



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

Milford Health Department, Director of Health
Deepa D. Joseph, MPH
82 New Haven Avenue
Milford, CT 06460

RE: Reclassification of shellfish growing areas in Milford, CT

Ms. Joseph,

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 2024 Annual Report for the City of Milford, covering the period 01/01/2022 through 12/31/2024, and analyzed the data from 01/01/2023 through 12/31/2025.

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

- A small portion of the Approved area is being downgraded to become part of the 3.0" West Shore Conditionally Approved area because a station monitoring the classification line failed to meet the NSSP criteria for an Approved area. Lots 470, 479N, 479M, 479S, and a portion of 579 are being reclassified as Conditionally Approved.

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>

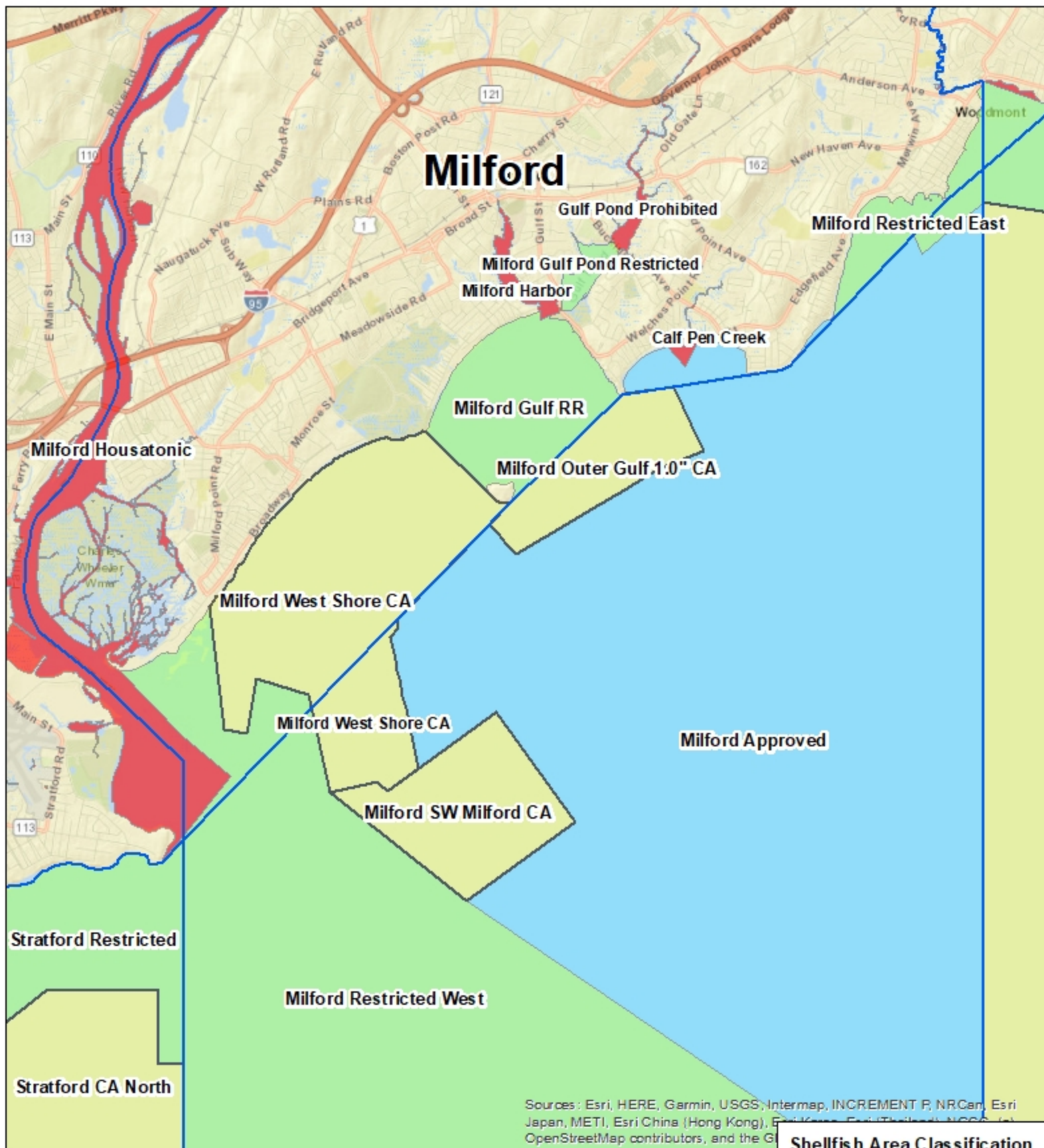
The changes became effective January 1, 2026. The classification change documents are posted on the Bureau website: [Shellfish Growing Areas Classification Changes](#). A copy of the written description of the current classifications and all relevant maps are attached. Copies of the new classification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



