

## Oyster Tag Sales By Type

7/1/09 - 03/28/2010

Generic	241,746
Computer	250,000
Post Harvest (Blue)	110,000
Personalized Regular	1,205,000
Personalized Post Harvest(Blue)	10,000
Generic Green	83,000
Personalized Green	259,000
Laser Black/White	24,000
Laser Blue	168,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,350,746</b>

**SEAFOOD PROMOTION AND MARKETING BOARD**  
**FINANCIAL REPORT OYSTER DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT (W18)**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010**  
**AS OF FEBRUARY 24, 2010**

Reporting Category - 2005	BUDGET	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	PRE ENCUMBERED	REMAINING BALANCE
<b>EXPENDITURE CATEGORIES:</b>					
Salaries	38,000.00	18,146.15			19,853.85
Other Compensation					-
Related Benefits	15,000.00	3,945.97			11,054.03
Travel	56,218.00	21,257.29			34,960.71
Operating Services	20,148.00	7,823.84			12,324.16
Supplies	200.00	-			200.00
Professional Services	46,300.00	4,975.00	36,500.00		4,825.00
Other Charges		10,000.00			(10,000.00)
Acquisitions	-				-
Interagency Transfers	-				-
<b>Total</b>	<b>175,866.00</b>	<b>66,148.25</b>	<b>36,500.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>73,217.75</b>
<b>Fund Balance Available</b>					<b>60,481.84</b>

State Oyster Account - RC\_2005

7/1/2009 through 3/31/2010 (Cash Basis)

3/29/2010

Date	Description	Memo	Amount
	<b>EXPENSES</b>		<b>-88,086.45</b>
	<b>A (SALARIES) ***OBJ 2100-2150</b>		<b>-11,934.61</b>
	Other A (SALARIES) ***OBJ 2100-2150		-11,934.61
7/31/2009	SALARIES	YTD	-11,934.61
	<b>C (RELATED BENEFITS) RC 2300 - 2410</b>		<b>-2,304.43</b>
	Other C (RELATED BENEFITS) RC 2300 - 2410		-2,304.43
7/31/2009	RELATED BENEFITS	YTD	-2,304.43
	<b>D (TRAVEL) OBJ 2500 - 2690</b>		<b>-19,136.93</b>
	***2530*** BOARD MEMBER		-1,270.96
7/31/2009	DANIEL COULON	Mileage Reimbursement	-72.80
12/29/2009	Daniel Coulon	Mileage Reimbursement	-104.00
2/8/2010	Daniel Coulon	Mileage Reimbursement - February...	-48.00
7/31/2009	JOHN TESVICH	Mileage Reimbursement	-62.40
12/29/2009	JOHN TESVICH	Mileage Reimbursement	-59.28
8/31/2009	RALPH PAUSINA	Mileage Reimbursement May - July ...	-142.48
12/29/2009	RALPH PAUSINA	Mileage Reimbursement	-165.88
12/29/2009	RALPH PAUSINA	Mileage Reimbursement	-82.16
2/8/2010	RALPH PAUSINA	Mileage Reimbursement	-82.16
2/24/2010	RALPH PAUSINA	Mileage Reimbursement	-72.48
12/29/2009	Shane Bagala	Mileage reimbursement	-132.60
2/24/2010	Shane Bagala	Mileage reimbursement	-123.36
2/24/2010	Shane Bagala	Mileage reimbursement	-123.36
	<b>***2630*** BOARD MEMBERS</b>		<b>-17,865.97</b>
12/29/2009	AI SUNSERI	Travel Expenses	-1,815.34
2/8/2010	AI SUNSERI	ISSC conference October	-1,857.74
8/31/2009	BANK OF AMERICA	Airline Tickets (AI Sunseri & Wilber...	-611.01
10/6/2009	BANK OF AMERICA	Board member travel	-520.90
10/6/2009	BANK OF AMERICA	Carlson Wag service fee	-24.00
10/15/2009	BANK OF AMERICA	Airline Ticket/AI Sunseri/LA Alive/2...	-453.20
10/20/2009	BANK OF AMERICA	Board member travel	-386.20
10/20/2009	BANK OF AMERICA	Carlson Wag service fee	-24.00
11/2/2009	BANK OF AMERICA	Board travel to DC	-799.20
11/2/2009	BANK OF AMERICA	Board member travel	-799.20
11/2/2009	BANK OF AMERICA	Carlson Wag. Service Fee	-24.00
11/2/2009	BANK OF AMERICA	Board member travel	-24.00
12/10/2009	BANK OF AMERICA	Travel to DC	-1,005.20
12/10/2009	BANK OF AMERICA	Carlson Wag service fee	-24.00



## State Oyster Account - RC\_2005

7/1/2009 through 3/31/2010 (Cash Basis)

Date	Description	Memo	Amount
***2870***	OTHER RENTALS		-7,500.00
8/31/2009	LA ALIVE	2010 BOOTH SPACE RENTAL	-7,500.00
***2900***	POSTAGE, MAIL, DELIVERY		-350.00
2/24/2010	DHH - Commercial Seafood	Postage for Oyster harvesters and ...	-350.00
F (SUPPLIES) RC 3100- 3320			-263.90
***3180***	EVENT SUPPLIES		-263.90
3/22/2010	Bank OF AMERICA	Beads for D.C. event	-263.90
G (PROFESSIONAL SVCS.) RC 3400 - 3460			-31,321.74
***3460***	OTHER		-31,321.74
1/28/2010	CHESAPEAKE GROUP LLC	Professional Services	-3,000.00
7/31/2009	DR. THOMAS SONIAT	SUMMER 2009 DERMO STUDY	-1,975.00
2/24/2010	NATIONAL FISHERIES INSTITUTE	2010 Washington DC events	-26,346.74
H (OTHER CHARGES)			-15,000.00
***3650***	MISCELLANEOUS		-15,000.00
2/24/2010	LOUISIANA OYSTER DEALERS &...	Sponsorship 2010 Louisiana Oyste...	-5,000.00
8/31/2009	LSU/Accounting Services/Sponsor...	Perkinsus Marinus Evaluation/John...	-5,000.00
9/30/2009	LSU/Accounting Services/Sponsor...	Perkinsus Marinus Evaluation/John...	-5,000.00
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>			<b>-88,086.45</b>

