



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF AQUACULTURE

P.O. Box 97, 190 Rogers Avenue, Milford, CT 06460
203-874-0696 | Agri.Aquaculture@ct.gov
Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



January 21, 2026

East Shore District Health Department, Director of Health
Michael Pascucilla, Ph.D., M.P.H., REHS, DAAS
688 East Main Street
Branford, CT 06405

RE: Reclassification of shellfish growing areas in Branford, CT

Mr. Pascucilla,

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 Town of Branford provided sufficient documentation, as requested by DoAg, to remove the Prohibited buffer around the southern half of Bear Island. The documentation was listed as a follow-up in the 2022 Comprehensive Sanitary Survey Report for the Town of Branford, covering the period 01/01/2009 through 12/31/2022, inclusive of an analysis of data for the 2020 to 2022 reporting period.

The following shellfish growing area in Branford is reclassified effective January 1, 2026:

- The Prohibited buffer around the southern half of Bear Island is being removed based upon the documentation provided by the ESDHD.

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>

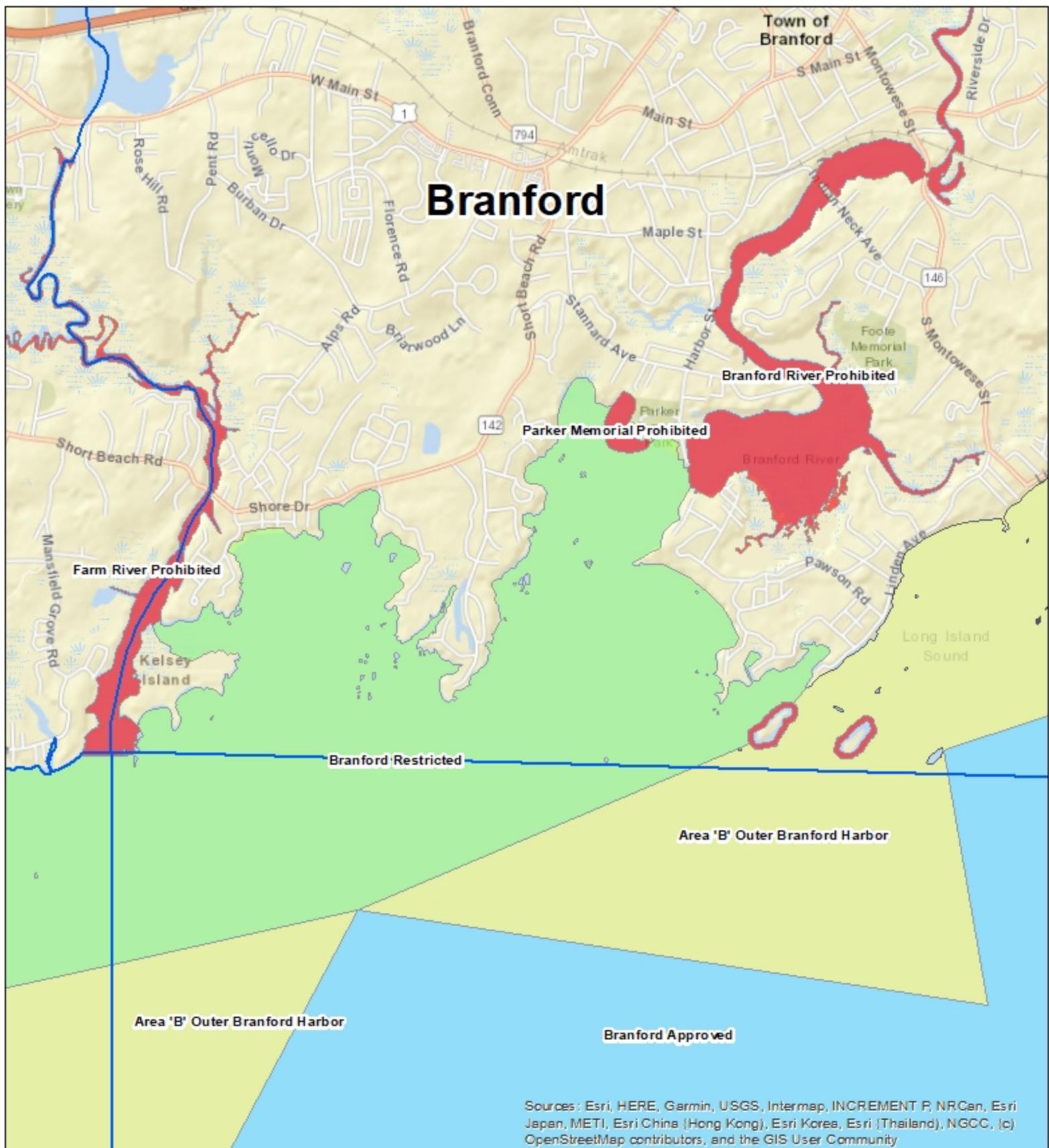
This change became effective January 1, 2026. The classification change documents are posted on the Bureau website: [Shellfish Growing Areas Classification Changes](#). A copy of the written description of the current classifications and all relevant maps are attached. Copies of the new classification descriptions for the shellfish growing areas in Branford are being provided to the United States Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the Branford Town Clerk.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Alissa Dragan
Supervising Environmental Analyst
alissa.dragan@ct.gov
203-874-0696, ext. 119

