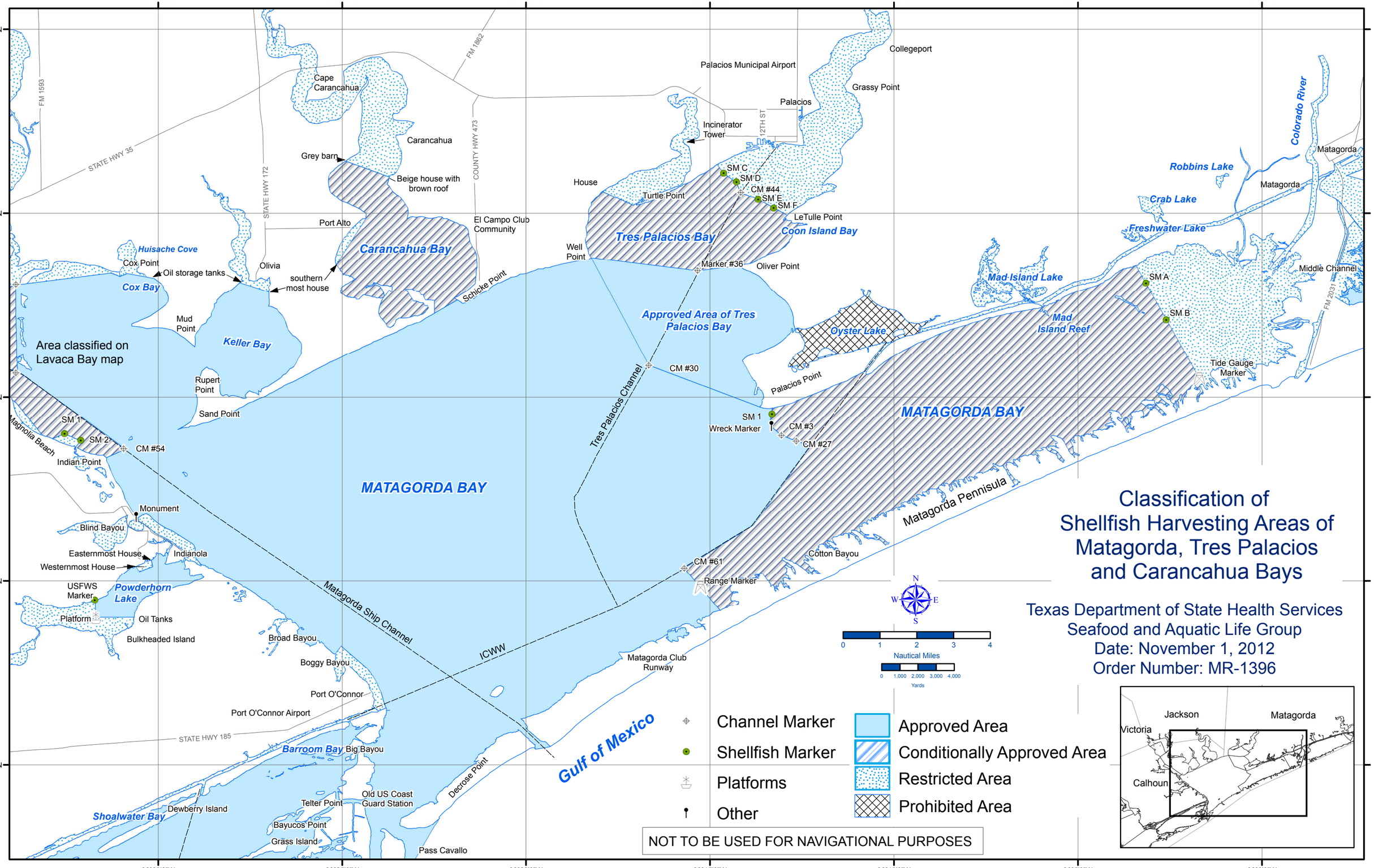
Classification of Shellfish Harvesting Areas of Matagorda, Tres Palacios and Carancahua Bays

Texas Department of State Health Services
Seafood and Aquatic Life Group
Date: November 1, 2012
Order Number: MR-1396



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OF

MATAGORDA, TRES PALACIOS, AND CARANCAHUA BAYS

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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)

That area of Carancahua Bay north of a line running from the Beige House with the brown roof (Lat. 28° 40.915' N, Long. 96° 23.729' W), then west-northwesterly to the Grey Barn (Lat. 28° 41.316' N, Long. 96° 25.130' W).

