

16 APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM SHELLFISH HARVESTING AREA CLASSIFICATION BOUNDARIES
AND MANAGEMENT

4-DIGIT AREA NUMBER AND NAME	MAP #(S)	EFFECTIVE DATE	COUNTY
1611 Apalachicola Bay System approved Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec	16A	May 5, 2009	Franklin
1612 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally approved West 1 Zone Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec			
1622 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally approved West 2 Zone Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec			
1632 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally approved West 3 Zone Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec			
1642 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally approved East Zone Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec			
1606 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally restricted Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec			
---- Apalachicola Bay System prohibited Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec			
1621 Apalachicola Bay system approved Summer June - Aug	16B	May 5, 2009	Franklin
1642 Apalachicola Bay System approved East Hole Summer June - Aug			
1652 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally approved North Summer June - Aug			
1662 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally approved South Summer June - Aug			
1606 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally restricted Summer June - Aug			
---- Apalachicola Bay System prohibited Summer June - Aug			
---- Shellfish lease numbers 525, 551, 551B, 580, 582, 609, 672, and 981 which are located west of an line drawn from Green Point to Sikes Cut and east of the westernmost point of St. Vincent Island Summer June - Aug			

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM WINTER JAN - MAY, SEPT - DEC

1611 Apalachicola Bay System approved Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec

Classification Boundaries: The area includes all waters within the following polygons.

Polygon 1: Beginning at a point on the mainland shoreline due south of the Florida Highway Patrol radio tower, then southward to ICWW channel marker 34, then southward to the eastern shoreline of the mouth of Sams Bayou on the northern shoreline of St. George Island, then eastward along the northern shoreline of St. George Island, across the mouth of all creeks, ditches and man-made canals, to its northernmost tip, then northwestward across St. George Sound to the easternmost point of the seawall on the mainland shoreline west of Yents Bayou, then southwestward along the mainland shoreline across the mouths of all creeks, ditches and man-made canals to the point of origin at a point on the shoreline due south of the Florida Highway Patrol radio tower.

Polygon 2: Beginning at the westernmost tip of St. Vincent Island, then northward across Indian Pass to the easternmost tip of Indian Peninsula, then due north to the mainland shoreline, then eastward along the mainland shoreline across the mouths of all creeks, ditches and man-made canals to the southernmost point of the access road at Eight Mile, then southeastward to the western shoreline of Red Fish Creek on St. Vincent Island, then westward along the northern shoreline of St. Vincent Island to the westernmost tip of marsh on the eastern shoreline of Big Bayou, then due west across the mouth of Big Bayou to the western shoreline of Big Bayou, then westward along the northern shoreline of St. Vincent Island to the point of origin at the westernmost tip of St. Vincent Island.

Management: The area will be closed when emergencies occur as defined in 5L-1.002, F.A.C. Following temporary closure, sampling will be conducted within 5 days after closure a minimum of 25 percent of the time, and within 10 days after closure 50 percent of the time. The area will be reopened when bacteriological levels meet standards as described in Rule 5L-1.003 F.A.C and fecal coliform levels in shellfish return to normal background levels so that consumption of shellfish will not be a hazard to the public health.

1612 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally approved West Zone 1 Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec

Classification Boundaries: The area includes all waters within a polygon beginning at Green Point (Latitude North 29°42'50"/Longitude West 85°02'17") on the mainland shoreline, then westward along the mainland shoreline, across the mouths of all creeks, ditches and man-made canals to a point on the mainland shoreline at the southernmost point of the access road at five mile (Latitude North 29°43'11"/Longitude West 85°04'13"), then southwestward to the southwest corner marker of lease number 551 (Latitude North 29°42'81"/Longitude West 85°04'56"), then southwestward to a post northeast of Cabbage Top (Latitude North 29°41'56"/Longitude West 85°05'05"), then southeastward to the southwesternmost post of the Green Point Plant Site, then southeastward through a post (Latitude North 29°39'45"/Longitude West 85°00'58") west of ICWW channel marker 77, then southeastward to the intersection of Little St. George Island and the northern entrance to Sikes Cut, then northwestward across Apalachicola Bay to channel marker 1 of the Two Mile Channel, then northwestward to the point of origin at Green Point (Latitude North 29°42'50"/Longitude West 85°02'17").

Management: The area will be temporarily closed to harvesting when: 1) three-day cumulative rainfall measured at the airport in Apalachicola, Florida exceeds 4.37 inches; 2) Apalachicola River discharge measured two days prior at Blountstown, Florida exceeds 25,132 cubic feet per second; 3) Environmental data is not available; or Emergencies as defined in 5L-1.002 F.A.C. Following temporary closure, sampling will be conducted within 5 days after closure a minimum of 25 percent of the time, and within 10 days after closure 50 percent of the time. The area will be reopened when bacteriological levels meet standards as described in Rule 5L-1.003 F.A.C and fecal coliform levels in shellfish return to normal background levels so that consumption of shellfish will not be a hazard to the public health.

