



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



February 23, 2023

Ledge Light Health District  
Steven Mansfield, Director of Health  
216 Broad Street  
New London, CT

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

Mr. Mansfield,

The Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture is required to reevaluate shellfish growing area classifications in the State on an annual basis, in order 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 following shellfish growing area in Groton is being reclassified effective February 24, 2023:

- A portion of the lower Mystic River in Groton is reclassified from Conditionally Approved Seasonal to Prohibited based upon a reevaluation of the Shoreline Survey that found the area was improperly classified based on the presence of commercial activity and marinas.

For additional information on the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) requirements for classifying shellfish growing areas please see the NSSP Model Ordinance Chapter IV. Shellfish Growing [Areas@.01](#) Sanitary Survey and [@.05](#) Marinas.

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

These changes are effective February 24, 2023. 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, the Groton Shellfish Commission and 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)  
Cell: 860-818-7034

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), Steven Mansfield, [smansfield@llhd.org](mailto:smansfield@llhd.org), Betsy Moukawsher, Groton Town Clerk, [townclerk@groton-ct.gov](mailto:townclerk@groton-ct.gov), Richard Conant, Groton Shellfish Commission, [rconantjr@msn.com](mailto:rconantjr@msn.com)



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**LEGAL NOTICE**

Effective February 24, 2023 pursuant to Section 26-192e of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture has changed the shellfish classifications in Groton waters. A portion of shellfish growing waters in the Mystic River in Groton have been reclassified as Prohibited.

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 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2023.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

David H. Carey, Director  
For Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt



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## CLASSIFICATION OF SHELLFISH GROWING AREAS GROTON, CONNECTICUT EFFECTIVE: 2/24/23

### **PROHIBITED AREAS:**

Thames River/New London Harbor: All Groton waters of the Thames River and its tributaries enclosed on the south by a line commencing at the Avery Point lighthouse at the southern extremity of Avery Point, Groton, southwesterly to the New London/Groton town shellfish line on a bearing towards the southeastern-most point of land at the Waterford Town Beach, Waterford, CT.

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 extending easterly to the southwest tip of land at the Groton New London Airport.

Fort Hill Brook/Mumford Cove: All waters of Fort Hill Brook and its tributaries north of the Amtrak Railroad bridge.

Upper Mumford Cove: All waters of Mumford Cove bounded on the south by a line commencing at the shellfish demarcation sign on the southwestern extremity of land located approximately 2,400 feet south of the Amtrak Railroad bridge, thence west to the shellfish demarcation sign on the western shore of Mumford Cove and bounded on the north by the Amtrak Railroad bridge.

Mumford Canal and Venetian Harbor: All waters of Mumford Canal and that area enclosed by a line extending from the southernmost point of land at the Mumford Cove Association dock south westerly to the breakwater at the mouth of Venetian Harbor and that area of Venetian Harbor and its tributaries northeast of a line commencing at the southwest extremity of the breakwater on the western shore of the mouth of Venetian Harbor at the flashing green navigational light 1", southeasterly 800 feet to the southernmost extremity of land.

Palmer Cove Marina: The Waters of Palmer Cove encompassing the Palmer Cove Marina enclosed by an approximately 300' by 235' rectangle.

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: All waters enclosed by a line beginning at 41 19.8312'N 71 59.1321'W, at the Amtrak Railroad bridge channel entrance to Beebe Cove, extending east to- a point at 41 19.8249'N 71 58.9761'W, thence south to 41 19.5109'N 71 58.9769'W, encompassing the docks of the Noank Village Boatyard and Ram Island Yacht Club, thence southwesterly to 41 19.2471'N 71 59.2037'W, thence southerly following the shoreline to the beacon at 41 18.9760,N 71 59.2347'W, thence southwesterly to the southern tip of Morgan Point at 41 18.9465'N 71 59.4006'W, inclusive of the marina proper at Noank Shipyard and adjacent channel.

