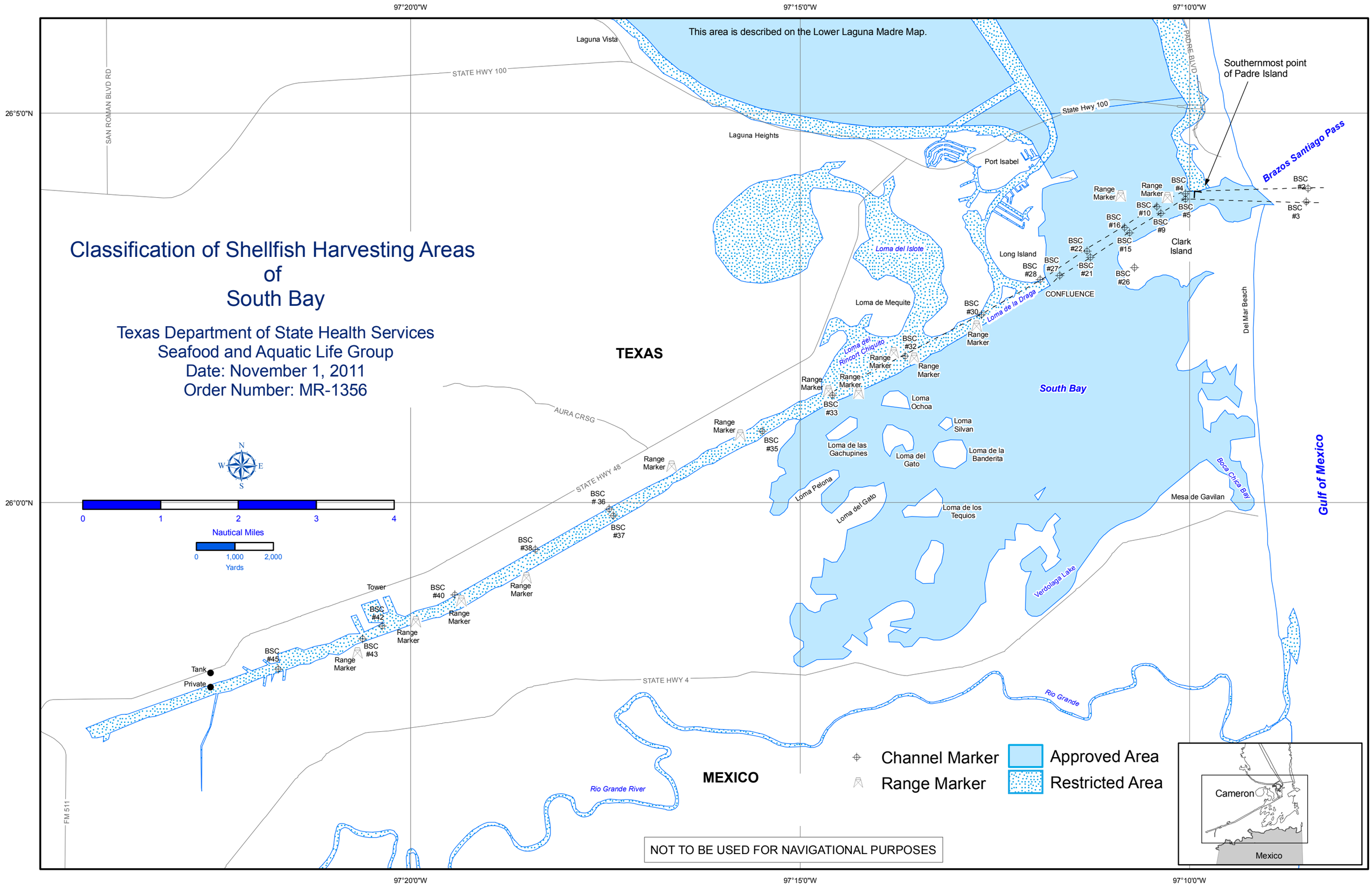
Classification of Shellfish Harvesting Areas of South Bay

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 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, 1-800-685-0361.**

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

RESTRICTED AREAS: (closed to the taking of shellfish)

That area of the Laguna Madre for a distance of 200 yards offshore beginning at the west side of the Old Causeway and extending north and west to Laguna Vista Cove.

That inshore area of the Laguna Madre for a distance of 200 yards beginning at the northern most part of the South Padre Island Convention Center and extending southward to Brownsville Ship Channel Marker #4, then to the southernmost point of Padre Island.

All of the Intracoastal Waterway extending 150 yards each side from the center.

All of the Brownsville Ship Channel extending 150 yards each side from the center of the channel and extending inland to the Brownsville Turning Basin.

All of the Rio Grande.

All of the Vadia Ancha, the Bahia Grande and San Martin Lake north of the Brownsville Ship Channel.

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.

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

The approved area of South Bay is that area southeast of a line 150 yards southeast of, and parallel to, the Brownsville Ship Channel.

The approved area of the lower Laguna Madre is described on the lower Laguna Madre classification map.

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