30° 11' 31.45" N  
89° 08' 47.24" W

30° 09' 26.43" N  
89° 11' 08.35" W

Chandeleur Sound

LAMS State Line

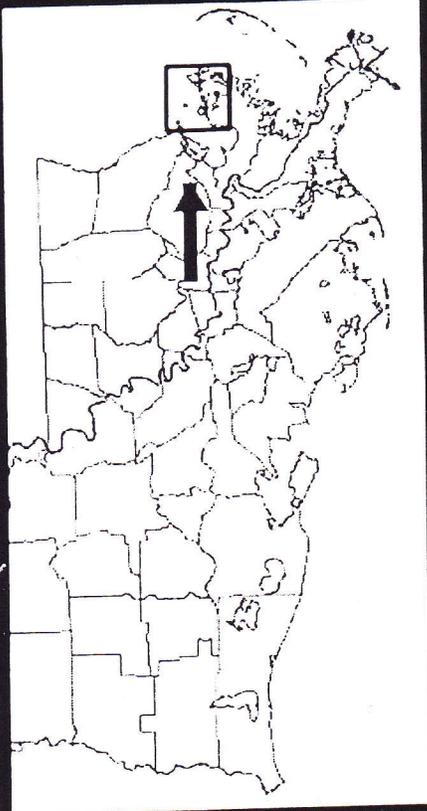
Mississippi Sound

W. Karako Bay

3-Mile Bay

Bay Boudreau

Half-Moon Island



30° 00' 00.00" N

8 Miles



89° 30' 00.00" W



# Chandeleur Sound

89° 13' 56.6" W

29° 55' 54.1" N

Drum Bay

Fishing Smack Bay

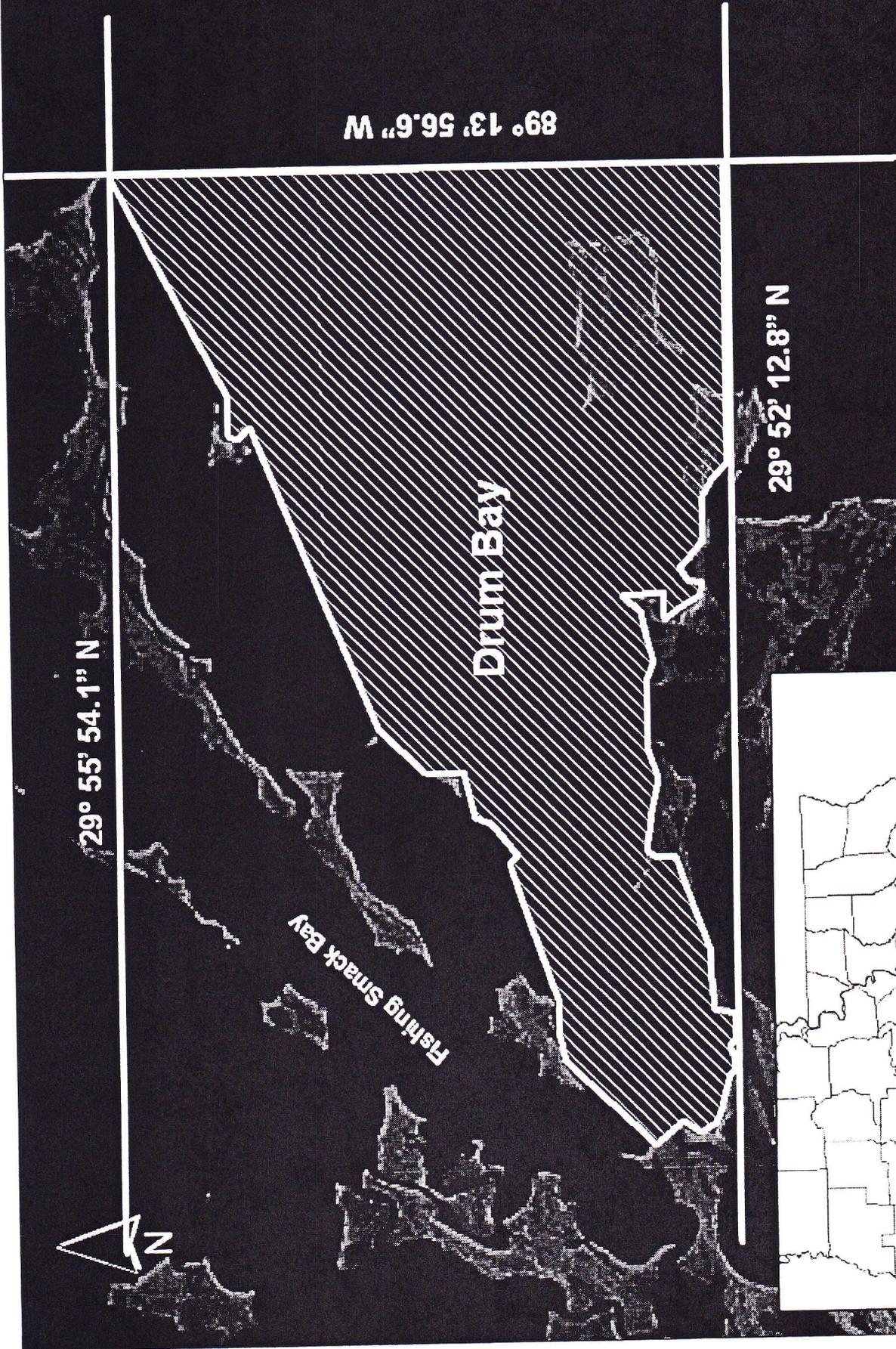
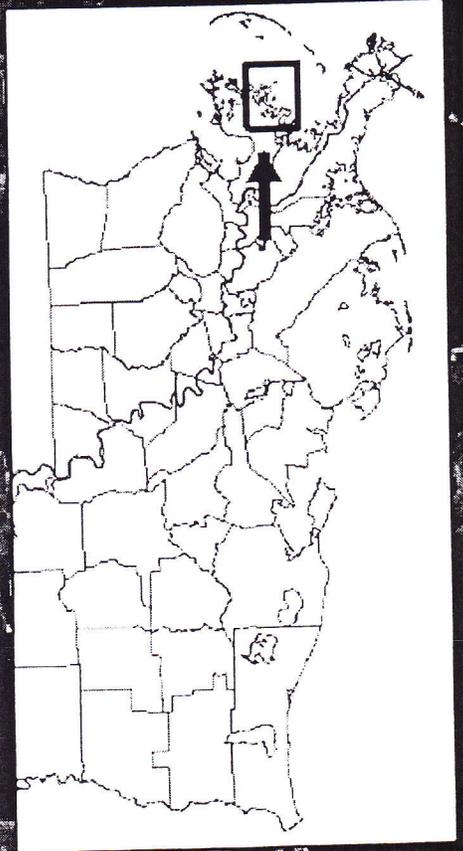
29° 52' 12.8" N