Cc: Amy Fitzpatrick, USFDA Regional Shellfish Specialist, Amy.Fitzpatrick@fda.hhs.gov, Bryan Hurlburt, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Bryan.Hurlburt@ct.gov, Keith Williams, CT DEEP Environmental Conservation Police, Keith.Williams@ct.gov, Katie O'Brien-Clayton, CT DEEP Environmental Analyst, Katie.O'Brien-Clayton@ct.gov, Lisa E Arpin, MMC, MCTC, Branford Town Clerk, townclerk@branford-ct.gov



Branford 1

Classification Effective Date:
1/1/2026

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Map not intended for navigation

CT Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture

tel: 203-874-0696 email: Agri.Aquaculture@ct.gov

Shelffish Area Classification	
—	Town Line
Class	
Light Blue	Approved
Yellow	Conditionally Approved
Orange	Conditionally Approved Seasonal
Green	Conditionally Restricted-Relay
Light Green	Restricted-Relay
Red	Prohibited

Branford



CT Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture

tel: 203-874-0696 email: Agri.Aquaculture@ct.gov

Classification Effective Date:

1/1/2026

Map not intended for navigation



Branford 2

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Shellfish Area Classification	
	Town Line
Class	
Approved	
Conditionally Approved	
Conditionally Approved-Seasonal	
Conditionally Restricted-Relay	
Restricted-Relay	
Prohibited	



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF AQUACULTURE

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

203-874-0696 | Agri.Aquaculture@ct.gov

Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



CLASSIFICATION OF SHELLFISH GROWING AREAS

BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

EFFECTIVE: 1/1/2026

PROHIBITED AREAS (WEST TO EAST):

Farm River: The headwaters and tributaries of the Farm River, initiating as far north as the outflow of Lake Saltonstall, south to the river's confluence with Long Island Sound. The southern boundary is defined by the East Haven-Branford Town jurisdiction line (41.245931, -72.858715); east to the westernmost Darrow Rock (41.2459318, -72.8578237); northeast to the middle Darrow Rock (41.246083, -72.857048); then north along the western border of the Darrow Rocks, which connects to the southwestern tip of Kelsey Island.

Central Long Island Sound Disposal Site: The dredged material disposal site and 1,000 feet around the site is located across New Haven, East Haven, and Branford state jurisdictional waters. The site is defined by a rectangular boundary from 41.160672, -72.908082 east to 41.160833, -72.855048, south to 41.1386, -72.854877, west to 41.138342, -72.908135, and then back to the original coordinate.

