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Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

September 15, 2026

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Employment, Contracts and Procurement Updates
September 15, 2026

Employment Updates

Promotions:

- Bryan Drieling – Promoted on August 16, 2026 – Law Enforcement Officer II, Staff Sergeant – Office of Marine Patrol
- Nickolas Moreno – Promoted on September 1, 2026 – Environmental/Natural Resources Specialist III – Office of Marine Fisheries
- Jamie Marroy – Promoted on September 1, 2026 – Dispatcher II – Office of Marine Patrol
- Tonnor Segree – Promoted on August 16, 2026 – Law Enforcement Officer II, Sergeant – Office of Marine Patrol

New Hire:

- Melody Kessen – Started on September 1, 2026 – Procurement Officer II – Office of Finance & Accounting

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
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Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

September 15, 2026

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Actions Update for the September 15, 2026 Commission Meeting

Discussed at the August 2026 meeting:

- Nomination and election of Jonathan McClendon as the new MACMR Chairman.

- Nomination and election of Matthew Mayfield as the new MACMR Vice-Chairman.

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The Commission recommended and the Director approved:

- Motion to recommend to the Director to request staff to review and recommend changes to speckled trout regulations concerning: (1) raising the quota; (2) the size limit; and (3) the qualifications.

- Motion to recommend to the Director that the motion regarding fines made at the July 19, 2026 meeting be rescinded and allow the staff to proceed under the correct procedure.

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- Motion to recommend approval of the State Saltwater Finfish Record:

a. Youth Conventional Tackle:

1. Bonnethead Shark (Sphyrna tiburo) – 10 lbs. 13.4 oz. – Ben Cain

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Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

September 15, 2026

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MSU College of Forest Resources Career Fair



Vancleave HS College and Career Fair

ENH





Gulf Council Reception





2027 Marine Information Calendar

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Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

September 15, 2026

COMMERCIAL SPOTTED SEATROUT UPDATE

Matt Hill

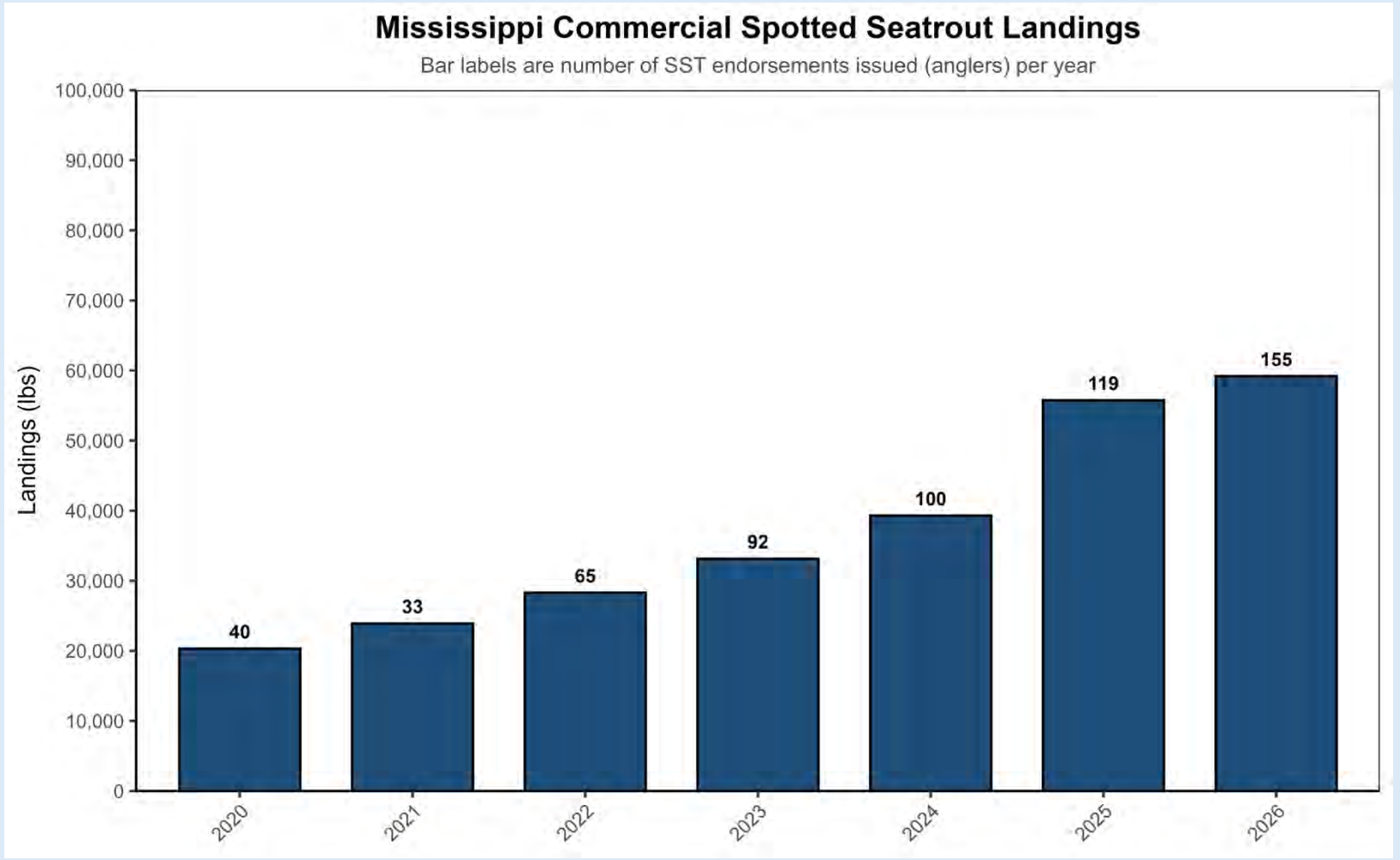
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