2 Miles

1

0.5

0



# Breton Sound

29° 32' 38.50" N

89° 31' 22.00" W

California Point

2 Miles

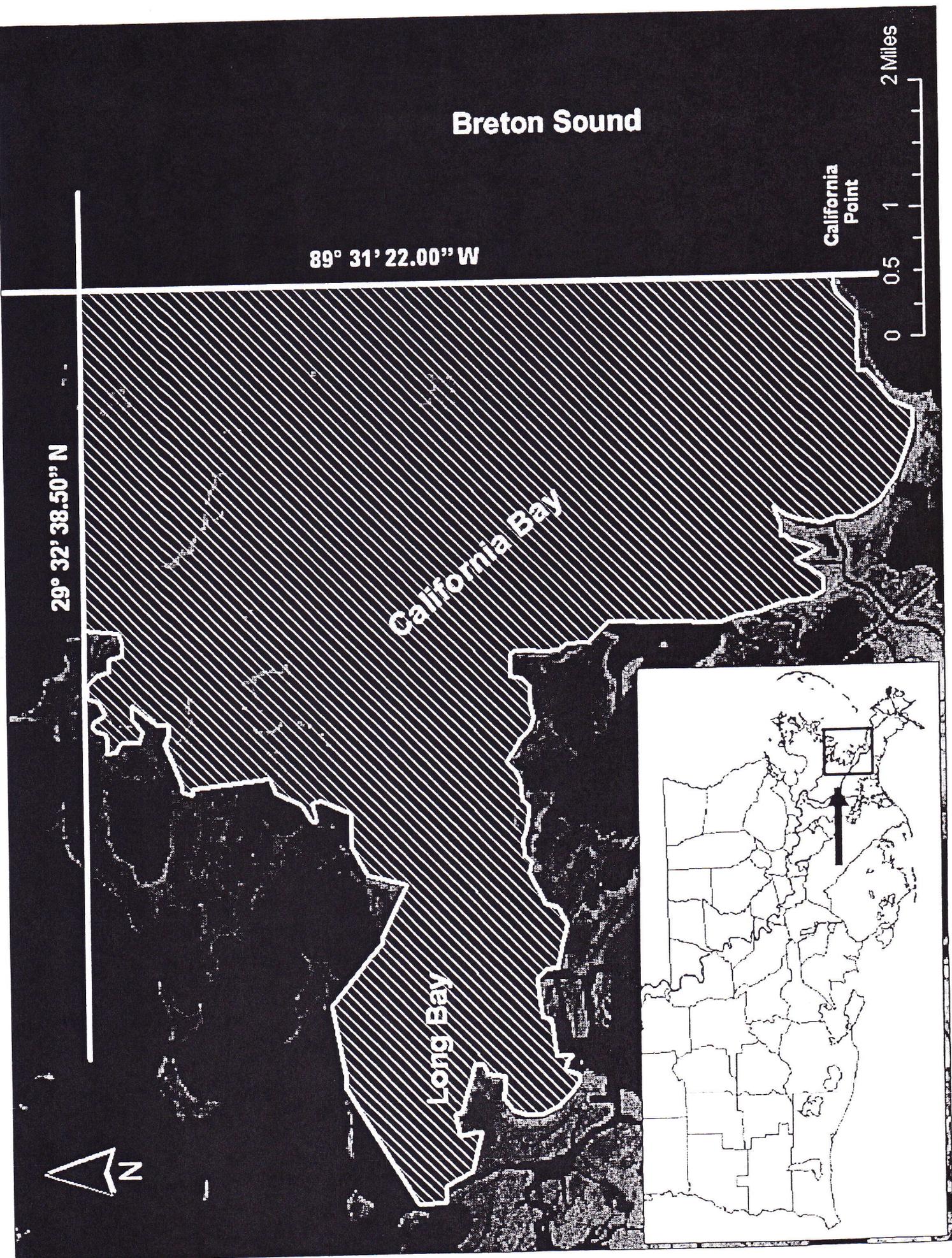
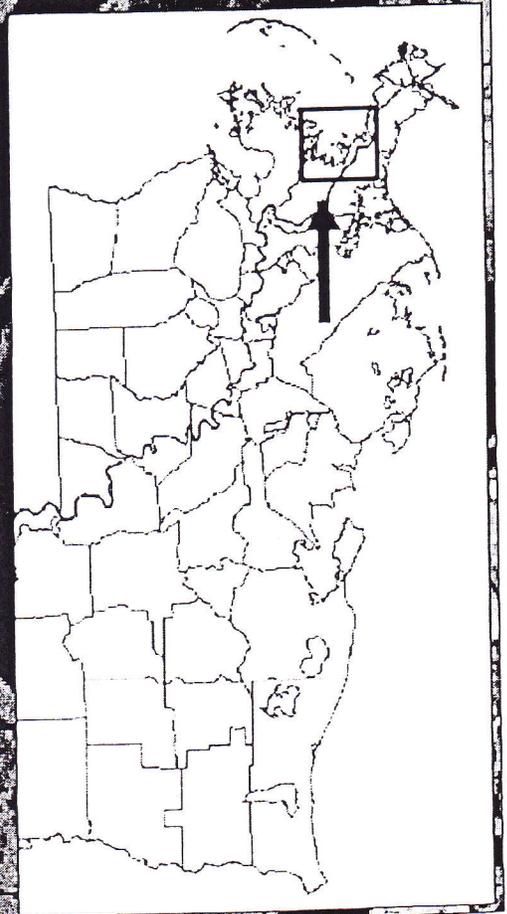
1