Branford Harbor/Parker Memorial: A semi-circle west of Parker Memorial Drive beginning at 41.263375, -72.825798, south of 35 Castle Rock St., arching southeast to the radius at 41.261229, -72.825943, and ending back at the mainland at Parker Memorial Park (41.261528, -72.823228).

Branford River: The headwaters and tributaries of the Branford River initiating south of Route 1 and continuing south to Branford Point. The Prohibited line is defined by the narrowest outlet between Branford Point (4 Harbor Street; 41.260312, -72.82081) and 1 Ferry Lane (41.259299, -72.820553).

Branford Islands off Linden Avenue: Clam Island and Sumac Island, south of Linden Avenue, are completely surrounded by 100 foot Prohibited buffers.

Limewood Beach/Green Island: That area within 50 feet east and west of the private sewer line that runs from the mainland at the end of Waverly Rd at Limewood Beach to the private dock at Green Island. A portion of the Prohibited area is defined by a rectangle off Limewood Avenue/Limewood Beach (41.259942, -72.796777), northeast to intersection of Limewood Avenue and Waverly Road (41.260086, -72.796376), south to Green Island (41.25692, -72.793748), southwest along Green Island (41.256683, -72.793979), and then back to the original coordinate. The Prohibited area also includes lot 104, which covers most of the western boundary of Green Island, and is defined by the coordinates 41.257527, -72.794376, southeast to 41.257257, -72.793604, southwest to 41.256329, -72.79421, southeast to 41.256394, -72.794929, and then back to the original coordinate to close the rectangle. A portion of this Prohibited area is a designated no anchorage area to prevent damage to the sewer line serving Green Island.

Classification of Shellfish Growing Areas

Branford, Connecticut

Effective 1/1/2026

PROHIBITED AREAS (WEST TO EAST, CONTINUED):

Pine Orchard Yacht Club Marina: The entirety of the Pine Orchard Yacht Club, located at 294 Pine Orchard Road, marina proper, as defined by the approximate rectangle starting at the western end of the marina off the circular road around the back of the Yacht Club (41.264859, -72.772558), southeast to 41.263605, -72.77133, east to St Helena Island at 41.263621, -72.771126, north along and continuing beyond the western boundary of St Helena Island to 41.264605, -72.770927, northwest back to the mainland at the eastern end of the marina off the circular road around the back of the Yacht Club (41.265557, -72.771797), and then back to the original coordinate.

Tilcon Dock: From the Tilcon Connecticut Inc. dock (41.26556, -72.765541), southeast to 41.265397, -72.764594, northeast back to the mainland (41.267517, -72.764058), then directly along the shoreline southwest back to the original coordinate.

Stony Creek Beach/Thimble Island Ferry Service: From 31 Halls Point Road (41.266797, -72.754192); southeast to 41.264579, -72.753098, southwest around the Thimble Island Ferry Service dock (41.263978, -72.753211); east back to the mainland at Indian Point Road (41.264014, -72.752701); then directly along the shoreline, inclusive of Stony Creek Beach, back to the original coordinate.

Flying Point: The inlet off Long Island Sound at the intersection of Flying Point Road, Thimble Island Road, and Prospect Hill Road. The Prohibited area is defined by the line created from 16 Flying Point Road (41.259039, -72.747695) to 11 Prospect Hill Road (41.259349, -72.746381) and inclusive of the shoreline along the inlet.

Thimble Islands: The following Islands are completely surrounded by 100 foot Prohibited buffers: Lewis Island, Belden Island, Wheeler Island, Burr Island, Potato Island, East Crib Island, West Crib Island, Pot Island, Exton's Reef Island, Smith Island, Davis Island, and Wayland Island in the Thimble Islands. The house on the Governor Island peninsula is surrounded by a partial buffer from 41.25446, -72.753757 in lot 252A, arching southwest to 41.25362, -72.754983 in lot 257, and arching north to 41.254224, -72.755426 in lot 255.