**CLASSIFICATION OF SHELLFISH GROWING AREAS  
GROTON, CT  
2/24/2023**

**CONDITIONALLY RESTRICTED AREAS:**

Avery Point/Pine Island Anchorage Area: All tidal waters in Pine Island Bay enclosed by a line commencing from the southern extremity of land at Jupiter Point southerly to the northwestern extremity of Bushy Point, thence southwesterly to the eastern extremity of Pine Island, thence west along the northern shoreline of Pine Island to its western extremity, thence north to the abandoned lighthouse on Avery Point.

Beebe Cove: That area of Beebe Cove in Groton located south of a line commencing from the point of land at the end of Brook Street to the south end of the Amtrak Railroad bridge channel.

Area F/West Cove: All tidal waters and tributaries in West Cove north of a line commencing from the southern extremity of the point of land at Esker Point southeasterly to the southern extremity of Mouse Island, thence northeast to the private wooden dock on the southwestern extremity of land at Morgan Point.

**RESTRICTED AREAS:**

Groton Offshore: All Groton waters enclosed by a line commencing at the southern extremity of land at the Avery Point Light, Groton, thence southeast to the western extremity of Pine Island, Groton, continuing east along the south shore of Pine Island to its northeast tip, thence northeasterly to the western extremity of land at Bushy Point Beach, thence easterly along the Groton shoreline to the demarcation sign at the mouth of Mumford Cove, thence along the Conditionally Approved Seasonal boundary to the breakwater at Venetian Harbor, thence southeasterly along the Prohibited line to the western point of Groton Long Point Beach, thence east along the shore to the southernmost tip of Groton Long Point, thence southerly to the New York - Connecticut mid-Long Island Sound state boundary line, thence southwesterly along that New York-Connecticut state boundary line to the New London-Groton town boundary line, thence north along that New London-Groton town shellfish jurisdiction line to the Prohibited line north of the G3 buoy, thence northeast to the point of origin at Avery Point, Groton, exclusive of the Prohibited waters of the Eastern Long Island Sound Dredge Disposal Site.

Baker's Cove: That area of Baker Cover enclosed on the west by a line drawn from Jupiter Point southwesterly to the western point of Bushy Point, thence running northeasterly along the northern shoreline of Bushy Point to its northwestern extremity of land, thence northeasterly to the southern extremity of land at the Groton-New London Airport at the mouth of the Poquonnock River, thence northeasterly along the shoreline of the airport property, thence southwesterly along the southern shoreline of the airport property to its southwestern extremity, thence westerly along the Prohibited boundary line to 82 Jupiter Point Road,, thence southerly along the shoreline of Jupiter Point to the point of origin"

Poquonnock River: All waters of the Poquonnock River enclosed on the south by the former New Haven Railroad causeway between the Groton New London Airport and Bluff Point State Park.

Palmer Cove: The tidal waters and flats of Palmer Cove enclosed on the south by the Groton Long Point Road bridge and on the north by the Brook Street Road bridge, exclusive of Prohibited areas.

**CLASSIFICATION OF SHELLFISH GROWING AREAS  
GROTON, CT  
2/24/2023**

**RESTRICTED AREAS:**

Outer Palmer Cove: All waters north of a line commencing on the western shore of Groton Long Point at the breakwater (41 18.929'N, 72 0.213'W), thence northwesterly to the southern extremity of Esker Point, thence north along the western shore of Esker Point to the Groton Long Point Road bridge, thence west along the south side of the Groton Long Point Road bridge to the western shore of Palmer Cove, thence south along the shoreline to the point of origin.

Beebe Cove: The tidal waters and flats of Beebe Cove north and west of the Amtrak Railroad bridge, exclusive of Conditionally Restricted areas.

Mystic Harbor: That area of Mystic Harbor north of a line commencing from the easternmost point of land on Six Penny Island, Groton, east to Clam Point in Stonington bounded on the north by the Prohibited boundary line.

