



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF AQUACULTURE

P.O. Box 97, 190 Rogers Avenue, Milford, CT 06460

203-874-0696 | [Agri.Aquaculture@ct.gov](mailto:Agri.Aquaculture@ct.gov)

*Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer*



**LEGAL NOTICE**

Effective August 1, 2025 pursuant to Section 26-192e of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture will change the shellfish classifications in Groton waters. A new 100 ft buffer is placed around Mouse Island, and the Prohibited area extends from the southern tip of Mouse Island to the southern tip of Morgan Point. The area north of the Poquonnock River broken bridge crossing off Bluff Point State Park, a small tributary north of Venetian Harbor (off Mumford Cove), and a small inlet of Beebe Cove north of the intersection of Fishtown Road and Noank Road are reclassified as Prohibited. All Conditionally Restricted Relay (CRR) areas are reclassified as Prohibited around the marina proper and Restricted in adjacent waters, including the Avery Point, Area F West Cove, and Beebe Cove CRR areas. The portion between the Palmer Cove outlet and Conditionally Approved Area E (Outer Palmer Cove) is reclassified as Conditionally Approved Seasonal Area E.

For further details and descriptions, contact the Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture.

Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Aquaculture  
(203) 874-0696

Dated at Milford, Connecticut, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2025.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

David H. Carey, Director  
For Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt



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July 22, 2025

Ledge Light Health District, Director of Health  
Jennifer Muggeo  
216 Broad Street  
New London, CT 06320

**RE: Reclassification of shellfish growing areas in Groton, CT**

Ms. Muggeo,

The Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture (DoAg) is required to reevaluate shellfish growing area classifications in the State on an annual basis, to accurately reflect the appropriate designated use of the area and remain in compliance with the requirements of the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP). The DoAg has completed the 2023 Comprehensive Sanitary Survey Report for the Town of Groton, covering the period 01/01/2011 through 12/31/2023, inclusive of an analysis of data for the 2021 to 2023 reporting period.

Based on the Sanitary Survey, the following shellfish growing areas in Groton are reclassified effective August 1, 2025:

- DoAg is establishing a 100' Prohibited buffer around Mouse Island, and extending the Prohibited area from the southern tip of Mouse Island to the southern tip of Morgan Point. This area was not used for commercial harvest, but was used for recreational harvest. The DoAg identified the holding tanks and limited buffer between the three houses and Long Island Sound as a potential pollution source.
- The area of the Poquonnock River north of the broken bridge off Bluff Point State Park is being reclassified as Prohibited due to lack of shellfish resource. This change is administrative.
- The Groton Avery Point Conditionally Restricted Relay (CRR) area is being reclassified to Prohibited (marina proper) and Restricted Relay. This change is administrative.
- The small tributary north of Venetian Harbor is being reclassified from Conditionally Approved Seasonal to Prohibited. This change is administrative.
- Groton Area F West Cove CRR is being reclassified to Prohibited (marina proper) and Restricted Relay. This change is administrative.
- Beebe Cove CRR is being reclassified to Prohibited (marina proper) and Restricted Relay. This change is administrative.
- The small inlet of Beebe Cove north of the Fishtown Road and Noank Road intersection is being reclassified to Prohibited. This change is administrative.
- The northern portion of Outer Palmer Cove is being reclassified from Restricted Relay to Conditionally Approved Seasonal, and will be referred to as Conditionally Approved Seasonal Area E. This change is based upon water quality improvements, and will be used for recreational shellfishing.

For additional information on the NSSP requirements for classifying shellfish growing areas, please see the NSSP Model Ordinance Chapter IV. Shellfish Growing [Areas@.02](#) Microbiological Standards and [@.03](#) Growing Area Classification.