1622 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally approved West Zone 2 Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec

Classification Boundaries: The area includes all waters within a polygon beginning at the western shoreline of the mouth of Red Fish Creek on St. Vincent Island, then eastward across the mouth of Red Fish Creek to the eastern shoreline of Red Fish Creek, then southeastward along the northern shoreline of St. Vincent Island across the mouth of Sheepshead Bayou to St. Vincent Point, then southward along the eastern shoreline of St. Vincent Island to the intersection of West Pass, then southeastward across West Pass to the northernmost tip of Little St. George Island, then eastward along the northern shoreline of Little St. George Island across the mouths of all creeks, ditches and man-made canals to the intersection with the northern entrance of Sikes Cut, then northwestward to a post (Latitude North 29°39'45"/Longitude West 85°00'58") west of ICWW channel marker 77, then northwestward to the southwesternmost post of the Green Point Plant Site, then northwestward to a post northeast of Cabbage Top (Latitude North 29°41'56"/Longitude West 85°05'05"), then northeast to the southwest corner marker of lease number 551 (Latitude North 29°42'50"/Longitude West 85°04'43"), then northeast to the southernmost point of the access road at five mile (Latitude North 29°43.11"/Longitude West 85°04'13") on the mainland shoreline, then westward across the mouths of all creeks, ditches and man-made canals to point due south of the access road at Eight Mile, then southeastward to the point of origin at the western shoreline of the mouth of Red Fish Creek.

Management: The area will be temporarily closed to harvesting when: 1) Apalachicola River discharge measured two days prior at Blountstown, Florida exceeds 34,446 cubic feet per second; 2) Environmental data is not available; or Emergencies as defined in 5L-1.002 F.A.C. Following temporary closure, sampling will be conducted within 5 days after closure a minimum of 25 percent of the time, and within 10 days after closure 50 percent of the time. The area will be reopened when bacteriological levels meet standards as described in Rule 5L-1.003 F.A.C and fecal coliform levels in shellfish return to normal background levels so that consumption of shellfish will not be a hazard to the public health.

1632 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally approved West Zone 3 Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec

Classification Boundaries: The area includes all waters within a polygon beginning at the westernmost tip of marsh on the eastern shoreline of Big Bayou on St. Vincent Island, then due west across the mouth of Big Bayou to the western shoreline of Big Bayou, then southeastward along the western shoreline of Big Bayou to a point due south of the northeast marker of lease number 525, then due north through the northeast marker of lease number 525 to the eastern shoreline of Big Bayou, then northwestward along the eastern shoreline of Big Bayou to the point of origin at the westernmost tip of marsh on the eastern shoreline of Big Bayou.

Management: The area will be temporarily closed to harvesting when: 1) three-day cumulative rainfall measured at the airport in Apalachicola, Florida exceeds 1.40 inches; 2) Environmental data is not available; or Emergencies as defined in 5L-1.002 F.A.C. Following temporary closure, sampling will be conducted within 5 days after closure a minimum of 25 percent of the time, and within 10 days after closure 50 percent of the time. The area will be reopened when bacteriological levels meet standards as described in Rule 5L-1.003 F.A.C and fecal coliform levels in shellfish return to normal background levels so that consumption of shellfish will not be a hazard to the public health.

1642 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally approved East Zone Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec

Classification Boundaries: The area includes all waters within a polygon beginning at a point on the mainland shoreline due south of the Florida Highway Patrol radio tower, then southwestward through Channel Marker 2 of the Eastpoint Channel to the intersection of the mainland shoreline and the eastern edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge, then westward along the mainland shoreline to the western edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge, then southward along the western edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge to the northern shoreline of St. George Island, then eastward along the northern shoreline of St. George Island across the mouths of all creeks, ditches and man-made canals to the western shoreline of Sams Bayou, then eastward across the mouth of Sams Bayou to the eastern shoreline of Sams Bayou, then northward to ICWW channel marker 34, then northwestward to the point of origin at the point on the mainland shoreline due south of the Florida Highway Patrol radio tower.

Management: The area will be temporarily closed to harvesting when: 1) three-day cumulative rainfall measured at the airport in Apalachicola, Florida exceeds 4.37 inches; 2) Apalachicola River discharge measured two days prior at Blountstown, Florida exceeds 34,446 cubic feet per second; 3) Environmental data is not available; or Emergencies as defined in 5L-1.002 F.A.C. Following temporary closure, sampling will be conducted within 5 days after closure a minimum of 25 percent of the time, and within 10 days after closure 50 percent of the time. The area will be reopened when bacteriological levels meet standards as described in Rule 5L-1.003 F.A.C and fecal coliform levels in shellfish return to normal background levels so that consumption of shellfish will not be a hazard to the public health.