That area of Carancahua Bay inshore of a line from the southernmost house at Port Alto (Lat. 28° 38.528' N, Long. 96° 25.148' W), then north-northeast to the point of land (Lat. 28° 39.951' N, Long. 96° 24.363' W) north of Port Alto.

That area of Turtle Bay northeast of a line from Turtle Point to the house on the western shore of Turtle Bay.

That area of Tres Palacios Bay northeast of a line from the Incinerator Tower located on the eastern shore of Turtle Bay, to Shellfish Marker C, to Shellfish Marker D, to Tres Palacios Channel Marker #44, to Shellfish Marker E, to Shellfish Marker F, then east-southeasterly, to LeTulle Point.

That area of West Matagorda Bay northeast of a line from the mainland southeasterly to Shellfish Marker A located near the mainland, to Shellfish Marker B located near the end of Shell Island Reef, to the Tide Gauge located near the Matagorda Peninsula, and continuing to the Matagorda Peninsula.

All of the Intracoastal Waterway where it becomes land bound on the north side of Matagorda Bay, Mad Island Lake, Culver's Cut and the Colorado River.

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.

An area for a distance of 300 yards offshore from the Monument to the southern point of land at the mouth of Powderhorn Lake including the mouth inshore to its narrowest point.

All of Blind Bayou, Old Town Lake and all 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 easternmost 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 bulk headed island near the east shoreline of Powderhorn Lake to the oil tanks on the east shoreline of Powderhorn lake.

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.

All of Tres Palacios Bay offshore of the restricted line described above and inshore of a line from Well Point to Marker 36 to Oliver Point.

The conditionally approved area of Carancahua Bay is that area offshore of the restricted lines described above and inside of a line from Schicke Point west-southwest to the unnamed point on the west side of Carancahua Pass.

The conditionally approved area of Matagorda Bay will be the area of Matagorda Bay southeast of a line from Palacios Point to Shellfish Marker MAT 1, to the Wreck Marker, to Channel Marker #3, to Channel Marker #27 in the Intracoastal Waterway on the east side of Matagorda Bay near Oyster Lake proceeding westbound along the Intracoastal Waterway to Channel Marker #61, then in a southerly direction (130 degrees) to the range marker, then to the Matagorda Peninsula, then down the shoreline in an easterly direction and directly adjacent to the Tide Gauge Marker, then to Shellfish Marker B, then to Shellfish Marker A, to the shoreline and heading westerly to Palacios Point.

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 Tres Palacios Bay is that area offshore of the Conditionally Approved Area described above southeastward to a line from Well Point, to Channel Marker 30 to Palacios Point.

All of Powderhorn Lake excluding the restricted areas described above.

The approved area of Matagorda Bay is that area inside of a line from Sand Point, following the shoreline in a northeast direction across Carancahua Pass to Schicke Point, then to Well Point, then in a southeast direction to Palacios Channel Marker 30, to Palacios Point, then to MAT Shellfish Marker 1, to the Wreck Marker, to Chanel Marker #3, to Channel Marker #27, then proceeding westward along the ICWW, to Channel Marker #61, then proceeding southeasterly at 130 degrees to the range marker, then to the Matagorda Peninsula to Decros Point, across Pass Cavallo to the Old Coast Guard Station, then in a northerly direction across the mouths of Saluria and Big Bayou, to the Intracoastal Waterway, then 500 yards offshore around Port O'Connor and Boggy Bayou, to the shoreline at the northern tip of Boggy Bayou, then following the bay shore in a northwesterly direction to the southern point of land at the mouth of Powderhorn lake, then 300 yards offshore and parallel to the shore to a point perpendicular to the Monument, to the bay shore at the Monument, then in a northwesterly direction along the bay shore (excluding Blind Bayou, Old Town Lake, and all bodies of water contiguous to Blind Bayou and Old Town Lake), to Indian Point, to Matagorda Chanel Marker #54, and returning to Sand Point.

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