<https://www.fda.gov/food/federalstate-food-programs/national-shellfish-sanitation-program-nssp>

These changes become effective August 1, 2025. A legal notice has been placed in the local newspaper announcing this change. A copy of the written description of the current classifications and all relevant maps are attached. Copies of the new classification descriptions for the shellfish growing areas in Groton are being provided to the United States Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the Groton Town Clerk.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Alissa Dragan

Supervising Environmental Analyst

[alissa.dragan@ct.gov](mailto:alissa.dragan@ct.gov)

203-874-0696, ext. 119

Cc: Amy Fitzpatrick, USFDA Regional Shellfish Specialist, [Amy.Fitzpatrick@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Amy.Fitzpatrick@fda.hhs.gov), Bryan Hurlburt, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, [Bryan.Hurlburt@ct.gov](mailto:Bryan.Hurlburt@ct.gov), Keith Williams, CT DEEP Environmental Conservation Police, [Keith.Williams@ct.gov](mailto:Keith.Williams@ct.gov), Katie O'Brien-Clayton, CT DEEP Environmental Analyst, [Katie.O'Brien-Clayton@ct.gov](mailto:Katie.O'Brien-Clayton@ct.gov), Marisol Melendez, Groton Town Clerk, [townclerk@groton-ct.gov](mailto:townclerk@groton-ct.gov), Dani Baycura, City of Groton Clerk, Sally Duplice, Stonington Town Clerk



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**CLASSIFICATION OF SHELLFISH GROWING AREAS**

**GROTON, CONNECTICUT**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2025**

**PROHIBITED AREAS:**

Thames River: All Groton waters of the Thames River and its tributaries with a southern boundary of Avery Point (41.31505, -72.06354) west to the New London-Groton jurisdiction line (41.309151, -72.081436)

Eastern Long Island Sound Dredged Materials Disposal Site: All waters of the disposal site and those enclosed by a 1,000' buffer zone around the site, located 2 miles south of Eastern Point, Groton.

Birch Plain Creek, Birch Creek, and Baker Cove: All waters of Birch Plain Creek, Birch Creek, and Baker Cove north of a line beginning at 82 Jupiter Point Road east to the southwestern tip of land at the Groton New London Airport.

Poquonnock River: All waters of the Poquonnock River north of the broken bridge off Bluff Point state park, the southern boundary is defined by 41.334599, -72.036725 east to 41.335281, -72.034105.

Fort Hill Brook and northern Mumford Cove: All waters of Fort Hill Brook and Mumford Cove north of the line defined by 41.327234, -72.023733 east to 41.327186, -72.021346.

Eastern Mumford Cove and Venetian Harbor: All waters of Mumford Cove east of the line defined by 41.320039, -72.014026 southwest to 41.314909, -72.019006, inclusive of the inlet off Anchorage Circle, Venetian Harbor, and tributaries feeding these waterbodies.

Marina proper of Shennecossett Yacht Club, Pine Island Marina, Palmer Cove Marina, Spicer's Marina and Noank Marine Services: the entirety of the marina proper of Shennecossett Yacht Club and Pine Island Marina in Eastern Point Bay, Palmer Cove Marina in Palmer Cove, Spicer's Marina in West Cove, and Noank Marine Services in Beebe Cove.

Mouse Island and Morgan Point: 100' Prohibited buffer around Mouse Island, and extending the Prohibited area from the southern tip of Mouse Island to the southern tip of Morgan Point.

Beebe Cove Prohibited: the small inlet of Beebe Cove north of the Fishtown Road and Noank Road intersection.

Mystic River North: That area of the Mystic River and its tributaries in Groton north of a line commencing from Spence Point, Groton east to Pine Point, Stonington.

Lower Mystic River western shoreline: All waters enclosed by a line beginning at 41.330520, -71.985535, at the Amtrak Railroad bridge channel entrance to Beebe Cove; extending east to 41.330415, -71.982935; south to 41.325182, -71.982948, encompassing the docks of the Noank Village Boatyard and Ram Island Yacht Club; then southwest to 41.320785, -71.986728; then south following the shoreline to the beacon at 41.316267, -71.987245, then southwest to the southern tip of Morgan Point at 41.315775, -71.990010, inclusive of the marina proper at Noank Shipyard and adjacent channel.

