

South Carolina Department of Environmental Services

OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT AREA 10B

2024 ANNUAL UPDATE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

**Shellfish Sanitation Program
Office of Law Enforcement
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201**



SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

September 2024

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT AREA 10B 2024 ANNUAL UPDATE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

[Data Through December 2023]



SC DEPARTMENT *of*
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

Prepared By:

Ryan Reed, Regional Shellfish Program Manager
Office of Law Enforcement
1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 300
Charleston, South Carolina 29405

Reviewer:

Mike Marshall, State Shellfish Program Manager
Office of Law Enforcement
927 Shine Avenue
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29577



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2024 ANNUAL UPDATE
Shellfish Management Area 10B

Data Inclusive Dates:
No Data / Not Applicable

Classification Change:
 Yes X No

Shoreline Survey Completed: No

(I)ncreased/(D)ecreased/(N)one:

Prior Report & Date: 2023 Annual Update

 N Approved
 N Conditionally Approved
 N Restricted
 N Prohibited

SUMMARY

Shellfish Management Area 10B (SFMA 10B) will remain Administratively Prohibited in its entirety. Historical and current uses of the upland areas within close proximity to Cooper River, Ashley River, and Charleston Harbor are not conducive for the sanitary harvest of molluscan shellfish for human consumption. The numerous point source discharges and miscellaneous activities that occur throughout the area prevent the Department from screening for all potential deleterious substances that could be present. Because of the large number of municipal and industrial discharges, the Shellfish Sanitation Program no longer monitors fecal coliform bacteria concentrations in SFMA 10B. Molluscan shellfish harvest for human consumption will not be allowed in SFMA 10B.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This sanitary survey evaluates the current harvesting classification of shellfish growing waters designated as Shellfish Management Area 10B. SFMA 10B consists of approximately 25,266 acres of shellfish growing area habitat located partially in both Berkeley and Charleston Counties, South Carolina. SFMA 10B consists of the Charleston Harbor and all creeks emptying into the harbor, the Cooper River from the harbor upstream to Woods Point and the Ashley River from the harbor upstream to Drayton Hall. The harbor is approximately four miles wide (northwest to southeast) and three miles long (southwest to northeast). Depths range from approximately 40 feet in the harbor’s shipping channel to two feet near the shoreline. Due to minimal shoaling in the Ashley River, dredging occurs on an infrequent basis. The Cooper River, however, is routinely dredged due to occurrence of moderate to heavy shoaling. Freshwater flows into the area from both the Ashley and Cooper Rivers as well as from the Francis Marion National Forest via the Wando River. Overland runoff from rainfall also introduces additional freshwater into the area. High salinity ocean water enters the area from the mouth of the Charleston Harbor. The entire area is approximately 15 miles wide (northwest to southeast) and eight miles long (southwest to northeast).

There are no designated shellfish grounds within SFMA 10B. The shellfish-harvesting season in South Carolina normally extends from October through May. SCDNR has the authority to alter the shellfish-harvesting season for resource management purposes and grant permits for year-round mariculture operations. Additionally, the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) has the authority to prohibit shellfish harvesting when necessary to ensure that shellfish harvested in South Carolina waters are safe for human consumption.

Numerous municipal and industrial point source discharges are throughout SFMA 10B. Because of the large number of discharges, the Department no longer monitors fecal coliform bacteria concentrations for shellfish harvest classification purposes within this growing area.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Shellfish Management Area 10B is not monitored for fecal coliform bacteria for shellfish harvest classification purposes due to the large number of municipal and industrial point source discharges within the area. The harvest of molluscan shellfish for human consumption should not be allowed in SFMA 10B. The shoreline survey review of SFMA 10B indicates that the classification boundary descriptions are appropriate.

PROHIBITED

1. The Charleston Harbor and all associated marshlands.
2. The Ashley River and all associated marshlands northward to Drayton Hall.
3. The Cooper River and all associated marshlands northward to Woods Point.

RESTRICTED

None

CONDITIONALLY APPROVED

None

APPROVED

None

Station Addition/Deactivation/Modification: None

REFERENCES

National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP), Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, 2017 Revision. Model Ordinance. United States Food and Drug Administration.

<https://www.fda.gov/media/117080/download>

South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES), Bureau of Water, 2017, Regulation 61-47, Shellfish. p. 9-12.

<https://www.des.sc.gov/sites/des/files/Library/Regulations/R.61-47.pdf>





United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1971. *Soil survey of Charleston County, South Carolina*. In cooperation with South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and South Carolina Land Resources Conservation Commission, National Cooperative Soil Survey, Washington, D.C. p. 78.

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/south_carolina/charlestonSC1971/charlestonSC1971.pdf

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, 1980. *Soil survey of Berkeley County, South Carolina*. In cooperation with South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and South Carolina Land Resources Conservation Commission, National Cooperative Soil Survey, Washington, D.C. p. 95.