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COMMERCIAL SPOTTED SEATROUT

Current Status

- **50,000 lbs. Annual Quota**
- **14 inches Size Limit**
- **Endorsement Qualification**
  - $1,000 of finfish or $5,000 of seafood product in the previous or current calendar year



Historical Commercial Spotted Seatrout Regulations

Year	Commercial SST Regulation Changes
1978	12-inch size limit
1986	14-inch size limit
1995	35,000 lbs. Commercial Quota
2011	40,000 lbs. Commercial Quota
2013	50,000 lbs. Commercial Quota
2014	SST Endorsement - $5,000 in seafood sales in 12 consecutive months –Valid for 3 years from date of purchase
2019	20% income requirement verified through Trip Ticket records
2022	$1,000 in Finfish or $5,000 in seafood product verified through Trip Ticket records

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COMMERCIAL SPOTTED SEATROUT CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration 1: Commercial Spotted Seatrout Quota

A. 50,000 lbs. (Status Quo)
B. 60,000 lbs.
C. 70,000 lbs.

Consideration 2: Spotted Seatrout Endorsement Qualifications

A. $1,000 finfish product / $5,000 seafood product (Status Quo)
B. $2,000 finfish product / $5,000 seafood product
C. $3,000 finfish product / $5,000 seafood product

Consideration 3: Commercial Spotted Seatrout Size Limit

A. 14 inches (Status Quo)
B. 15 inches

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
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TITLE 22 – MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
PART 3 REGULATIONS TO PROVIDE SIZE LIMITS AND BAG LIMITS ON CERTAIN FISH SPECIES, PREVENT SALE OF SEAFOOD BY RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN, AND PROVIDE REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF NETS, TRAPS, AND POTS FOR THE TAKING OF FINFISH

CHAPTER 08 COMMERCIAL SIZE, POSSESSION AND CATCH LIMITS

Rule 8.1 Commercial Size, Possession and Catch Limits

A. It is unlawful to barter, sell, offer for sale or transport for sale or possess for sale in or from the State of Mississippi the following named species of fish under the lengths prescribed:

1. Red Drum – eighteen (18) inches (total length).
2. Spotted Seatrout – fourteen (14) inches (total length).

J. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for commercial landings of Spotted Seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) will be set at fifty thousand (50,000) pounds. The commercial fishing season for landing Spotted Seatrout shall commence on January 1st and end December 31st each year. The commercial TAC for the fishing season is divided into two periods as follows: January 1st – June 30th twenty-five thousand pounds (25,000); July 1st – December 31st twenty-five thousand pounds (25,000). In the event the commercial TAC is not met or exceeded in the first time period January 1st – June 30th) the pounds will be added or subtracted to the second time period (July 1st – December 31st).

K. Individuals commercially harvesting Spotted Seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) must possess a Spotted Seatrout endorsement ($10.00) in addition to a current applicable harvester's license. To qualify for this endorsement an application must be completed. A Trip Ticket officer will validate, through the Trip Ticket system, that the applicant sold at least one thousand ($1,000) dollars of finfish or five thousand ($5,000) dollars of seafood product in the previous or current calendar year. The endorsement will be valid from January 1st – December 31st each year. In the event of a hardship approved by the Executive Director, the department may consider the applicants qualification based on sales one year prior to the onset of the approved hardship.