0.5

0

California Bay

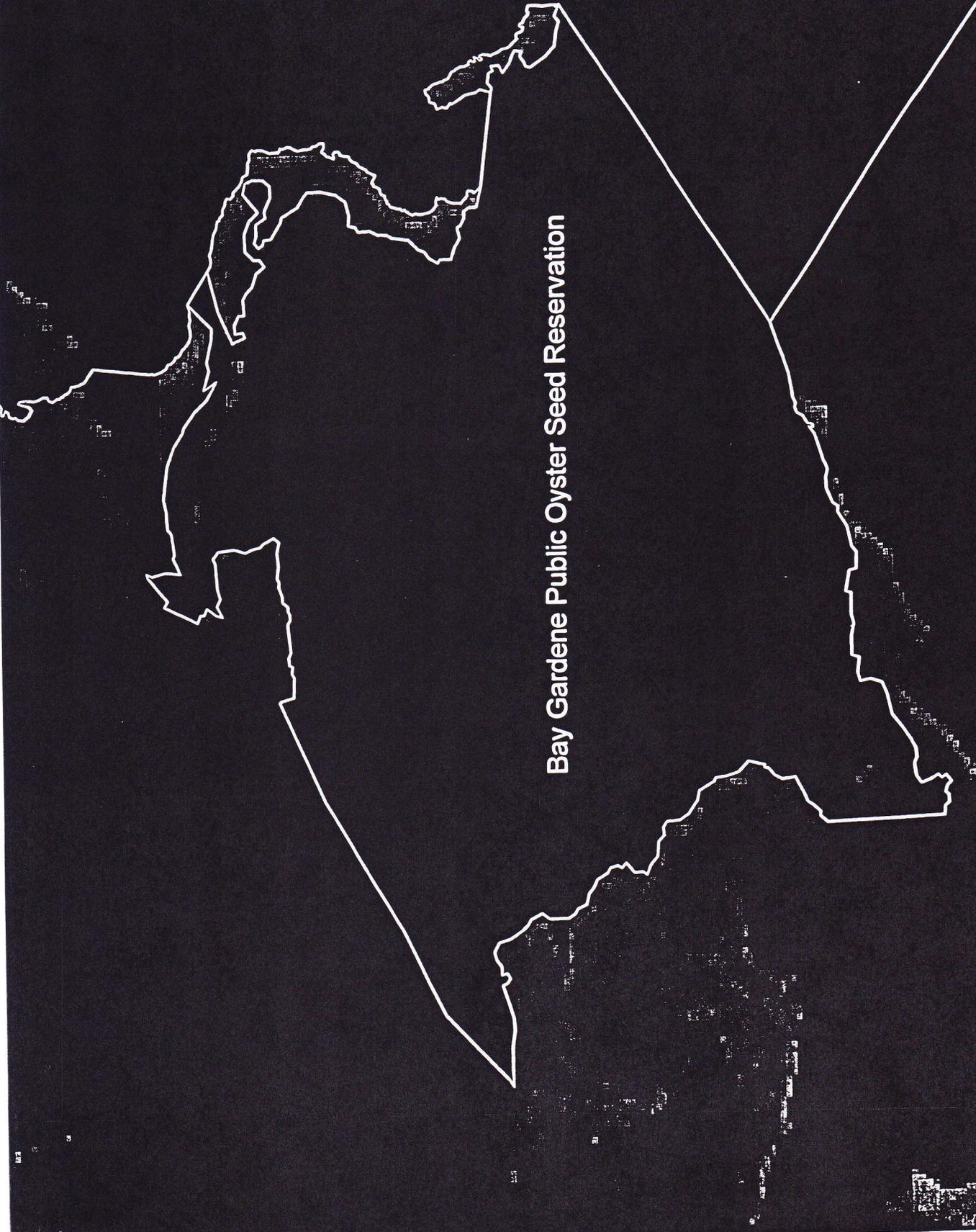
Long Bay





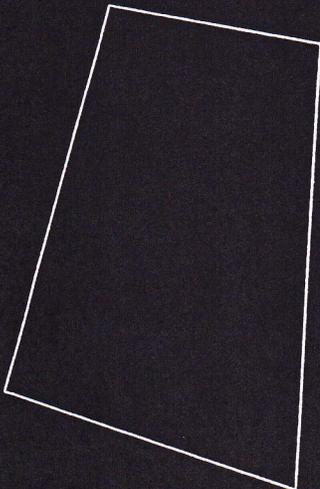
0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles