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/south_carolina/berkeleySC1980/berkeley.pdf

Shellfish Management Areas

-  Area 10B
-  Mgt. Areas
-  Berkeley and Charleston Cnty
-  Counties

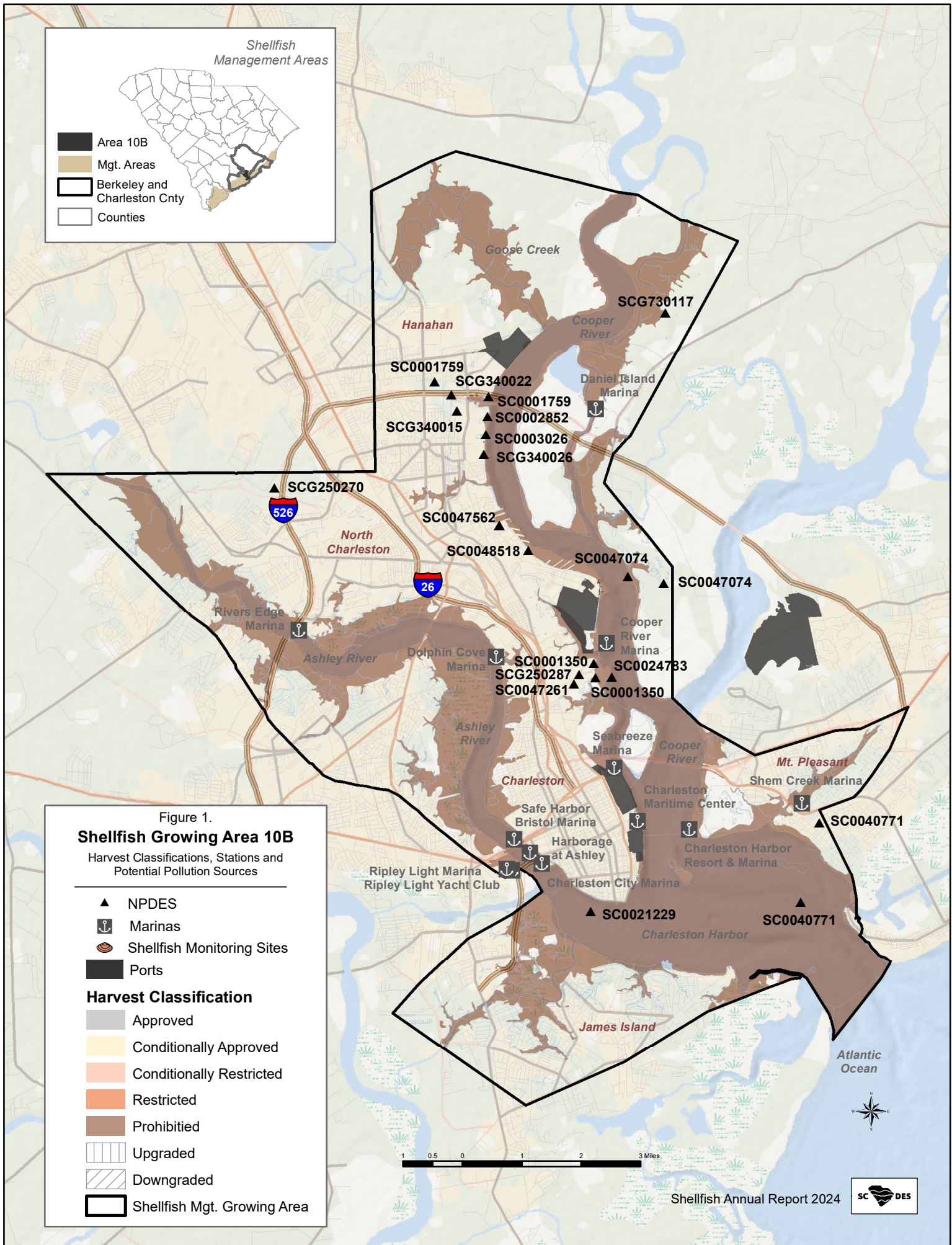
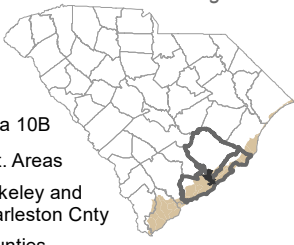










Figure 1.

Shellfish Growing Area 10B

Harvest Classifications, Stations and Potential Pollution Sources

-  NPDES
-  Marinas
-  Shellfish Monitoring Sites
-  Ports

Harvest Classification

-  Approved
-  Conditionally Approved
-  Conditionally Restricted
-  Restricted
-  Prohibited
-  Upgraded
-  Downgraded
-  Shellfish Mgt. Growing Area