1606 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally restricted Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec

Classification Boundaries: The area includes all waters within the following polygons.

Polygon 1: Beginning at the southeasternmost point of Tank Island in East Bay, then southwestward to the marked bridge piling on the northern side of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge, then southward to the marked bridge piling on the southern side of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge, then southwestward to ICWW channel marker 9 (Latitude North 29°41'79"/Longitude West 84°58'51".), then southward along the eastern edge of the ICWW channel to ICWW channel marker number 76, then southward across the ICWW channel to ICWW channel marker 77, then southward to the easternmost tip of Little St. George Island, then northwestward across Apalachicola Bay to Two Mile channel marker 1, then northwestward to Green Point (Latitude North 29°42'50"/Longitude West 85°02'17".), then eastward along the mainland shoreline to a point due north of the westernmost tip of the West Two Mile Breakwater, then due south to the westernmost tip of the West Two Mile Breakwater, then eastward along the southern shoreline of the West Two Mile Breakwater to its southernmost point, then eastward across the Two Mile Channel to the southernmost point of the East Two Mile Breakwater, then eastward along the southern shoreline of the East Two Mile Breakwater to its southeasternmost point, then eastward to the southernmost tip of Towhead Island, then northward along the eastern shoreline of Towhead Island to its easternmost tip, then northeastward to the intersection of the southern edge of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge and

the easternmost tip of the western causeway, then northward to the northern edge of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge, then northeastward to Long Point, then northeastward along the western shoreline of East Bay across the mouths of all creeks, ditches rivers, man-made canals and coves to Blounts Bay, then clockwise along the shoreline of Blounts Bay and the northern shoreline of East Bay to the point of origin at the southeasternmost tip of Tank Island.

Polygon 2: Beginning at the intersection of the western edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge and the mainland shoreline, then eastward to the eastern edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge, then northeastward to channel marker 2 of the East Point Channel, then northeastward to a point on the shoreline due south of the Florida Highway Patrol radio tower, then southwestward along the mainland shoreline to a point due north of the easternmost tip of the East Eastpoint Breakwater, then due south to the easternmost tip of the East Eastpoint Breakwater, then southwestward along the southern shoreline of the East Eastpoint Breakwater to its westernmost point, then southwestward across the Eastpoint Channel to the easternmost tip of the West Eastpoint Breakwater, then southwestward along the southern shoreline of the West Eastpoint Breakwater to its westernmost tip, then due north to the mainland shoreline, then southwestward along the mainland shoreline to the point of origin at the intersection with the western edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge.

Management: The area will be temporarily closed to harvesting when: 1) three-day cumulative rainfall measured at the airport in Apalachicola, Florida exceeds 1.17 inches; 2) Apalachicola River discharge measured two days prior at Blountstown, Florida exceeds 37,780 cubic feet per second; 3) Environmental data is not available; or Emergencies as defined in 5L-1.002 F.A.C. Following temporary closure, sampling will be conducted within 5 days after closure a minimum of 25 percent of the time, and within 10 days after closure 50 percent of the time. The area will be reopened when bacteriological levels meet standards as described in Rule 5L-1.003 F.A.C and fecal coliform levels in shellfish return to normal background levels so that consumption of shellfish will not be a hazard to the public health.

Apalachicola Bay System prohibited Winter Jan - May, Sept - Dec

Classification Boundaries: The area includes all waters within the following polygons.

Polygon 1: Beginning at Campbell Point, then southwestward to the southeasternmost tip of Tank Island, then northwestward along the western shoreline of West Bayou to the intersection with the southern edge of the State Road 65 bridge, then eastward along the southern edge of the State Road 65 bridge to the eastern shoreline of West Bayou, then eastward along the eastern shoreline of West Bayou to the western shoreline of East Bayou, then northeastward along the western shoreline of East Bayou to the southern edge of the State Road 65 bridge, then southeastward along the southern edge of the State Road 65 bridge to the eastern shoreline of East Bayou, then southwestward along the eastern shoreline of East Bayou to the point of origin at Campbell Point.

Polygon 2: Beginning at the easternmost tip of the East Eastpoint Breakwater, then southwestward along the southern shoreline of the East Eastpoint Breakwater to its westernmost point, then southwestward across the Eastpoint Channel to the easternmost point of the West Eastpoint Breakwater, then southwestward along the southern shoreline of the West Eastpoint Breakwater to its westernmost point, then due north to the mainland shoreline, then northeastward along the mainland shoreline to a point due north of the easternmost tip of the East Eastpoint Breakwater, then due south to the point of origin at the easternmost tip of the East Eastpoint Breakwater.