## CLASSIFICATION OF SHELLFISH GROWING AREAS GROTON, CT

### **CONDITIONALLY RESTRICTED AREAS:**

None

### **RESTRICTED AREAS:**

Groton Offshore: All waters enclosed by the New London-Groton jurisdiction line; northeast along the Thames River Prohibited classification line; northeast in Eastern Point Bay and Baker Cove, excluding the marina proper, Bakers Cove Prohibited area, and Conditionally Approved Area P; then east along the shoreline of Bluff Point Beach and Bluff Point State Park; east along the classification line of Conditionally Approved Seasonal Area C and Groton Long Point; south from the southernmost point of Groton on Groton Long Point along the Approved classification line to the New York-Connecticut State jurisdiction line; west along the jurisdiction line; and north along the New London-Groton jurisdiction line, excluding the eastern LIS dredge disposal site.

Palmer Cove: All waters and tributaries of Palmer Cove north of the Groton Long Point Road crossing, excluding the Prohibited area around Palmer Cove Marina.

West Cove: All waters enclosed by a line drawn from Esker Point southeast to the southeastern tip of the Mouse Island Prohibited area, then along the Mouse Island/Morgan Point Prohibited area to shoreline, excluding the marina proper prohibited area.

Groton Mystic Restricted: All waters of the Mystic River west of the CSX Transportation railroad, including Beebe Cove but excluding the Noank Marine Services marina proper prohibited area, and extending east beyond the railroad crossing between the defined Prohibited and Conditionally Approved Seasonal classification lines and Stonington-Groton jurisdiction line.

### **CONDITIONALLY APPROVED AREAS:**

Area P - Poquonnock River: All waters of the Poquonnock River from the northern boundary of the broken bridge to the confluence with Bakers Cove at 41.320164, -72.049879. This area is managed with a 1.5" rainfall trigger.

Area E - Outer Palmer Cove: The triangle formed by the southernmost point of Groton on Groton Long Point, northeast to the southern tip of Mouse Island, west to the crossing of East Shore Ave and Beach Rd on Groton Long Point. This area is managed with a 1.5" rainfall trigger.

### **CONDITIONALLY APPROVED SEASONAL AREAS:**

Area C - Mumford Cove: The entirety of Mumford Cove, excluding the previously defined Prohibited areas, with a southern boundary of 41.31667, -72.025262 southeast to 41.314865, -72.019114. This area is managed with a 1.5" rainfall trigger and a seasonal closure from June 1 – October 31 based upon a decline in water quality and boating activity.

Seasonal Area E – Outer Palmer Cove: The triangle formed by the southeastern tip of Mouse Island, northwest to Esker Point, northwest along the shoreline, then south to the boundary of Conditionally Approved Area E at 41.314075, -72.004574. This area is managed with a 1.5" rainfall trigger and a seasonal closure from June 1 – October 31 based upon a decline in water quality.