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Questions?

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Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

September 15, 2026

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Reef Assessment and 2026/2027 Oyster Season

Jason Rider
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

September 8, 2026

2025–2026 Oyster Season

Largest harvest since 2013

50,427
sacks harvested

136
days of open harvest

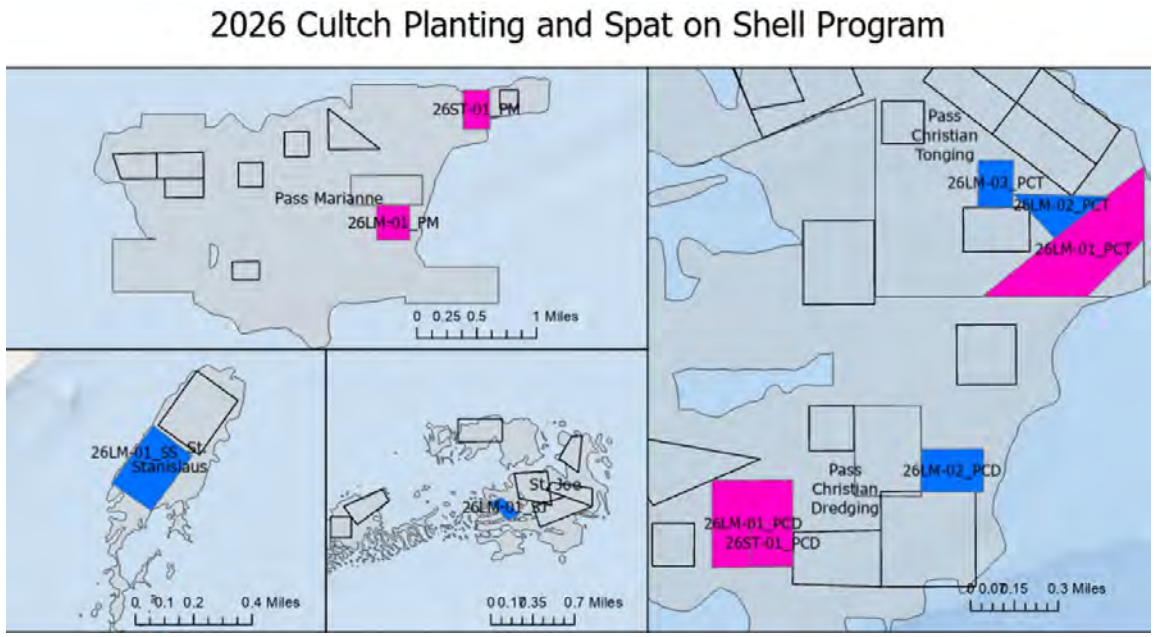
Season ran from October 13, 2025 to April 30, 2026

Majority of effort on Pass Christian Tonging and Pass Christian Dredging

License Type	Licenses Sold
Resident Commerical Tonging	33
Non-Resident Commerical Tonging	38
Resident Commerical Dredging	85
Non-Resident Commerical Dredging	6



2026 Cultch Planting & Spat on Shell Program



236 acres

TOTAL CULTCHED IN 2026

June / July planting

August planting

Reef	Acres	Plant time	Cubic yards	Material
Pass Christian Dredging	65	June, July, August	6,367	Limestone + spat on shell
Pass Christian Tonging	70	June, July, August	7,000	Limestone
Pass Marianne	72	June, July	4,562	Limestone + spat on shell
St. Stanislaus	19	August	1,140	Limestone
St. Joe	10	August	1,000	Limestone
Total	**236**		**20,069**	

