

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT AREA 10B

2019 ANNUAL UPDATE

**Shellfish Sanitation Section
Environmental Affairs
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201**

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WEB ADDRESS
<http://www.scdhec.gov/FoodSafety/ShellfishMonitoring/>

SHELLFISH MANAGEMENT AREA 10B 2019 ANNUAL UPDATE

[Data Through December 2018]



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Shellfish Management Area 10B

Data Inclusive Dates:

No Data thru No Data

Classification Change:

 Yes X No

Shoreline Survey Completed: No

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

 N Approved

 N Conditionally Approved

 N Restricted

 N Prohibited

Prior Report & Date: 2018 Annual Update

SUMMARY

Shellfish Management Area 10B (Area 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 Area 10B. Molluscan shellfish harvest for human consumption will not be allowed in Area 10B.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This sanitary survey evaluates the current harvesting classification of shellfish growing waters designated as Shellfish Management Area 10B (Area 10B). Area 10B consists of approximately 25,266 acres of shellfish growing area habitat located partially in both Berkeley and Charleston Counties, South Carolina. Area 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 Area 10B. The shellfish-harvesting season in South Carolina normally extends from mid-September through mid-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 Health and Environmental Control 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 occur throughout Area 10B. Because of the large number of discharges, the Department no longer monitors fecal coliform bacteria concentrations for shellfish harvest classification purposes.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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 Area 10B. The shoreline survey review of Area 10B indicates that the classification boundary descriptions are appropriate.

PROHIBITED

1. The Charleston Harbor and all associated marshland;
2. The Ashley River and all associated marshland northward to Drayton Hall;
3. The Cooper River and all associated marshland 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.

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