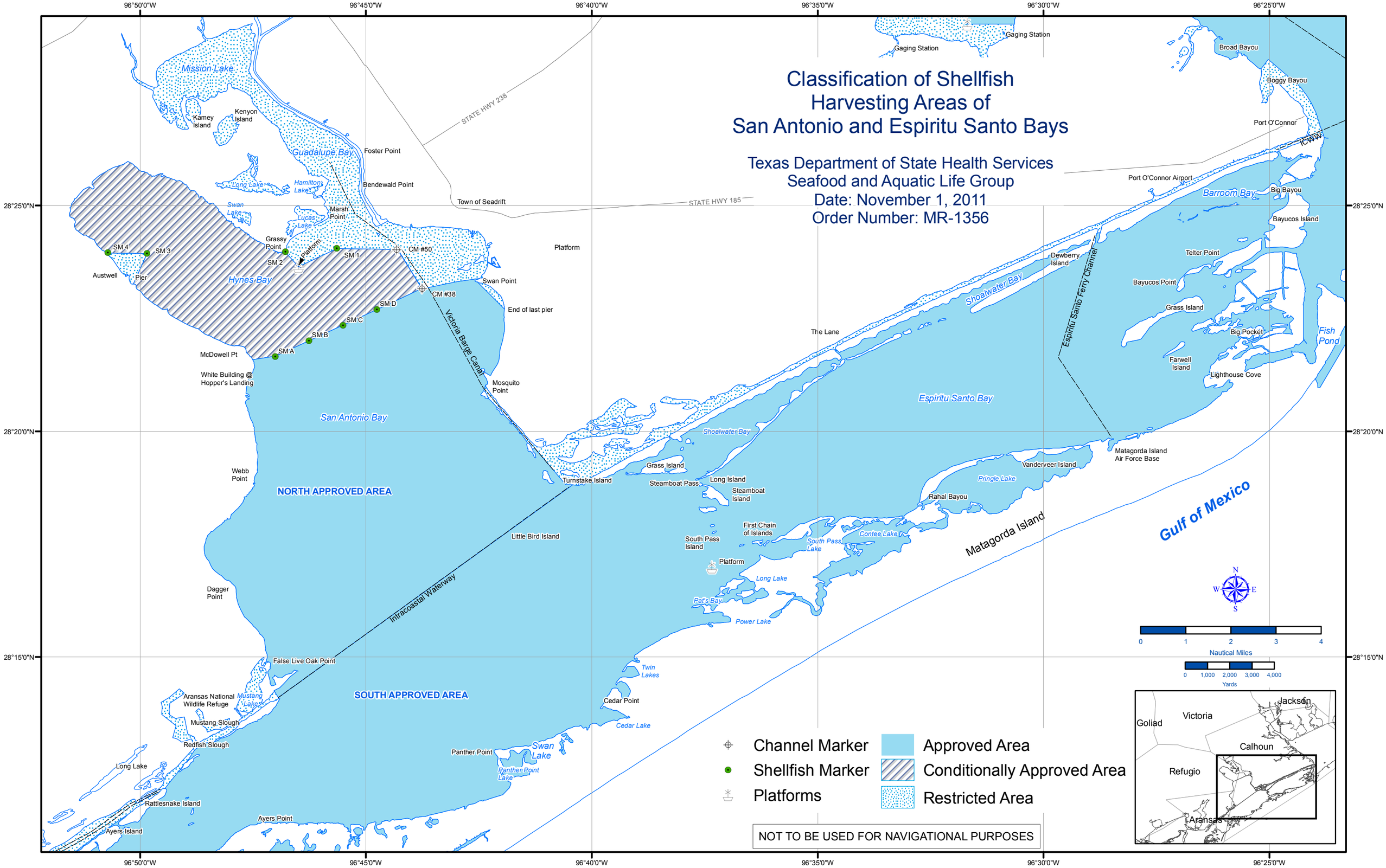
Classification of Shellfish Harvesting Areas of San Antonio and Espiritu Santo Bays

Texas 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 of inefficient operation of wastewater treatment facilities. Current status of shellfish harvesting areas can be obtained from your local Texas Parks and Wildlife Department office or by calling(in state only), **toll free, 1-800-685-0361.**

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

RESTRICTED AREAS: (closed to the taking of shellfish)

That area inshore of a line from the end of the last pier of the southern most house on Swan Point, to Swan Point, then west-southwesterly to Channel Marker #38, then north-northwesterly to Channel Marker #50, then westerly to Shellfish Marker 1 (Lat. 28° 24’ 0.5” N, Long. 96° 45’ 29” W), then westerly to the platform approximately 400 yards south of Grassy Point, then westerly to Shellfish Marker 2 (Lat. 28° 24’ 0.6” N, Long. 96° 46’ 45” W) located at Grassy Point.