2026 Sampling Procedures

Planning and process

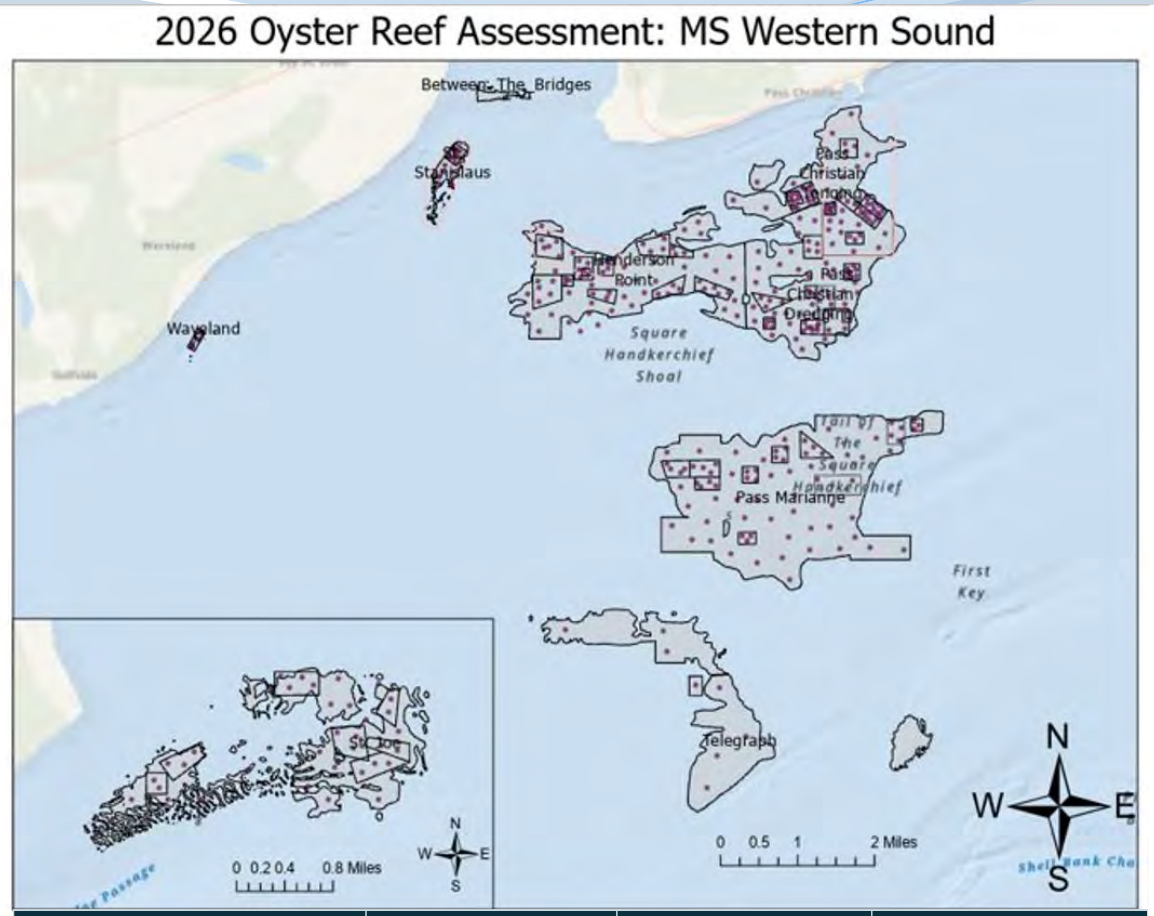
- Sampling occurred from May to September
- Sampling was broken into four sampling rounds to ensure recruitment/growth was tracked throughout the summer.
- All reef complexes sampled

Methods

- Square meter dives at randomly selected locations
- Across two strata
  - Cultch Plants
  - Reef

Outputs

- Oyster density
- Bottom type
  - Bottom Type – Mud, Sand, Mixture
  - Bottom Composition – Soft, Moderately Firm, Firm
  - Cultch Material(s) Present – Oyster Shell, Limestone, Concrete, Hash, Relic Shell, No Material
- Environmental parameters
  - Wind speed, Wind Direction, Air Temperature, Water Depth, Water Temperature, Salinity, Turbidity, D.O., pH