Bay Gardene Public Oyster Seed Reservation

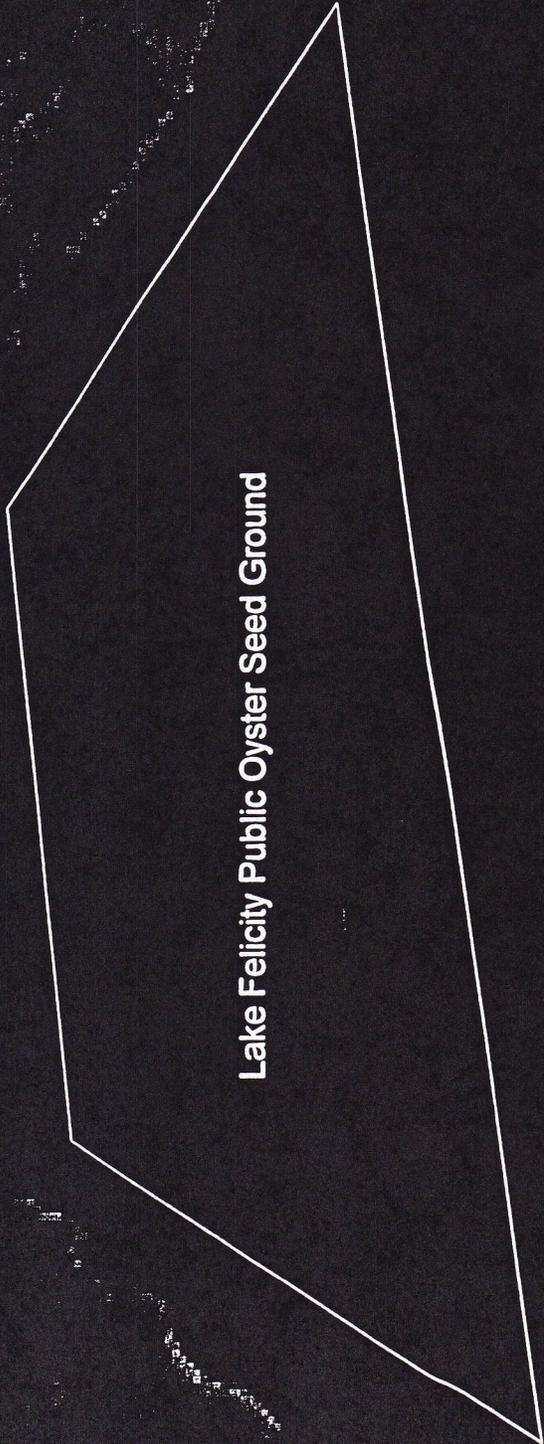




Lake Chien Public Oyster Seed Ground



Lake Felicity Public Oyster Seed Ground



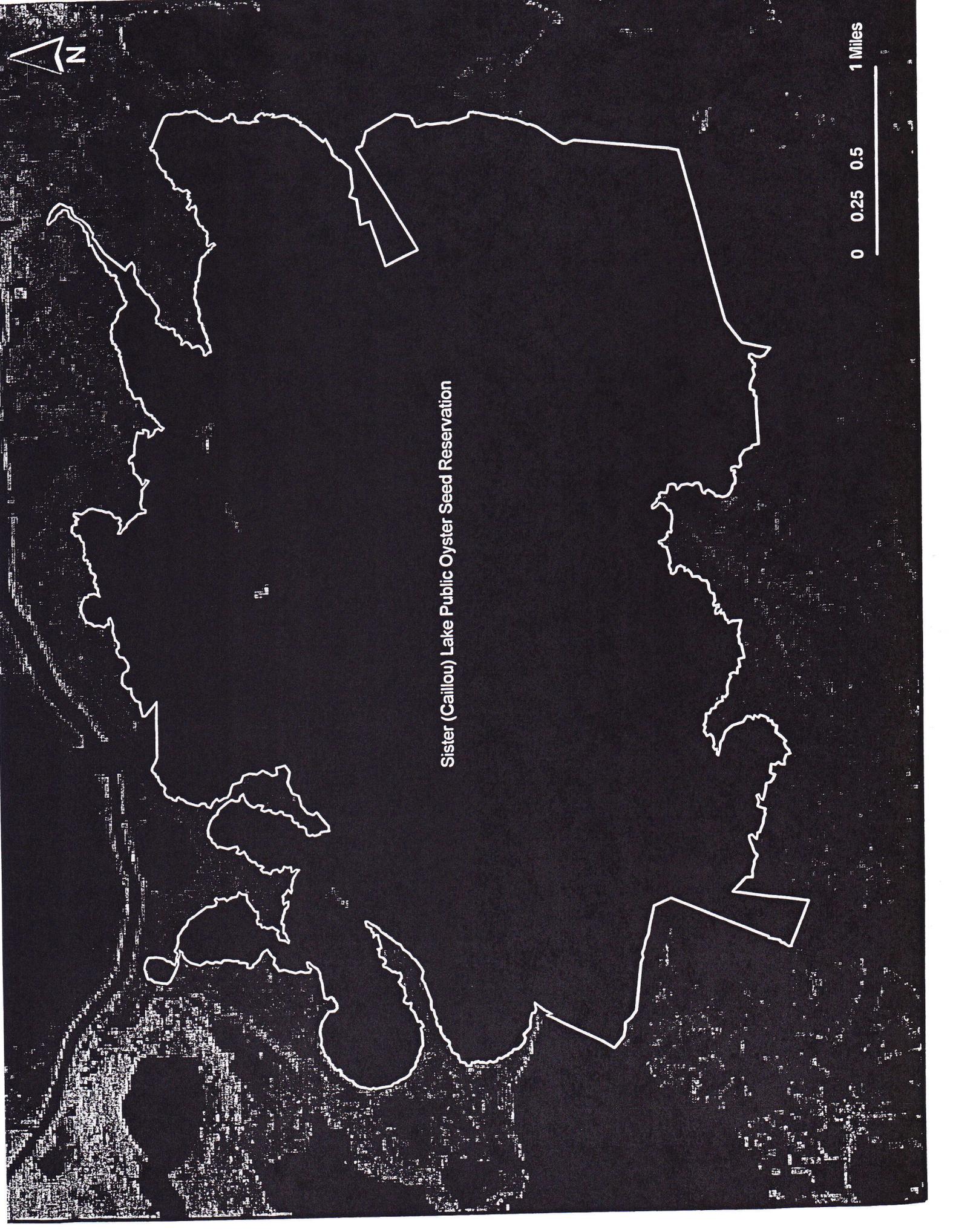
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles





Sister (Caillou) Lake Public Oyster Seed Reservation

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

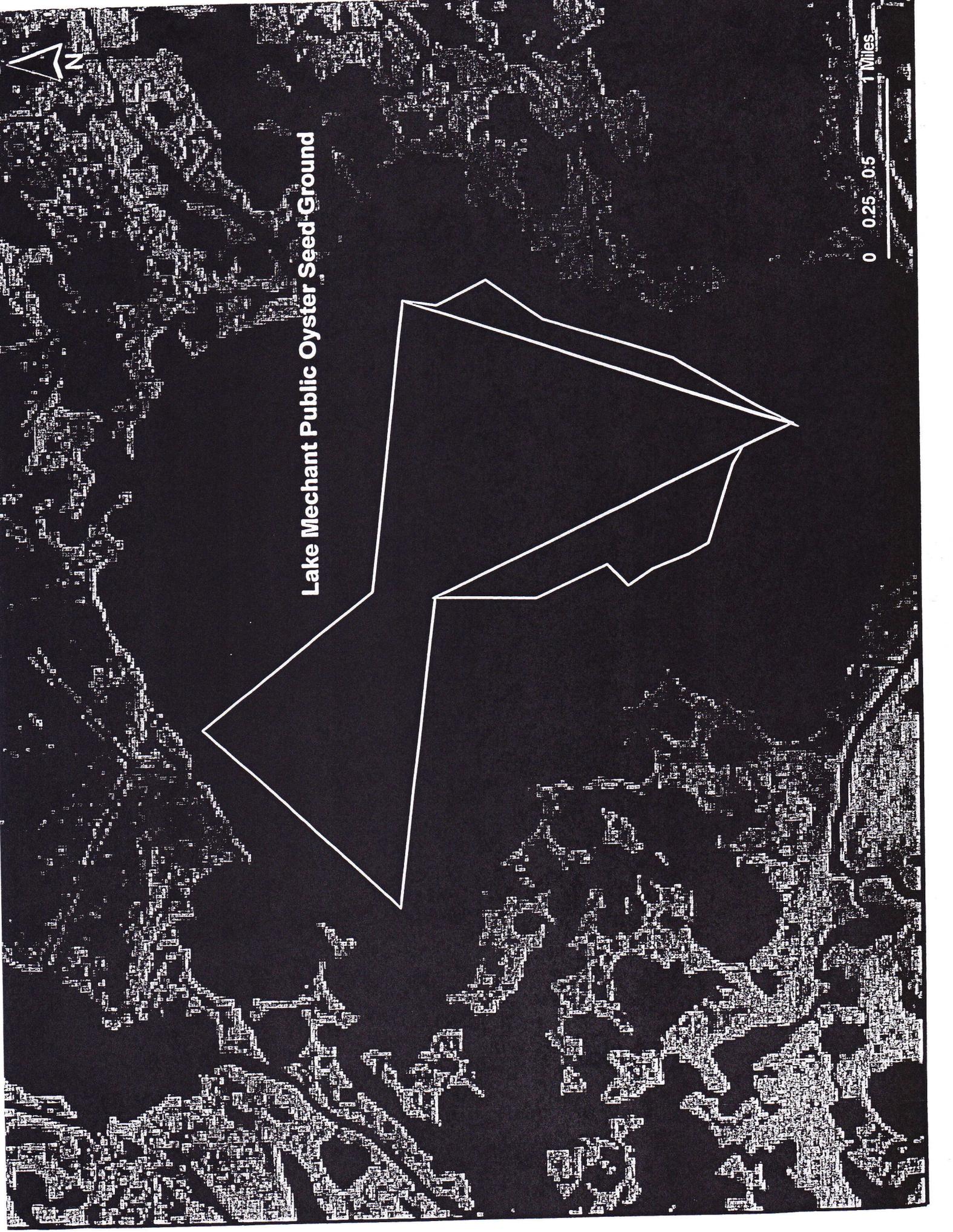


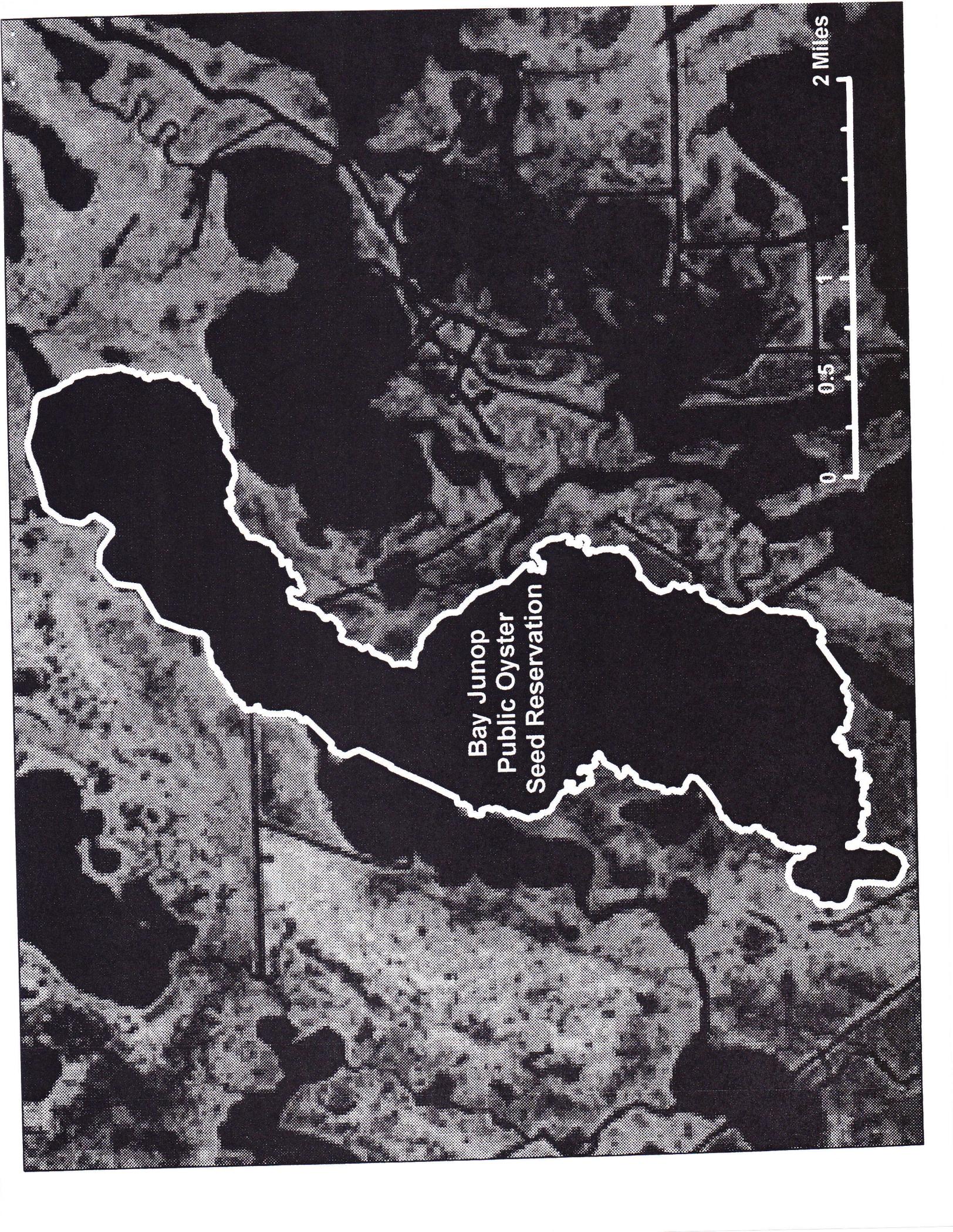


**Lake Mechant Public Oyster Seed Ground**



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles





Bay Junop  
Public Oyster  
Seed Reservation

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



March 25, 2010

Karl Morgan, Acting Administrator  
Office of Coastal Management  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 44487  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4487

RE: Proposed Legislation HLS 10RS-704

Dear Mr. Morgan,

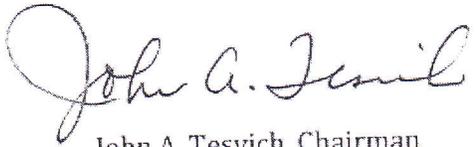
I am in receipt of your letter dated March 22, 2010 regarding the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) concerns over the referenced legislative bill that seeks to limit damages to oyster reefs in certain described areas. The Louisiana Oyster Task Force (LOTF) discussed this issue, including the proposed MOU amendments, on several occasions. At its last meeting, the LOTF discussed the content and approved the draft legislation for the referenced bill. My understanding, based on discussions at the LOTF meeting, was that oyster industry representatives felt that the proposed amendments to the MOU, as presented at the LOTF meeting, did not meet the level of protection that was afforded to sensitive fishery resources previously.