**CONDITIONALLY APPROVED AREAS:**

Area P - Poquonnock River: That area of the Poquonnock River and its tributaries enclosed on the south by a line commencing from the northwestern extremity of land at Bushy Point Beach north to the southern extremity of land at the Groton-New London Airport at the mouth of the Poquonnock River and enclosed on the north by the former New Haven Railroad causeway between the Groton-New London Airport and Bluff Point State Park.

Area E - Outer Palmer Cove: All tidal waters of Outer Palmer Cove enclosed by a line commencing from the southern extremity of Groton Long Point, northeast to the southern extremity of Mouse Island, thence westerly to the breakwater on the shore of Groton Long Point at 41 18.929'N 72 0.213'W, thence southerly along the shore of Groton Long Point to the point of origin.

**CONDITIONALLY APPROVED SEASONAL AREAS:**

Area C - Mumford Cove: That area of Mumford Cove enclosed by a line commencing at the Area "A" - Area "C" shellfish demarcation sign located at the southern extremity of land in Mumford Cove that is located 2,000 feet northeast of Mumford Point, southeasterly to the flashing green navigational light "1" at the mouth of Venetian Harbor, thence northeasterly to the southern extremity of land at the Mumford Cove Association, located at the intersection of Neptune Drive and Anchorage Circle, thence northerly along the eastern shore of Mumford Cove to the shellfish demarcation sign located at the southwestern extremity of land that is located 2,400 feet south of the Amtrak (P & W) Railroad bridge, thence west to the shellfish demarcation sign located on the western shore of Mumford Cove, thence south along the shoreline to the point of origin.