Polygon 3: Beginning at the third power pole in East Bay west of East Point, then northeastward to the northernmost point of the rip-rap revetment on the eastern shoreline of East Bay, then southwestward along the eastern shoreline of East Bay to the intersection with the east causeway of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge, then westward along the northern edge of the causeway to a point due south of the third power pole in East Bay west of East Point, then due north to the point of origin at the third power pole in East Bay west of East Point.

Polygon 4: Beginning at the intersection of the northern shoreline of St. George Island and the western edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge, then southwestward to the western shoreline of the mouth of the first unnamed canal west of the Ferry Pass Yacht Basin, then northeastward to the western edge of the southern causeway of the Bryant Patton bridge, then southeastward along the western edge of the Bryant Patton bridge causeway to the point of origin at the intersection of the northern shoreline of St. George Island and the western edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge.

Polygon 5: Beginning at the westernmost tip of the West Two Mile Breakwater, then eastward along the southern shoreline of the West Two Mile Breakwater to its southernmost point, then eastward across the Two Mile Channel to the southernmost point of the East Two Mile Breakwater, then eastward along the southern shoreline of the East Two Mile Breakwater its southeasternmost point, then eastward to the southernmost tip of Towhead Island,

then northward along the eastern shoreline of Towhead Island to its easternmost tip, then northeastward to the intersection of the southern edge of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge and the easternmost tip of the western causeway, then northeastward to Long Point, then northeastward along the western shoreline of East Bay across the mouths of all creeks, ditches, rivers, and coves to the southern shoreline of the mouth of Blounts Bay, then southward along the shoreline following the perimeter of all creeks and coves, and following the perimeters of all rivers to the southern edge of the Apalachicola Northern Railroad Bridge to a point on the mainland shoreline due north of the westernmost tip of the West Two Mile Breakwater, then due south to the point of origin at the westernmost tip of the West Two Mile Breakwater.

Polygon 6: Beginning at the northeast marker of lease number 525 in Big Bayou, then due north to the eastern shoreline of Big Bayou, then clockwise following the perimeter of Big Bayou to a point due south of the northeast marker of lease number 525, then due north to the point of origin at the northeast marker of lease number 525.

Polygon 7: Beginning at the southern shoreline of the mouth of Sheepshead Bayou, then clockwise following the perimeter of Sheepshead Bayou to the northern shoreline of the mouth of Sheepshead Bayou, then southward across the mouth of Sheepshead Bayou to the point of origin at the southern shoreline of Sheepshead Bayou.

Polygon 8: Beginning at the northernmost point of St. George Island then northwestward across St. George Sound to the easternmost point of the seawall on the mainland shoreline west of Yent Bayou, then northeastward along the mainland shoreline, including all creeks, ditches and man-made canals to a point on the mainland shoreline due south of the Crooked River Light, then southward to the easternmost point of St. George Island, then northwestward along the northern shoreline of St. George Island to the point of origin at the northernmost point of St. George Island.

The Prohibited Area includes all marinas.

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM SUMMER JUNE - AUG

1621 Apalachicola Bay System approved Summer June - Aug

Classification Boundaries: The area includes all waters within the following polygon.

Beginning at ICWW channel marker 77, then northward across the ICWW channel to ICWW marker 76, then northeastward to a point on the Bryant Patton Bridge (Piling #107W – Latitude North 29°42'18"/Longitude West 84°53'44"), then southward along the western edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge to the northern shoreline of St. George Island at a point on the western shoreline of the mouth of the first canal, then southeast across the mouth of the first canal to the northeasternmost edge of the first concrete seawall, then westward along the northern shoreline of St. George Island, across the mouths of all creeks, ditches and man-made canals to the eastern side of the mouth of Sikes Cut, then westward across the mouth of Sikes Cut to its western side, then northeast to the point of origin, ICWW channel marker 77.

Management: The area will be closed when emergencies occur as defined in 5L-1.002, F.A.C. Following temporary closure, sampling will be conducted within 5 days after closure a minimum of 25 percent of the time, and within 10 days after closure 50 percent of the time. The area will be reopened when bacteriological levels meet standards as described in 5L-1.003 F.A.C and fecal coliform levels in shellfish return to normal background levels so that consumption of shellfish will not be a hazard to the public health.