## CLASSIFICATION OF SHELLFISH GROWING AREAS GROTON, CT

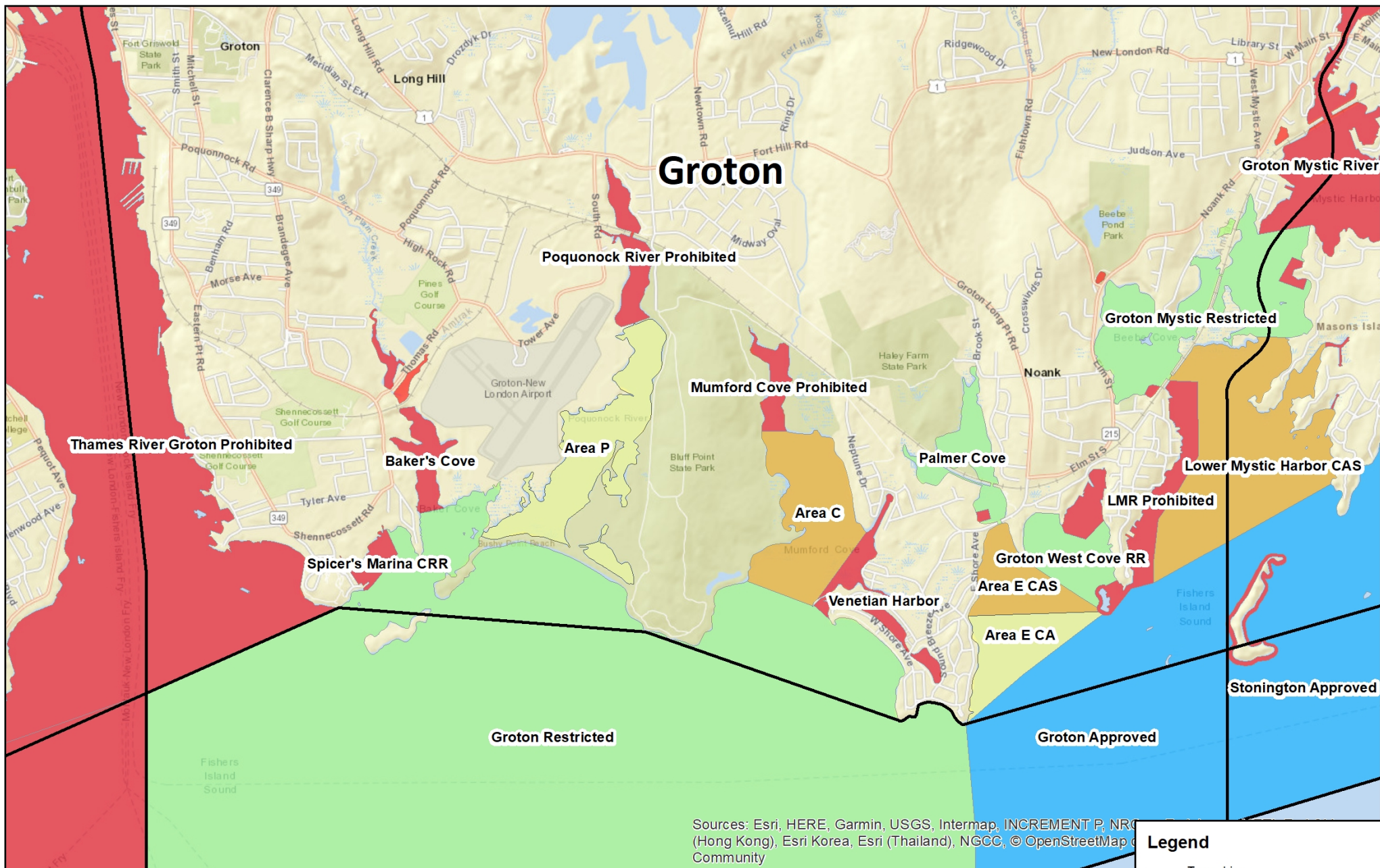
### **CONDITIONALLY APPROVED SEASONAL AREAS (CONTINUED):**

Lower Mystic River, Groton: The area enclosed by the southern boundary of 41.316302, -71.987225 northeast to the Stonington-Groton jurisdiction line; north along the jurisdiction line to the northern boundary defined by 41.333545, -71.976294 west to Sixpenny Island; then southwest along Sixpenny Island and the CSX Transportation Railroad crossing to the boundary with the Prohibited area at 41.330520, -71.985535; then east and southwest along the Prohibited boundary to the original coordinate. This area is managed with a 1.5" rainfall trigger and a seasonal closure from May 1 – November 15 based upon boating activity and a decline in water quality.

### **APPROVED AREAS:**

Those waters within the Groton town boundary lines, exclusive of those areas classified as Prohibited, Conditionally Restricted, Restricted, Conditionally Approved and Conditionally Approved Seasonal.





## CT Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture

Groton, CT  
New classification map

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

Date: 5/9/2025



### Legend

— Town\_Line

#### Classification

- Approved
- Conditionally Approved
- Conditionally Approved Seasonal
- Conditionally Restricted-Relay
- Restricted-Relay
- Prohibited