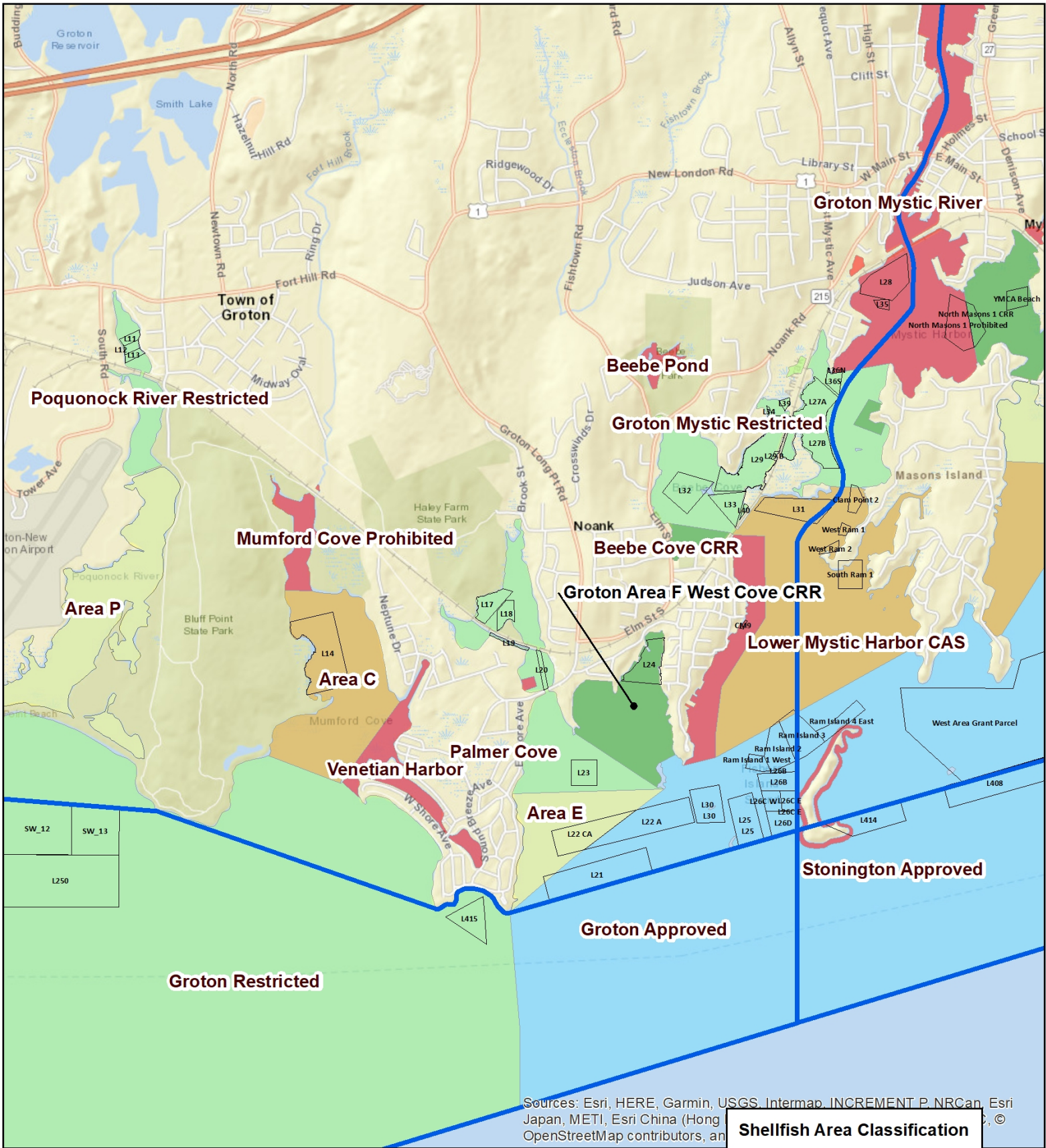
**CLASSIFICATION OF SHELLFISH GROWING AREAS  
GROTON, CT  
2/24/2023**

**CONDITIONALLY APPROVED SEASONAL AREAS:**

Lower Mystic Harbor: The waters of the Mystic River enclosed by a line on the north commencing at the easternmost point of land on Six Penny Island, Groton, thence easterly to Clam Point, Stonington, thence along the western shore of Mason Island, Stonington to the point of land due southeast of Seal Rocks (42 Nauyaug Point Rd., Stonington), thence southwest to the beacon at 41 18.9760,N 71 59.2347W, thence northerly following the shoreline to 41 19.2471'N 71 59.2037'W, thence northeasterly to 41 19.5109'N 71 58.9769'W, thence north to a point at 41 19.8249'N 71 58.9761'W, thence west to 41 19.8312'N 71 59.1321W, at the Amtrack Railroad bridge channel entrance to Beebe Cove, thence northeasterly along the shore to the point of origin at the easternmost point of land on Six Penny Island, exclusive of the Prohibited area of the shoreline that includes the docks of the Noank Village Boatyard, Ram Island Yacht Club, and the Noank Shipyard Marina.

**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.



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swatch, Bing, OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