1642 Apalachicola Bay System approved East Hole Summer June - Aug

Classification Boundaries: Beginning at the intersection of the western edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge with the northern edge of the ICWW channel, then southward along the western edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge to the northernmost point of the Bryant Patton Bridge Causeway, then southward along the eastern edge of the Bryant Patton Causeway to the intersection of the northern shoreline of St. George Island, then northeastward along the northern shoreline of St. George Island across the mouths of all creeks, ditches and man-made canals to the western shoreline of Sams Bayou, then eastward across the mouth of Sams Bayou to the eastern shoreline of Sams Bayou, then northward to ICWW channel marker 34, then southwestward along the northern edge of the ICWW channel to the point of origin at intersection of the western edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge with the northern edge of the ICWW channel.

Management: The area will be closed when emergencies occur as defined in 5L-1.002, F.A.C. Following temporary closure, sampling will be conducted within 5 days after closure a minimum of 25 percent of the time, and within 10 days after closure 50 percent of the time. The area will be reopened when bacteriological levels meet standards as described in Rule 5L-1.003 F.A.C and fecal coliform levels in shellfish return to normal background levels so that consumption of shellfish will not be a hazard to the public health.

1652 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally approved North Zone Summer June - Aug

Classification Boundaries: The area includes all waters within a polygon beginning at Campbell Point in East Bay, then southward along the eastern shoreline of East Bay across the mouths of all creeks, ditches and man-made canals to the northernmost point of the rip rap revetment on the eastern shoreline of East Bay, then southwestward to the third power pole west of East Point, then due south to the northern shoreline of the eastern causeway of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge, then westward along the northern shoreline of the eastern causeway of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge to the intersection with the northern edge of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge, then westward along the northern edge of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge to the marked bridge piling, then northeastward to the southeasternmost tip of Tank Island, then northeastward to the point of origin at Campbell Point.

Management: The area will be temporarily closed to harvesting when: 1) five-day cumulative rainfall measured at the airport in Apalachicola, Florida exceeds 2.69 inches; 2) Apalachicola River same day discharge measured at Blountstown, Florida exceeds 29,838 cubic feet per second; 3) Environmental data is not available; or Emergencies as defined in 5L-1.002 F.A.C. Following temporary closure, sampling will be conducted within 5 days after closure a minimum of 25 percent of the time, and within 10 days after closure 50 percent of the time. The area will be reopened when bacteriological levels meet standards as described in Rule 5L-1.003 F.A.C and fecal coliform levels in shellfish return to normal background levels so that consumption of shellfish will not be a hazard to the public health.

1662 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally approved South Zone Summer June - Aug

Classification Boundaries: The area includes all waters within a polygon beginning at ICWW channel marker 77, then northward across the ICWW channel to ICWW marker 76, then northwestward along the eastern edge of the ICWW channel to ICWW channel marker 9 (Latitude North 29°41'79"/Longitude West 84°58'51"), then northeastward to the marked bridge piling on the southern side of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge, then northward to the marked bridge piling on the northern side of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge, then eastward along the northern edge of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge to the intersection with the eastern causeway of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge, then eastward along the southern shoreline of the John Gorrie Memorial Bridge Causeway to the mainland shoreline, then southeastward along the mainland shoreline, across the mouths of all creeks, ditches and man-made canals to the intersection with the western edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge, then southward along the western edge of the Bryant Patton Bridge to a point on the Bryant Patton Bridge (Piling #107W – Latitude North 29°42'18"/Longitude West 84°53'44"), then southwestward to the point of origin at ICWW channel marker 77.

Management: The area will be temporarily closed to harvesting when: 1) five-day cumulative rainfall measured at the airport in Apalachicola, Florida exceeds 4.99 inches; 2) Apalachicola River same day discharge measured at Blountstown, Florida exceeds 29,838 cubic feet per second; 3) Environmental data is not available; or Emergencies as defined in 5L-1.002 F.A.C. Following temporary closure, sampling will be conducted within 5 days after closure a minimum of 25 percent of the time, and within 10 days after closure 50 percent of the time. The area will be reopened when bacteriological levels meet standards as described in Rule 5L-1.003 F.A.C and fecal coliform levels in shellfish return to normal background levels so that consumption of shellfish will not be a hazard to the public health.

Shellfish lease numbers 525, 551, 551B, 580, 582, 609, 672, and 981 which are located west of an line drawn from Green Point to Sikes Cut and east of the westernmost point of St. Vincent Island Summer June - Aug

Management: The waters of these leases shall be managed in accordance with the criteria for the 1611 Apalachicola Bay System approved area during winter months of January through May and September through December.

1606 Apalachicola Bay System conditionally restricted Summer June - Aug

Classification Boundaries: The boundaries for the Apalachicola Bay System conditionally restricted area during summer months of June through August are the same as described for the Apalachicola Bay System conditionally restricted area during winter months of January through May and September through December.

