

CLASSIFICATION OF SHELLFISH HARVESTING AREAS

OF THE

LOWER LAGUNA MADRE

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES SEAFOOD AND AQUATIC LIFE OPERATIONS BRANCH

DATE: December 1, 2023 ORDER NUMBER: MR-1830

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.**

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

<u>RESTRICTED AREAS:</u> (closed to the taking of shellfish)

All areas of the Laguna Madre north of the Port Mansfield Channel.

That area of Laguna Madre inshore of the Intracoastal Waterway north of a line from Channel Marker #25 then southwesterly to Channel Marker # 79 then to the southernmost house on the shoreline south of the Port Mansfield Channel on El Sanz Island.

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

All inshore areas bounded by a line from Mud Island easterly to the Intracoastal Waterway Channel Marker #111, continuing south along the Intracoastal Waterway to Channel Marker #19, then westerly to the southernmost point of Red Head Cove.

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

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

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

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

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

TX 34:

TX 34 is that area of lower Laguna Madre inside of a line from the Port Mansfield Channel to the west shore of Padre Island, then south to the northernmost part of South Padre Island Convention Center, then offshore 200 yards, then south to Brownsville Ship Channel Marker #4, then southwest parallel to 150 yards from the center of the Brownsville Ship Channel, to Channel Marker #26, then to the southeast shore of Long Island, to the Old Causeway, then 200 yards from the shore at the Old Causeway, then northwest parallel to the shore to the Laguna Vista Cove, then along the shoreline to the southernmost point of Red Head Cove, to Intracoastal Waterway (ICWW) Channel Marker #19, to ICWW Marker #111, to Mud Island, then northwesterly along the shoreline to the southern most house on the shore south of the Port Mansfield Channel, to ICWW #79, then northwest to ICWW #25, and returning to the Port Mansfield Channel.

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