The LOTF's sole purpose for the proposed legislation is to prevent the unnecessary destruction of historical oyster reefs in sensitive areas. The intent of the bill is clear and unambiguous, and it does not preclude the development of oil and gas resources in those areas. Additionally, in order to further minimize the impact to oil and gas development, the areas covered were strictly limited to those where there has been little or no oil and gas related activities. The LOTF believes this to be a fair compromise to both industry stakeholder interests.

We are all well aware of the plight that our state now faces with the monumental task of rebuilding our coastal wetlands. The oyster industry views the dredging of access channels in sensitive fishery areas as a preventable destructive process. The cost of rebuilding our damaged coast is extremely high, and as industry stakeholders, we are all facing future challenges and displacement. Considering the significant monetary and human cost that we are facing in rebuilding our damaged coast, we believe that it is now more important than ever to preserve what is left of our natural coastal resources. The bill to limit the destruction of pristine oyster producing areas due to dredging and prop-washing activities is based on those premises.

I am available to further discuss this matter with you and DWF staff. Please call me to arrange for a meeting date and time. My cell phone is (504) 912-2750.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Tesvich". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'J'.

John A. Tesvich, Chairman

c: Robert Barham  
Randy Pausina  
Representative Reed Henderson  
Members of the LOTF



BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

ROBERT J. BARHAM  
SECRETARY

March 29, 2010

John A. Tesvich  
Louisiana Oyster Task Force  
2021 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 300  
New Orleans, LA 70122

Dear Mr. Tesvich:

We are in receipt of the March 2, 2010 request by the Oyster Task Force to reopen the Hackberry Bay Public Oyster Seed Reservation to commercial oyster harvest. As Hackberry Bay is a small bay with very limited oyster resources, we are concerned about opening this area without additional public grounds also being open. Recent health closures of areas 3 and 7 east of the Mississippi River is forcing harvest into those remaining areas that remain open by the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH). Due to the health closures and continued concerns about the Norwalk virus-related illnesses, we feel it is not in the best interest of public health to extend the oyster season on the public grounds east of the Mississippi River. As we will not be extending the season east of the Mississippi River, we feel it is not in the best interest of the limited oyster resources of Hackberry Bay to allow additional harvest in this bay during the 2009/2010 oyster season. Therefore, we will not grant the OTF request at this time. However, we will continue to evaluate the possibility of reopening some areas later this spring.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Patrick Banks of my staff at 225.765.2370 or via email at [pbanks@wlf.la.gov](mailto:pbanks@wlf.la.gov).

Sincerely,

Robert J. Barham  
Secretary

## RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Respectfully submitted:  
John Supan, Ph.D.  
OTF Research Committee Chair

At the August, 2009 Oyster Task Force (OTF) meeting, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) oyster stock assessment concluded with a discussion on the lack of spatfall to date and seed oysters on the public oyster grounds east of the Mississippi River. The discussion included anecdotal evidence of spatfall and seed prevailing on nearby private leases. Increased seed production was expected during 2009, due to high river discharge during 2008. Heavy harvesting pressure has occurred in recent years, initiating an industry-driven limited entry program, requiring permits to harvest oysters in an effort to conserve the resource. The task force passed a motion to send the issue of low oyster seed production on those grounds to the research committee for deliberation and to report to the task force its findings.

The committee chair and vice-chair Patrick Banks invited Dr. Earl Melancon, Dr. Tom Soniat, Ron Dugas, Jason Adriance, Keith Ibos, Brian Lezina, John Cirino and Brandt Lafrance to serve on the committee to help address the issue. John Tesvich also joined the committee after being elected as task force chair. Subsequent email correspondence helped identify information and data needed by the committee to discuss the issue. LDWF information such as sampling locations, historical oyster availability, harvest levels on public grounds, maps and data analyses were requested and made available to the committee.

The committee chair wishes to thank LDWF for providing excellent supporting documents to the committee in a very timely and professional manner.

Two committee meetings were held, the first at Tickfaw State Park on November 17, 2009, the second the UNO Advanced Technology Center on February 4, 2010. It was decided that LDWF members of the committee would serve as advisors providing requested and pertinent information, data and analyses and participate in discussions. Non-LDWF committee members lead the discussions, drafted and prioritized recommendations.

### **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Louisiana oyster populations are experiencing a series of climatic changes which are cyclical, and these changes coupled with land loss and man-made changes accentuate the changes and leads to wide environmental fluctuations. Seed and adult oysters are sedentary and do not handle such fluctuations well. Louisiana's environment, and thus oysters, is poised to experience extreme freshwater introduction. Record rainfall locally and in other regions of the country, coupled with high snow melt, is bound to cause problems and benefits this coming fall. The oyster resource will respond and perhaps

succumb with increasing water temperatures during 2010. Managers and farmers should prepare and plan for it.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1) An interagency freshwater diversion management committee recommends to the government how the diversions should be managed. The Oyster Task Force should:

- Increase their influence on that committee to request more consistent diversion management over pulsed diversions. This will allow oyster production to stabilize where ever it will occur as a result. It was noted that the oyster industry currently has representatives on this committee.
- Produce and distribute a position paper on the control of the existing river diversion structures to optimize oyster production over the state's seed grounds. This position paper should be distributed to the highest branches of state and federal government.

Justification: Salinity and environmental factors appear to be a major cause of the current conditions on the public grounds east of the river. The inconsistent operation of the diversion structures appears to have been one of the many detrimental factors contributing to the conditions during the 2008-09 production season.