Management: The area will be temporarily closed to harvesting when: 1) five-day cumulative rainfall measured at the airport in Apalachicola, Florida exceeds 4.16 inches; 2) Same-day Apalachicola River discharge measured two at Blountstown, Florida exceeds 29,838 cubic feet per second; 3) Environmental data is not available; or Emergencies as defined in 5L-1.002 F.A.C. Following temporary closure, sampling will be conducted within 5 days after closure a minimum of 25 percent of the time, and within 10 days after closure 50 percent of the time. The area will be reopened when bacteriological levels meet standards as described in Rule 5L-1.003 F.A.C and fecal coliform levels in shellfish return to normal background levels so that consumption of shellfish will not be a hazard to the public health.

1603 Apalachicola Bay System prohibited Summer June - Aug

Classification Boundaries: The boundaries for the Apalachicola Bay System prohibited area during summer months of June through August are the same as described for the Apalachicola Bay System prohibited area during winter months of January through May and September through December.

Closure Criteria for Conditionally Approved and Conditionally Restricted Shellfish Harvesting Areas in the Central Gulf Coast District (updated 04/2009)

Area #	Area Name	County	Rainfall	River
1606	Apalachicola CR Year Round	Franklin	ARF3>1.17" Apalachicola Airport	ADIS2>37,780cfs Blountstown River Gage
1611	Apalachicola Approved Winter East and West September-May	Franklin	Emergency Conditions ARF3>7.49" Apalachicola Airport	Emergency Conditions 1611W ADIS2>49,999cfs or ASTG2>17.82', and 1611E ADIS2> 63,905 cfs or ASTG2> 19.76' at the Blountstown River Gage.
1612	Apalachicola CA Winter West 1 Sep-May	Franklin	ARF3>4.37" Apalachicola Airport	ADIS2>25,132cfs or ASTG2>11.22' Blountstown River Gage

Area #	Area Name	County	Rainfall	River
1621	Apalachicola Approved Summer June-August	Franklin	Emergency Conditions ARF3>7.49" Apalachicola Airport	Emergency Conditions ADIS2>49,999cfs or ASTG2 >17.82' Blountstown River Gage
1622	Apalachicola CA Winter West 2 Sep-May	Franklin	N/A	ADIS2>34446 cfs or ASTG2>14.42' Blountstown River Gage
1632	Apalachicola CA Winter West 3 Sep-May	Franklin	ARF3>1.40" Apalachicola Airport	N/A
1642 East Hole	Apalachicola Approved Summer East Hole	Franklin	Emergency Conditions ARF3>7.49" Apalachicola Airport	Emergency Conditions ADIS2>49,999cfs Blountstown River Gage
1642	Apalachicola CA Winter East Sep-May	Franklin	ARF3>4.37" Apalachicola Airport	ADIS2>34446cfs or ASTG2>14.42' Blountstown River Gage
1652	Apalachicola CA Summer North Jun-Aug	Franklin	ARF5>2.69" Apalachicola Airport	ADIS>29838cfs Blountstown River Gage
1662	Apalachicola CA Summer South Jun-Aug	Franklin	ARF5>4.99" Apalachicola Airport	ADIS>29838cfs Blountstown River Gage



FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE WEEKLY & FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE



Rule Chapter: 68B-27
Chapter Title: OYSTERS

[Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission](#)

[Marine Fisheries](#)

68B-27 : OYSTERS



[Add to Favorite](#)

Proposed rules open for public comment: 0
Index of Rules Filed During Preceding Week: 0
List of Rules Affected (Section XIV): 0

Recent Activities Since (90 days)

Recent F.A.W. Notices: 0 Rule versions that became effective: 0

Rule Proposals published: 0 Meeting and Hearing notices published: 0

Click on the rule number to see the detail of the rule.

Press **Ctrl-F** to search by text.

Rule No	Rule Title	Latest Version	Effective Date
68B-27.013	Definitions		11/27/1996
68B-27.014	Statewide Bag Limits on Oyster Harvesting		6/1/1999
68B-27.015	Oyster Size Limit		10/7/2001
68B-27.016	Oyster Harvest Monitoring		11/29/1993
68B-27.017	Apalachicola Bay Oyster Harvesting Restrictions		5/18/2006
68B-27.018	Statewide Harvesting Restrictions		3/10/1991
68B-27.019	Seasons		9/1/2005
68B-27.020	Applicability to Oysters on Leased Parcels		3/10/1991

68B-27.013 Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Apalachicola Bay” or “Bay” means all waters within St. George Sound, East Bay, Apalachicola Bay, St. Vincent Sound in Franklin County, and Indian Lagoon in Gulf County, including canals, channels, rivers, and creeks.

(2) “Bag” means any container holding an amount of culled shellstock equal to the volume of two five-gallon buckets, one ten-gallon bucket, or sixty pounds.