RESTRICTED-RELAY AREAS (WEST TO EAST):

No Restricted Relay areas are managed with a Conditional closure (Conditionally Restricted Relay) in Branford.

Branford Harbor: The area encompassed by the East Haven-Branford Town jurisdiction line (41.245931, -72.858715), south to the East Haven-Branford jurisdiction line in State waters (41.235553, -72.858714), northeast to 41.238274, -72.842543, northeast to the southwestern boundary of Clam Island (41.246597, -72.816709), northeast to the tip of lot 70, and subsequently traversing the shoreline in a west-ward direction back to the original coordinate, with the exception of the waters classified, and previously defined above, as Prohibited.

Classification of Shellfish Growing Areas

Branford, Connecticut

Effective 1/1/2026

RESTRICTED-RELAY AREAS (WEST TO EAST, CONTINUED):

Pine Orchard-Pleasant Point-Stony Creek: The area encompassed by the breakwater off Island View Road in Pine Orchard (41.263563, -72.773188), traversing along the breakwater in a southeasterly direction, then northeast to Prohibited boundary of Lewis Island (41.262777, -72.764337), around the Prohibited boundaries of Lewis Island and Belden Island, southeast to House Chimney Island (41.261358, -72.759592), northeast along House Chimney Island (41.261535, -72.759201), then southeasterly to the Wheeler Island Prohibited boundary (41.259425, -72.753371), subsequently around the island, and southeasterly to Flying Point (41.258642, -72.751188), and subsequently traversing the shoreline in a west-ward direction back to the original coordinate, with the exception of the waters classified and previously defined above as Prohibited. This area includes the Pine Orchard Marsh tributaries on either side of Pleasant Point Road, inclusive of the west branch as far north as 41.270476, -72.762591, and the east branch beyond the Amtrak crossing as far north as 41.274294, -72.75989.

Hoadley Creek/Jarvis Creek: The Restricted Relay area extends from the northern-most point in Hoadley Creek just south of Leetes Island Road (41.27098, -72.739789), southward to the confluence with Long Island Sound (41.261803, -72.740464), then southeasterly to 123 Old Quarry Road (41.259819, -72.736424), then north-eastward into Hoadley Creek to the northern-most point at 41.261536, -72.729769.

CONDITIONALLY APPROVED AREAS (WEST TO EAST):

Conditionally Approved Area B (Outer Branford Harbor) – 2.0" Rain Trigger: The western triangle encompassed by the intersection of the East Haven-Branford State jurisdiction line at 41.235545, -72.858712, directly south along the jurisdiction line to 41.215198, -72.858655, northeast to Branford buoy R-34" (Cow and Calf, 41.23826), -72.842495, and then back to the original coordinate. The eastern area encompassed by a line starting at 41.23826, -72.842495; southeast to 41.233626, -72.800973; northwest to the northeast tip of Spectacle Island (41.24626, -72.803891); northeast to Middle Rock (41.251631, -72.782339); then north to the mainland off Spring Rock Road (41.265112, -72.781423); west to the point off Yowago Avenue (41.264288, -72.783896); southwest to 41.262455, -72.784371; southwest to 41.262169, -72.786141; northwest to the mainland at The Point in Hotchkiss Grove (41.262435, -72.787638); subsequently traversing the shoreline to the 100' Prohibited buffer around Clam Island, with the exception of the Limewood Beach/Green Island Prohibited area as previously defined; and enclosing the area back to the original coordinate along the Branford Harbor Restricted Relay line.

Conditionally Approved Seasonal Hotchkiss Grove Area – 2.0" Rain Trigger: The area along Seaview Avenue directly abutting a portion of the Conditionally Approved Area B, as defined by the area encompassed from The Point in Hotchkiss Grove (41.262435, -72.787638), southeast to 41.262169, -72.786141; northeast to 41.262455, -72.784371; north to the point off Yowago Avenue (41.264288, -72.783896); and subsequently traversing the shoreline, inclusive of the Hotchkiss Grove Beach, back to the original coordinate.