That area inshore of a line from the pier at Austwell, then northerly to Shellfish Marker 3 (Lat. 28° 24’ 00” N, Long. 96° 49’ 55” W), then westerly to Shellfish Marker 4 (Lat. 28° 24’ 05” N, Long. 96° 50’ 48” W) located along the northwest of Austwell.

All of Boggy Bayou and that area of Matagorda Bay 500 yards offshore from the northern tip of Boggy Bayou parallel to the shoreline around Port O’Connor, to the Intracoastal Waterway.

All of the Intracoastal Waterway and inland waters where they become land bound between Aransas and San Antonio bays.

All of the Intracoastal Waterway and inland waters where they become land bound between San Antonio Bay and the base of the Little Jetties in Port O’Connor.

All areas within a 50 yard radius of houseboats located on the bay, and recreational cabins not noted on the map.

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

CONDITIONALLY APPROVED AREA: (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.

All areas of San Antonio and Hynes Bays offshore of the restricted areas described above southeastward to a line from the white building at Hopper’s Landing south of McDowell point, east-northeasterly to Shellfish Marker A, to Shellfish Marker B, to Shellfish Marker C, to Shellfish Marker D, to Channel Marker #38.

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 North Approved Area of San Antonio Bay is that area offshore of the conditionally approved area and restricted areas described above southeastward to the Intracoastal Waterway.

The South Approved Area of San Antonio Bay is south of the Intracoastal Waterway and east of a line from the northeastern tip of Roddy Island to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) marker located approximately 150 yards southeast of the northeastern tip of Roddy Island to the southwestern most cabin at Ayres Dugout following the southwestern shoreline of the spoil islands located southeast of Ayres Dugout, thence in an east-southeasterly (110 degrees) direction to the Matagorda Island Shoreline (Lat. 28° 09’ 53” N, Long. 96° 49’ 09” W), and west of a line from the Matagorda Island shoreline (Lat. 28° 17’ 14” N, Long. 96° 36’ 17” W) to the southeastern most cabin (Lat. 28° 17’ 31” N, Long. 96° 36’ 19” W) on the easternmost island in the First Chain of Islands, thence to the Green Cabin (Lat. 28° 17’ 28” N, Long. 96° 36’ 44” W) on the next island in the First Chain of Islands, to the western most building (Lat. 28° 17’ 46” N, Long. 96° 37’ 18” W) on South Pass Island, thence to the southern most point of land on Steamboat Island (Lat. 28° 18’ 21” N, Long. 96° 37’ 05” W), following the shoreline of Steamboat Island around to the northern tip of Steamboat Island (Lat. 28° 18’ 53” N, Long. 96° 37’ 37” W) to the southwest end of Long Island (Lat. 28° 18’ 54” N, Long. 96° 37’ 44” W), to the east end of Grass Island (Lat. 28° 19’ 07” N, Long. 96° 37’ 44” W) following the southwestern shoreline of Grass Island to the Intracoastal Waterway

The approved areas of Espiritu Santo Bay is that area east of a line from the Matagorda Island shoreline (Lat. 28° 17’ 14” N, Long. 96° 36’ 17” W) to the southeastern most cabin (Lat. 28° 17’ 31” N, Long. 96° 36’ 19” W) on the easternmost island in the First Chain of Islands, thence to the Green Cabin (Lat. 28° 17’ 28” N, Long. 96° 36’ 44” W) on the next island in the First Chain of Islands, to the western most building (Lat. 28° 17’ 46” N, Long. 96° 37’ 18” W) on South Pass Island, thence to the southern most point of land on Steamboat Island (Lat. 28° 18’ 21” N, Long. 96° 37’ 05” W), following the shoreline of Steamboat Island around to the northern tip of Steamboat Island (Lat. 28° 18’ 53” N, Long. 96° 37’ 37” W) to the southwest end of Long Island (Lat. 28° 18’ 54” N, Long. 96° 37’ 44” W), to the east end of Grass Island (Lat. 28° 19’ 07” N, Long. 96° 37’ 44” W) following the southwestern shoreline of Grass Island to the Intracoastal Waterway, and west of Pass Cavallo and northwest of Matagorda Island.

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