(3) “Certified oyster house” means a shellfish shipper, repacker, shucker-packer, or depuration processor who possesses a shellfish processing plant certification license from the Department.

(4) “Closed area” means any area in which the taking or harvesting of oysters is prohibited pursuant to any applicable rule, order or other action of the Department or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(5) “Commission” means the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(6) “Cull” means to sort oysters immediately after they are taken out of the water, discarding oysters which are not of legal size, and cleaning mud, bedding shell, and other debris off of those retained that are legal size. Culling takes place over the bar from which the oysters were harvested and includes replacing and scattering all undersize oysters and bedding shell on the reefs from which the oysters were taken.

(7) “Department” means the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

(8) “Harvest” means the taking of oysters by any means whatsoever, followed by a reduction of such oysters to possession. Oysters that are taken but immediately returned to the water free, alive, and unharmed, are not harvested. In addition, temporary possession of oysters for the purpose of culling shall not constitute harvesting such oysters, provided that, after culling, they are immediately returned to the water, free, alive, and unharmed if undersize.

(9) “Harvest for commercial purposes” means to harvest oysters with the intent to sell. Sale of oysters in any amount shall automatically result in such oysters being characterized as commercially harvested.

(10) “Harvest for recreational purposes” means to harvest oysters for personal consumption only.

(11) “Oyster” means any wild or feral mollusk of the species *Crassostrea virginica*.

(12) “Shellstock” means shellfish which remain in their shells.

(13) “Tolerance” means the allowable deviation in size from size limits prescribed in this chapter.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 3-10-91, Amended 11-29-93, 11-27-96, Formerly 46-27.013.

68B-27.014 Statewide Bag Limits on Oyster Harvesting.

(1) Commercial Bag Limit.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), in all counties of the state, no person shall harvest or take for commercial purposes more than twenty (20) bags of oysters per person or vessel, whichever is less, per day.

(b) Beginning October 1 each year and continuing through June 30 of the following year, in Apalachicola Bay, each person who harvests or takes oysters for commercial purposes shall be subject to a bag limit of twenty (20) bags of oysters per day. On any vessel in the bay during this period, a vessel limit equal to twenty (20) bags of oysters times the number of persons aboard the vessel harvesting or taking oysters for commercial purposes shall apply and possession of more than this number of bags of oysters aboard such a vessel in the bay is prohibited. Paragraph (a) shall apply in Apalachicola Bay to all commercial harvesters during the rest of the year.

(2) In all counties of the state, no person harvesting oysters for recreational purposes shall possess more than

two (2) bags per person or vessel, whichever is less, per day. The possession of more than two bags of oysters per person or vessel, whichever is less, per day by such a harvester shall constitute a violation of this rule.

(3) No person shall harvest for recreational and commercial purposes within any one day.

(4) When vessels are connected in any way, for example by towing, no person shall claim more than one bag limit for all vessels so connected.

(5) Possession of oysters in excess of the applicable bag limit aboard a vessel harvesting oysters in or on the waters above any public oyster bed is prohibited.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 3-10-91, Amended 11-29-93, 7-15-96, Formerly 46-27.014, Amended 6-1-99.

68B-27.015 Oyster Size Limit.

(1) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this rule, no person shall harvest, possess while in or on the waters of the state, or land, any oyster less than three (3) inches in greatest dimension. Oysters which are three (3) inches or more in greatest dimension shall be legal size.

(2) Each person harvesting oysters from the waters of this state shall cull such oysters, unless otherwise provided in this chapter, or unless otherwise permitted by the Department for the purpose of planting or relaying as provided by law.

(3) Tolerances. There shall be two types of tolerances allowed with regard to the size of oysters harvested in or on waters of the state.

(a) Tolerance for Attached Oysters. In instances in which culled oysters less than three (3) inches in greatest dimension are attached to legal size oysters such that to separate them would destroy either oyster, a person may harvest, possess while in or on the waters of the state, and land such undersize attached oysters provided that such oysters number no more than 15% of the oysters in any bag or equivalent container. The legal size oysters to which the undersize oysters are attached shall be counted separately from the attached oysters.

(b) Tolerance for Individual, Unattached Oysters. A person may harvest, possess while in or on the waters of the state, and land oysters less than three (3) inches in greatest dimension, provided, that such oysters number no more than 5% of the oysters in any bag or equivalent container.

(4) For purposes of this rule, the term “land” means the physical act of bringing harvested oysters ashore.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 3-10-91, Formerly 46-27.015, Amended 10-7-01.

68B-27.016 Oyster Harvest Monitoring.