**Shellfish Area Classification**

- Town\_Line
- Shellfish Beds

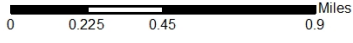
**Classification**

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



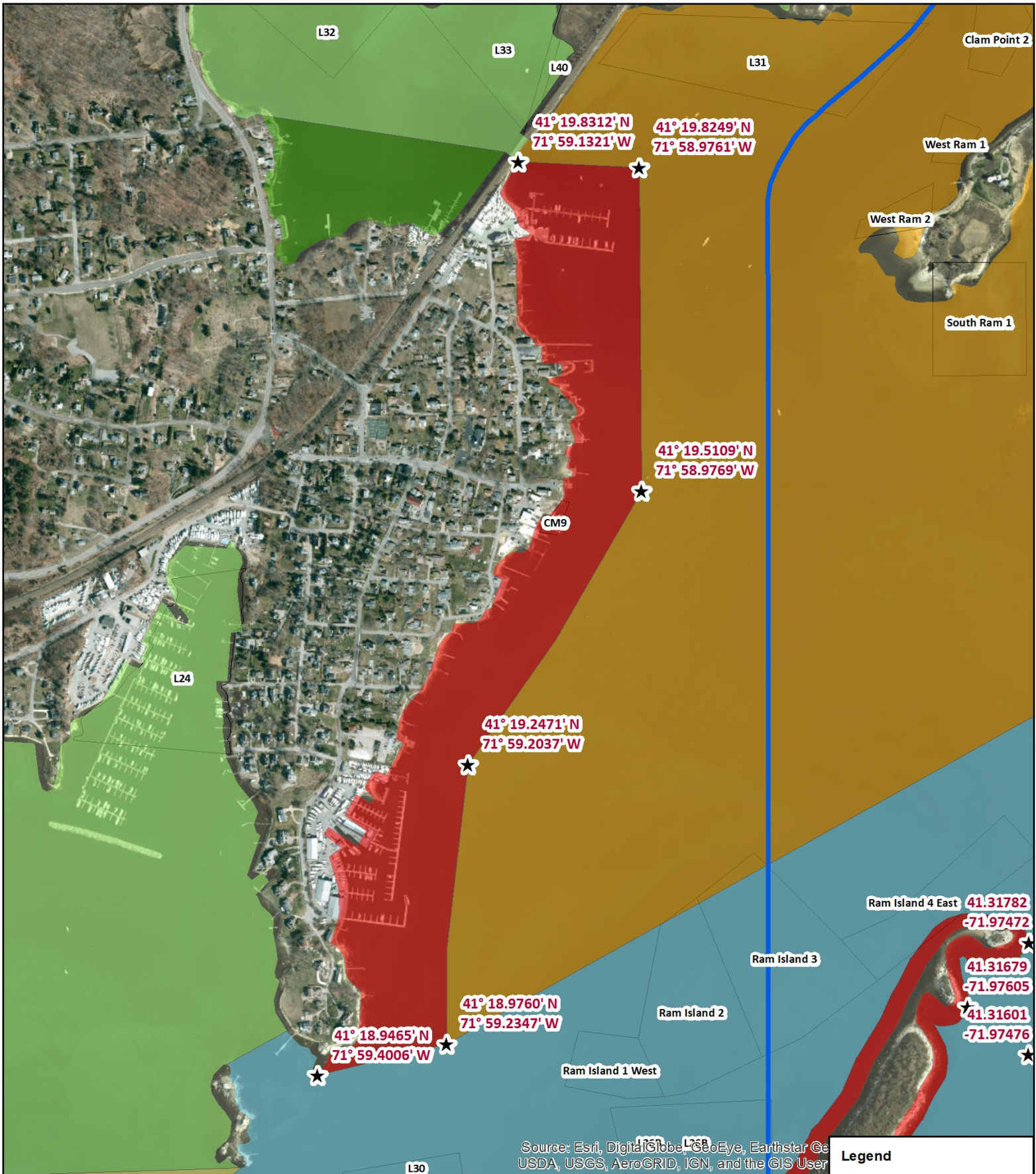
**Groton 2**

Classification Effective Date:  
1/1/2023  
Map Date: 2/23/2023



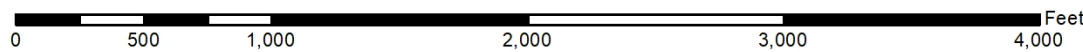
Map not intended for navigation

**CT Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture**  
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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNR AeroGlobe, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

**CT Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture**  
Groton, CT



Date: 2/17/2023



**Legend**

**Class**

- Town\_Line
- Approved
- Conditionally Approved
- Conditionally Approved Seasonal
- Conditionally Restricted-Relay
- Restricted-Relay
- Prohibited
- Shellfish Beds