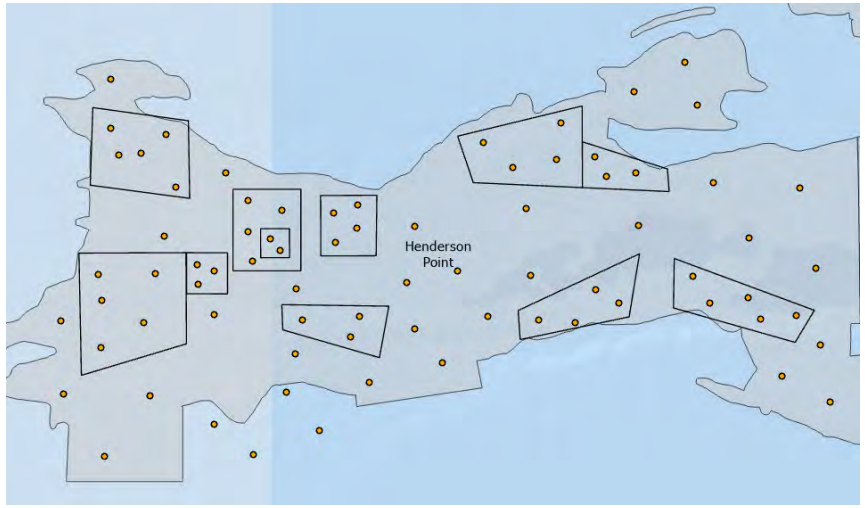
Reef	2025 Dive Samples	2026 Dive Samples	Increase in Samples
Henderson Point	96	154	58
St. Joe	20	70	50
Pass Christian Tonging	87	130	43
Pass Christian Dredging	107	154	47
Pass Marianne	119	168	49
St. Stanislaus	-	30	30
Waveland	-	8	8

HENDERSON POINT

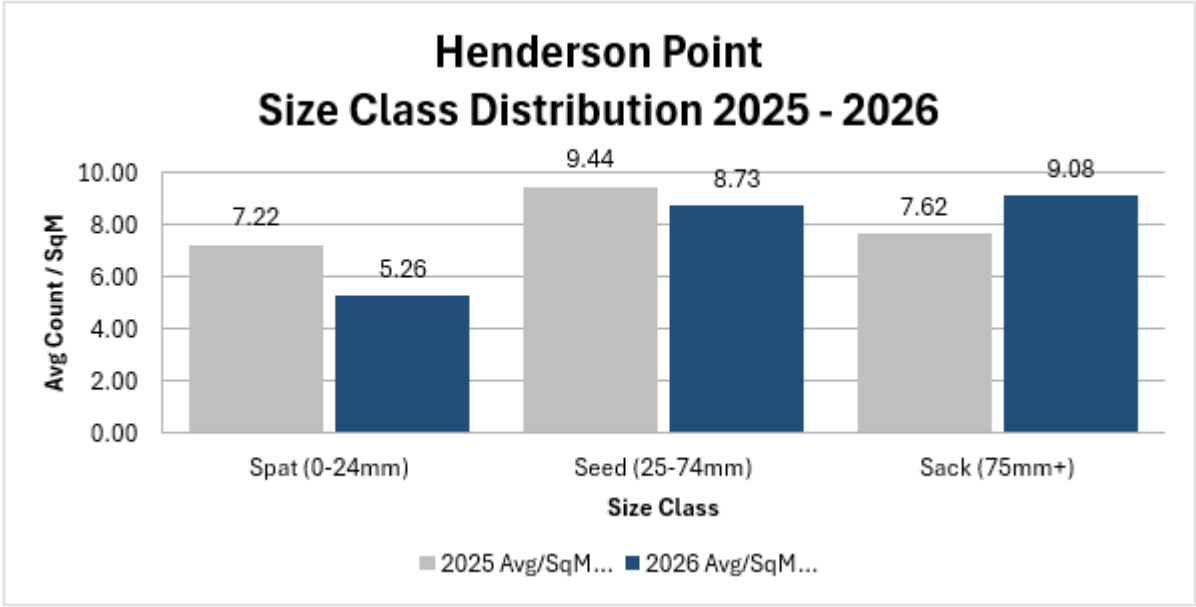
Reef footprint: approximately 1,295 acres

154
Dive samples

77
Dive sites



- Harvest on this reef complex has been limited.
- Overall biomass has increased.
- Approximately 87% of market size oysters are located on cultch plants.
- Reef shows healthy cluster distribution and good growth from submarket to market size oysters.