Classification of Shellfish Growing Areas

Branford, Connecticut

Effective 1/1/2026

CONDITIONALLY APPROVED AREAS (WEST TO EAST, CONTINUED):

Conditionally Approved Area D (Rogers Island) – 2.0" Rain Trigger: The area encompassed by the tip of the Pine Orchard Neighborhood Association Beach (41.263187, -72.773414), southeast parallel to the breakwater (41.26194, -72.772319), southeast to 41.261711, -72.771425, southeast to 41.259907, -72.766674, northeast to 41.260411, -72.766052, southeast to 41.260214, -72.763708, southeast to Rogers Island, south along the island, then southeast to the 100' Prohibited buffer around Potato Island (41.256726, -72.759175), northeast along the Potato Island Prohibited buffer to the intersection with Conditionally Approved Seasonal Area A (41.257089, -72.758596), north along the boundary line to House Chimney Island (41.261512, -72.759173), southwest along House Chimney Island, northwest to the 100' Prohibited buffer around Belden Island, southwest to the breakwater (41.262237, -72.770896), west along the breakwater (41.262273, -72.772153), and along the breakwater back to the original coordinate.

Conditionally Approved Seasonal Area A (Stony Creek) – 2.0" Rain Trigger: All waters in the Stony Creek area encompassed by a line from House Chimney Island (41.261512, -72.759173); south to the 100' Prohibited buffer around Potato Island (41.257076, -72.758593); east along the northern Prohibited buffer (41.5269, -72.756827); southeast to the northeastern extremity of Governor Island, southeast to the 100' Prohibited buffer at the southern extremity of Cut-in-Two Island West (41.254381, -72.749717); northeast along the 100' Prohibited buffer to the northern extremity of Cut-in-Two Island East (41.255843, -72.747153); north to the mainland at 11 Prospect Hill Road (41.259349, -72.746381); southwest along the shoreline to Flying Point (41.258642, -72.751188), with the exception of the Flying Point Prohibited area as previously defined; and then northwest back to the original coordinate at House Chimney Island.

Conditionally Approved Area C (Bear Island) – 2.0" Rain Trigger: The area encompassed by a line from 11 Prospect Hill Road (41.259349, -72.746381); southwest to the 100' Prohibited buffer to the northern extremity of Cut-in-Two Island East; northeast to the mainland at 49 Old Quarry Road (41.257301, -72.73719); traversing north along the shoreline to the dam (41.25854, -72.735489), not inclusive of the private intertidal pond which is unclassified; then northward along the shoreline to 123 Old Quarry Road (41.259819, -72.736424), where the area intersects the Hoadley Creek-Jarvis Creek Restricted Relay area; northwesterly to 41.261803, -72.740464; and subsequently traversing the shoreline back to the original coordinate.

Conditionally Approved Seasonal Thimble Islands Federal Anchorage Area – 3.0" Rain Trigger: The area is encompassed by a portion of the Thimble Islands designated as a Federal Anchorage area. The area is defined at the northwest by East Crib Island, southwest by High Island, southeast by Pot Island, and northeast by Davis Island, not inclusive of the Prohibited areas previously delineated around some of the islands. The area is defined by the coordinates 41.253086, -72.751907; 41.247544, -72.759224; 41.246875, -72.756971; and 41.251957, -72.748581, respectively. This Conditionally Approved area shall be annually closed from approximately May 15 - October 15, based upon seasonal mooring activity, or longer if more than 20 boats are moored or water quality does not meet the standards for reopening the area. The area is managed as an Approved classification when seasonally open.

Classification of Shellfish Growing Areas

Branford, Connecticut

Effective 1/1/2026

APPROVED AREAS

The Long Island Sound waters within Branford, exclusive of those areas classified by the DoAg as Prohibited, Restricted, or Conditionally Approved.