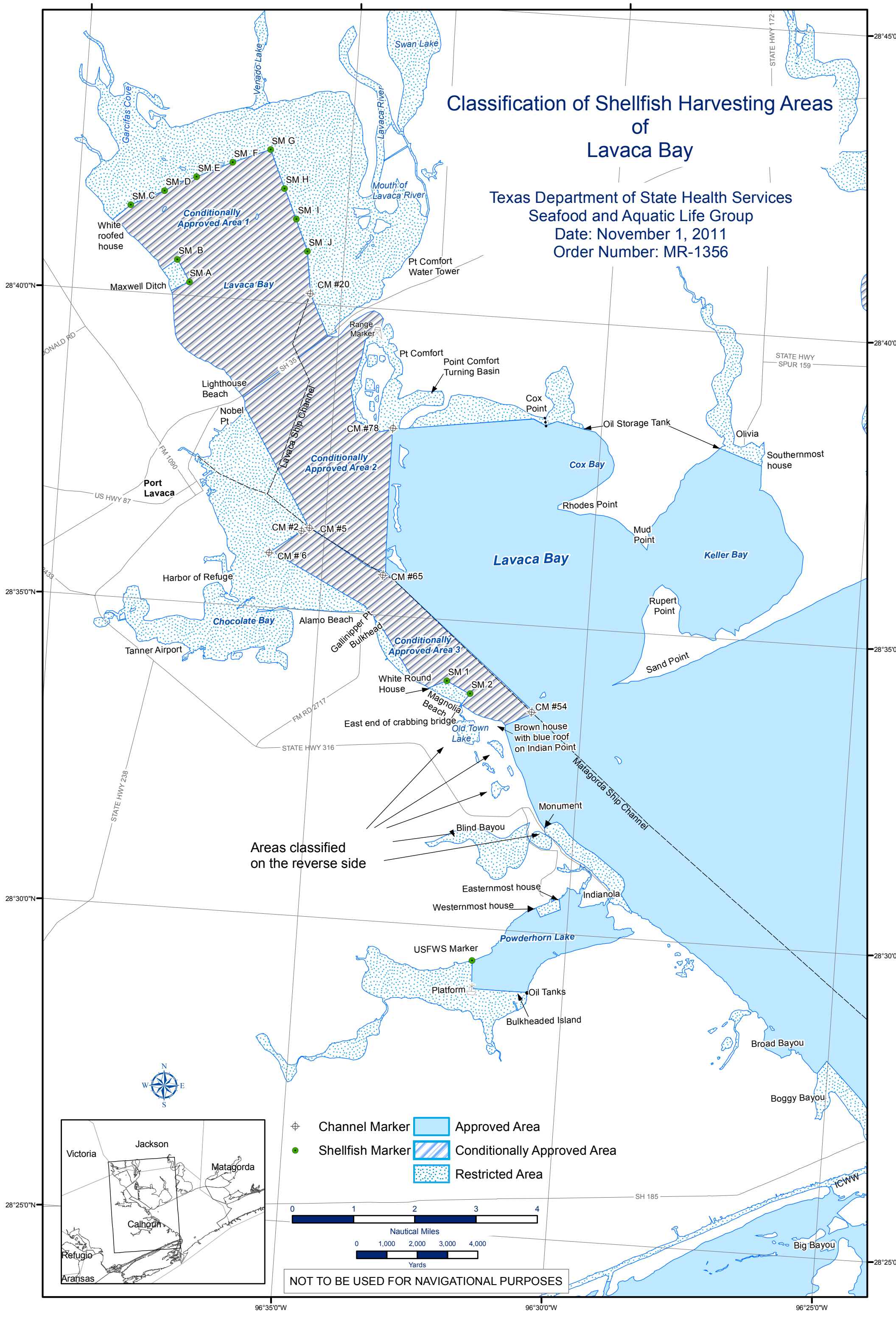
Classification of Shellfish Harvesting Areas of Lavaca Bay

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



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OF

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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 Restricted, Conditionally Approved, or Approved are classified as Prohibited and are closed to the harvesting of molluscan shellfish.

RESTRICTED AREAS: (closed to the taking of shellfish)

All area inshore of a line from the eastern shoreline to the Range Marker near Whitco Cut, to the offshore bank of the spoil island, to Channel Marker #78, to the three pilings near Cox Point, to the Oil Storage Tank on the eastern shoreline of Cox Bay.

All area inshore of a line from Alcoa Bird Tower on Noble Point, to Channel Marker #5, to Harbor of Refuge Chanel Marker #2(Lat. 28° 36.241" N, Long. 96° 35.227" W) following the Harbor of Refuge Channel to Harbor of Refuge Chanel Marker #6(Lat. 28° 35.900" N, Long. 96° 36.000" W), to the end of the bulkhead at Gallinipper Point, to the White Round House on the west end of Magnolia Beach, to Shellfish Marker 1, to Shellfish Marker 2, to the east end of the crabbing bridge on Ocean Drive.

All of Keller Creek and Keller Bay inshore of a line from the oil storage tanks located closest to the water on the north shoreline of Keller Bay, to the southern most house on the east shoreline of Keller Bay.

All area inshore of a line 300 yards offshore from the Monument to the southern point of land at the mouth of Powderhorn Lake, including the mouth area inshore to its narrowest point.

All of Blind Bayou, Old Town Lake, and all the bodies of water contiguous to Blind Bayou and Old Town Lake up to their juncture with Lavaca and Matagorda bays.

That area of Powderhorn Lake between the eastern most two story house in the Old Town of Indianola and the westernmost two story house in the Old Town of Indianola to 300 yards offshore.

That area of Powderhorn lake west and south of a line from the westernmost U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) refuge boundary Marker on the west shoreline of Powderhorn Lake, to the platform, to the bulkhead island near the east shoreline of Powderhorn Lake, to the oil tanks on the east shoreline of Powderhorn lake.

All area north and east of a line from the white roof house on the northwest shore of Lavaca Bay to Shellfish Marker C, to Shellfish Marker D, to Shellfish Marker E, to Shellfish Marker F, to Shellfish Marker G, to Shellfish Marker H, to Shellfish Marker I, to Shellfish Marker J, to Channel Marker #20 on the Lavaca River Channel, to the base of the Highway 35 Causeway near Point Comfort.

All inshore area from Shellfish Marker A to Shellfish Marker B.

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.

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

Area 1:
Area 1 is defined as that area of upper Lavaca Bay north of the Highway 35 Causeway, excluding the restricted areas described above.

Area 2:
Area 2 is defined as all areas of Lavaca Bay south-southeast of the Highway 35 causeway, and west of a line between channel markers #65 and #78 in the Matagorda Ship Channel, and east of a line from Noble Point to Channel Marker #5, and north of a line from Channel Marker #5 and Channel Marker #65, excluding the restricted areas mentioned above.

Area 3:
Area 3 is defined as the area of Lavaca Bay southwest of a line from channel marker #5, to channel marker #65in the Matagorda Ship Channel, to channel marker #54 in the Matagorda Ship Channel to the brown house with the blue roof on Indian Point, excluding the restricted areas described above.

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.

The Approved Area of Lavaca Bay is defined as the area of Lavaca Bay east of the Matagorda Ship Channel, and north of line from Sand Point to Channel Marker 54, this includes Cox and Keller Bays, and excluding the restricted areas described above.

All of Powderhorn Lake excluding the restricted areas described above.

Excluded from these areas are the restricted areas around cabins, houseboats, subdivision channels, and harbor areas described above.