(1) All persons harvesting oysters for commercial purposes from areas where monitoring stations are in operation shall:

- (a) Before leaving the waters of these areas, pass through a monitoring station;
- (b) Before arriving at a monitoring station, place all oysters on board their vessels in bags;
- (c) Place all bags containing oysters in plain view on their vessel(s); and
- (d) Declare all oysters on board for inspection.

(2) In water bodies where monitoring stations have been established, the harvest or possession on the water of oysters is prohibited from the posted daily closing time of the station until official sunrise the following day, as established by the U.S. Weather Service.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 3-10-91, Amended 11-29-93, Formerly 46-27.016.

68B-27.017 Apalachicola Bay Oyster Harvesting Restrictions.

In addition to all other provisions of this chapter, the following provisions shall apply to Apalachicola Bay:

(1) No person shall harvest or take oysters for commercial purposes from the waters of Apalachicola Bay:

- (a) On any Friday or Saturday from June 1 through August 31 of each year.
- (b) On any Saturday or Sunday from September 1 through November 15 of each year.

(2)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) and when Apalachicola Bay is not closed for public health purposes, oysters may be harvested in the bay for commercial purposes any day of the week during the period beginning on November 16 each year and continuing through May 31 of the following year.

(b) If during the period specified in paragraph (a), the Department's Shellfish Assessment and Enhancement Section, through its regular monitoring of the abundance of oyster resources on Cat Point Bar and East Hole Bar in the bay, through the Standard Resource Management Protocol (a scale based on scientific sampling that provides a predictive index of the number of oysters available for harvest), establishes that such resources cannot sustain a harvest of 300 bags of oysters per acre, the harvest of oysters for commercial purposes from the bay on Saturday and Sunday of each week for the remainder of the period is prohibited. The Commission shall give notice of such weekend closure in the manner provided in Section 120.81(5), Florida Statutes. The weekend closure shall begin no sooner than one week following such notice.

(3) Harvesting oysters for recreational purposes as provided in Rule 68B-27.014, F.A.C., shall be permitted on any day provided the Bay is not closed for public health reasons.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History--New 3-10-91, Amended 11-29-93, Formerly 46-27.017, Amended 6-1-99, 9-1-05, 5-18-06.

68B-27.018 Statewide Harvesting Restrictions.

(1) Transport and sale of oysters taken intentionally or as bycatch from public oyster reefs using trawling devices or any device towed or operated from a vessel under power or sail shall be prohibited. Oysters taken as bycatch in this manner shall be returned as soon and as reasonably close to public beds from which they were taken as is possible.

(2) Oysters may be harvested by hand, while diving, swimming, leaning from vessels, or wading, and by tongs.

(3) The harvest of oysters between sunset and sunrise, as established by the U.S. Weather Service, from the public reefs or from private bedding grounds is prohibited, except as provided in subsection 68B-27.016(2), F.A.C., in areas where monitoring stations have been established.

(4) The use of any dredge, drag, scrape, or other mechanical device other than ordinary hand tongs in harvesting oysters for any purpose from public oyster beds in state waters is prohibited.

(5) The possession of any dredge, drag, scrape, or other mechanical device other than ordinary hand tongs in or on the waters above any public oyster bed is prohibited.

(6) Ordinary hand tongs may be stowed in moored vessels from sundown until sunrise provided said vessels are not moored on or in waters above any public oyster bed or privately controlled or owned bottoms.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History--New 3-10-91, Formerly 46-27.018.

68B-27.019 Seasons.

(1) In all areas of the state, no person shall harvest oysters on the public reefs of this state, or have such oysters in possession, from July 1 through September 30 of each year, except in the following areas or circumstances:

(a) In Apalachicola Bay:

1. The harvest or possession of oysters on the public reefs is allowed from June 1 through August 31 of each year only in the areas specified in subsection 5L-1.003(1), F.A.C., for the Apalachicola Bay System.

2. The harvest or possession of oysters on the public reefs is allowed from September 1 through May 31 of each year only in the areas specified in subsection 5L-1.003(1), F.A.C., for the Apalachicola Bay System.

(b) As otherwise provided in this chapter or in Section 379.2525, F.S.

(c) In Wakulla, Dixie, and Levy Counties, no person shall harvest or possess oysters on public reefs from June 1 through August 31 each year.

(2) The possession of oysters during the closed seasons specified in this chapter constitutes a violation of this rule.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 3-10-91, Amended 10-3-94, 7-15-96, Formerly 46-27.019, Amended 9-1-05.

68B-27.020 Applicability to Oysters on Leased Parcels.

The harvest of oysters from submerged lands which have been leased for shellfish culture by the State of Florida shall be carried out in compliance with all the provisions of this chapter unless the harvest is exempted from such compliance by specific provisions in valid lease(s) applicable to particular parcels in question.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. History—New 3-10-91, Formerly 46-27.020.