2a) LDWF prepare for testing parameters during 2010, including:

- Continue to collect water quality data
- Collect phytoplankton samples for subsequent analyses at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL)
- Prepare for cultch plants
- Design and conduct appropriate experiments at the LDWF Fisheries Research Laboratory on Grand Isle lab and over seed grounds to test cultch and water conditions:
  - i) Bioassay's using locally used pesticides should be conducted at the LDWF Fisheries Research Lab on oyster larvae produced at the Sea Grant Bivalve Hatchery.
  - ii) Using larvae from the hatchery, conduct larval settlement experiments at the lab using cultch, existing reef material, and ambient waters from failed spat set areas of the public grounds.

Justification: Questions raised by the research committee may be answered with directed research regarding poor spat sets related to water quality and cultch condition.

2b) Vertical stratification (e.g., mounding) vs. traditional planting methods should be investigated during cultch planting on public grounds to determine if different methods result in more successful seed production.

Justification: Hypoxic conditions near bottom may be contributing to set and survival. Elevating cultch plants may provide relief above hypoxic layer.

2c) Even though it appears that environmental and weather are major conditions causing the scarcity of seed and sack oysters on the public grounds, there should be continuous water quality monitoring over those grounds. LDWF should solicit federal funds for deployment of constant data loggers over select areas of the public seed grounds east of the river to collect the following parameters: DO, pH, salinity, temperature. LUMCON (Dr. Brian Roberts) and GCRL should be consulted for types of loggers to be used. Results and analyses on the effects of these parameters on oyster production should be included in the annual LDWF stock assessments.

Justification: Continuous water quality data collection will provide more thorough information to determine water quality over those grounds.

3) LDWF Oyster section should include the OTF research committee in the evaluation of the 2010 stock assessment.

Justification: The 2010 stock assessment will be very important in determining the existing conditions and trends. Such review will help address the questions raised during committee deliberations.

4) Initiate a reef conditioning program, to be conducted during the end of the annual oyster season with industry participation, to prepare and improve cultch condition prior to oyster spawning season.

Justification: Recruitment can be improved by turning over the surface of the reef with bagless dredges to re-expose cultch in preparation for spatfall.

5) A management plan should be developed to utilize closed grounds as a source of oyster seed, although this opportunity does exist currently through the Department of Health and Hospitals' Oyster Relay Permit Program. Many leaseholders cite the cost of the required permit, bond, and commissioned officer as deterrent to utilizing this program.

Justification: Closed areas are generally underutilized and can be a source of seed during low production years in approved shellfish growing waters.

6) Because of the decrease in seed and sack oysters on Louisiana oyster grounds, the task force should mandate a shell recovery program for the purpose of shell planting on the public oyster grounds.

Justification: Harvesting practices have removed cultch material from the public grounds, causing a shortage in available cultch.

7) Dermo sampling of the public grounds should be moved from June-July to the second week of August, using LDWF oyster dredge samples. OTF should continue to assure funding at current levels.

Justification: Peak dermo infections are found during the warmest months. Conducting dermo analyses during August will make the resulting data more pertinent and useful prior to the opening of the season. Although the data will not be included in the annual stock assessment report, the data can be web-based and accessible prior to the opening of the season.

8) The state should foster the development of mariculture as a means to reduce the industry's dependency on the public oyster seed grounds.

Justification: If the present seed ground conditions continue, then alternative oyster production methods need to be implemented.

9) Reef surveys should be conducted, when funds are available, to determine the areal extent, vertical relief and location of existing reef resources on the public grounds.

Justification: Determine where the reef area is currently as compared to the optimal salinity in the area.

## **DISCUSSION POINTS**

These recommendations were drafted from committee discussions, including:

-The question was raised is there really a problem beyond what is historic, cyclical production? Total annual state harvest remains consistent at about 12 million pounds of meat even though seed production remains cyclical. It appears that spatfall and seed production always occurs, that some years it is on the state seed grounds, some years not, and those years it is occurring at other places (e.g., private grounds) where it is utilized for seed by individual owners. It appears that low seed production is occurring only on the public grounds east of the river; other public and private grounds in other parts of the state were productive primarily because of ideal salinity conditions.

-The taking of non-living reef shell.

- Shell taken from the public grounds is moved to other areas of coastal Louisiana to create reef and it stays within the system; and,
- Shell resulting from shucking may leave the state.
- Some of the shell taken from the public grounds east of the Mississippi River was moved to the west side of the river into a different system.
- The vertical relief and overall mass of shell material on the waterbottom surface is affected by all of the following:

- 1) Accretion from the growing biomass of molluscan species, mainly oysters and mussels, but including clams & etc. (mussels & clams aren't harvested commercially, only incidentally)
- 2) Accretion from cultch planting programs
- 3) Depletion by:
  - a) the taking of oysters and incidental cultch for bedding on private leases
  - b) the taking of oysters for sale to market
  - c) biological (e.g., boring clams, worms, black drum,) and chemical breakdown of shells
  - d) subsidence and sedimentation processes
  - e) other coastal use activities, including navigation, dredging, and prop-washing
  - f) redistribution forced by
    - i) hurricanes and storms
    - ii) increased wave action and tidal currents due to coastal erosion
- 4) Other conditions

-A past study on shell recovery from shucking houses and restaurants found it not economically feasible for LDWF to recover the shell.

-Shell budgeting to manage the resource.

-Severance was implemented decades ago to tax (\$0.01 to \$0.02 per barrel) the industry to help fund the recovery of shell. It generates only about \$24,000 per year and goes into the general Conservation fund of LDWF and not necessarily used for oyster-related work.

-The cost of bedding was discussed and its effect on industry practices, with special reference to how this may affect public ground harvests.

- Water quality may be an issue (i.e., dead zones). Are the river diversions contributing to poor water quality over the public seed grounds? Are we seeing more of a difference between top and bottom salinities (i.e., stratification)?

- Salinity regime over the seed grounds, good production years vs. bad. The right mix of water quality (i.e., freshwater input and salinity) is needed to have good spatfall survive to seed and market size. OCPR manages the diversion structures, but management decisions are based on saving the coast, not producing oysters. It was noted that the original justification for the diversions, however, was an increase in oysters.
- Changing conditions are affecting industry profitability. When the freshwater line moved out after Caernarvon opened, the “redline” should have moved out as well.

-Personal observations were given on the effect of Katrina on private reefs: shell washed up on shore.

-What other data needs collected:

- Salinity- overlay of salinity information over the reef information; spat data compared spatially with salinity
- pH,
- water temp,
- nutrients,
- Dissolved oxygen
- pesticide levels- permitted spraying by parishes,
- replot Chatry *et al* (1983) mean against August-July salinity