Milford

Classification Effective Date:
1/1/2026

0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles

Map not intended for navigation

Shellfish Area Classification

Town_Line

Class

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

CT Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture

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CLASSIFICATION OF SHELLFISH GROWING AREAS MILFORD, CONNECTICUT EFFECTIVE: 1/1/26

PROHIBITED AREAS:

Milford Harbor: All waters of Milford Harbor and the Wepawaug River north of a line extending from the southwestern part of Burns Point (end of breakwater) east to lighted beacon "10" at the entrance of Milford Harbor.

Gulf Pond Prohibited: All waters of Gulf Pond and the Indian River north of the Buckingham Avenue Bridge.

Calf Pen Creek: All waters of Calf Pen Creek and a triangle around the outflow defined as 528 feet west along Bayview Beach (41.207068, -73.031496), 1406 feet southeast (41.204854, -73.029013), 1523 feet northeast to the shore (41.207597, -73.026988), then west back to the first coordinate.

Housatonic River: That area north of a line from the lighthouse at Stratford Point, Stratford (41.151526, -73.102942), extending northeast to lighted beacon "2A" on the outer breakwater (41.160759, -73.093119), then northwest to Milford Point, Milford (41.172176, -73.109111).

Oyster River: All waters of the Oyster River. Note: the river is divided by the Milford-West Haven town jurisdiction line.

Dredged Materials Disposal Site: The dredged materials disposal site located approximately four (4) miles southeast of the Housatonic River breakwater and that area enclosed by a line extending 1,000 feet around the site.

RESTRICTED RELAY AREAS:

Gulf Pond South: All waters between the Buckingham Avenue Bridge and Gulf Street Bridge.

Milford Restricted West: All waters enclosed by the Milford-Stratford town line to the west, Connecticut-New York state line to the south, and Milford-West Haven town line to the east, not inclusive of previously defined Prohibited areas or the Approved or Conditionally Approved areas from 41.109984, -72.986323 northwest to 41.159114, -73.079106, northwest to 41.169582, -73.08211, northwest to 41.171132, -73.089406, southwest to 41.165511, -73.090865, northwest to 41.165834, -73.094298, then northwest to the shore at 41.178982, -73.096204.

Milford Gulf: The tidal waters and flats of the Gulf, north of and enclosed by a line extending along the Charles Island Bar from the mainland to the southern extremity of Charles Island, then in a northeast direction to the southern extremity of Welches Point, Milford.

Merwin Beach-Oyster River: All waters north of a line extending from the point of land at Morningside along the Town jurisdiction line to the western border of shellfish lot 601W, then southeast to the southwest corner of lot 601W, then northeast to the West Haven Town line, exclusive of the "Prohibited" area of the Oyster River.

CLASSIFICATION OF SHELLFISH GROWING AREAS
MILFORD, CONNECTICUT
1/1/26

CONDITIONALLY APPROVED AREAS:

South West Milford: All waters of L-507 and between the southern border of L-498 and the Milford Restricted West area (41.159114, -73.079106 southeast to 41.147535, -73.059732).

Milford West Shore: All waters enclosed by a line extending from the Cedar Beach Demarcation Sign (41.178982, -73.096204), south to the southwest corner of L-313F, east along the southern border of L-313A, then north to the northeast corner of L-313C, southeast to the northwest corner of L-376W, south to the southwest corner of L-498, east to the southeast corner of L-498, southeast along the South West Conditionally Approved boundary line to 41.159263, -73.070986 and then east to 41.161828, -73.066328, then north to the northeast corner of L-479N, northeast along L-470 to the northeast corner, then northeast to the southernmost point on Charles Island, northwest to the demarcation sign at Silver Sands Beach, then southwest along the shore to the point of origin.

Milford Outer Gulf: all waters of lots 661, 688, 686, 687, 654, 653, 652, 651, 639, and 640.

APPROVED AREAS:

Those waters within the Milford town boundary lines, exclusive of those areas classified as Prohibited, Restricted, or Conditionally Approved.