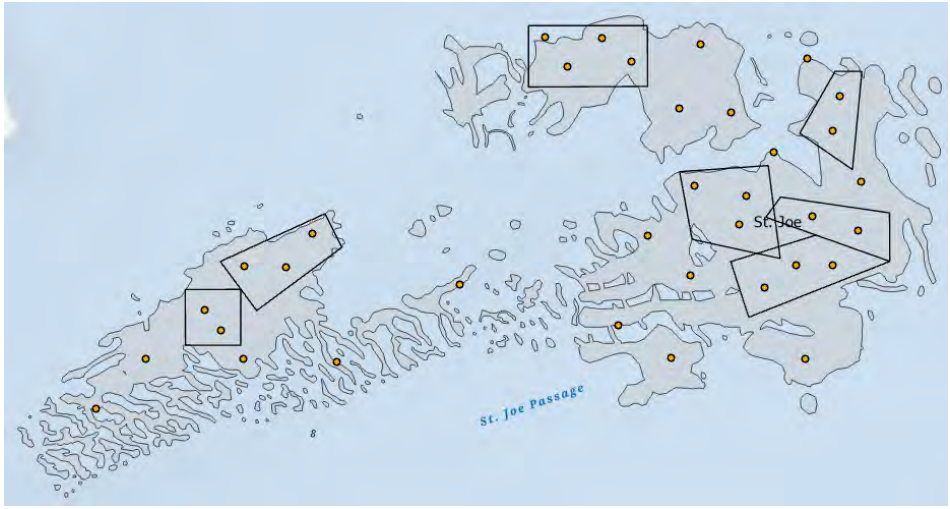


ST. JOE

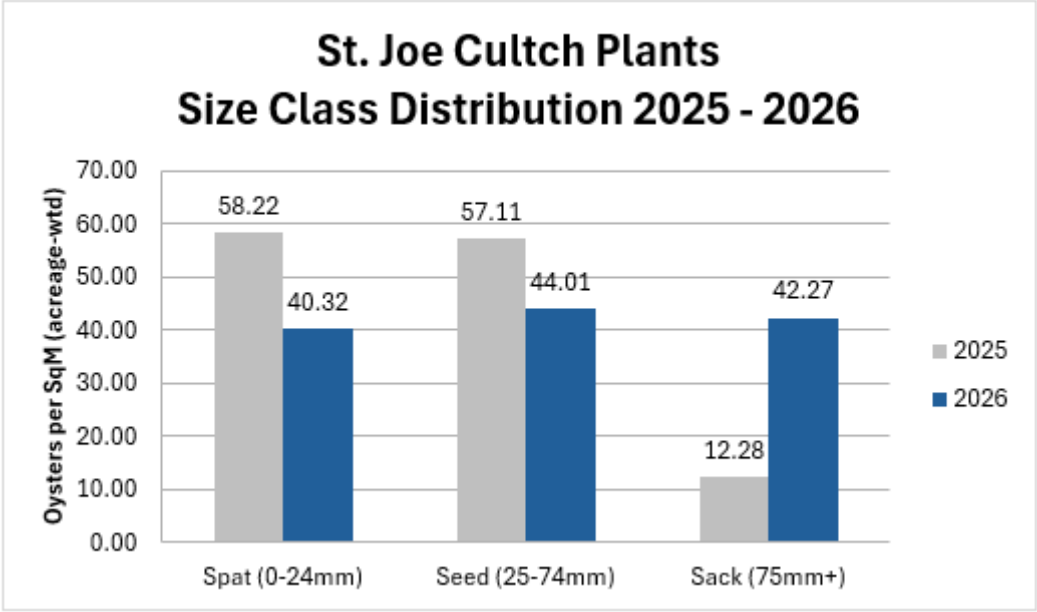
Reef footprint: approximately 548 acres

70
Dive samples

35
Dive sites



- Limited harvest occurred from this reef last season.
- Approximately 67% of oysters are located on cultch plants.
- Reef is showing expansion beyond cultch plants.
- Growth was observed across nearly every size class, with spat sets increasing significantly beginning in early August.

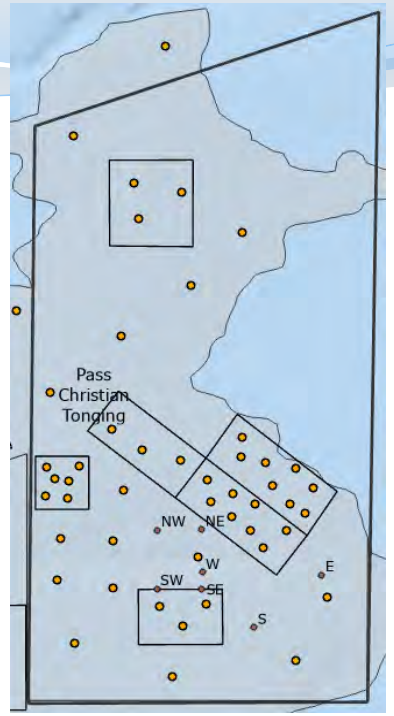


PASS CHRISTIAN TONGING

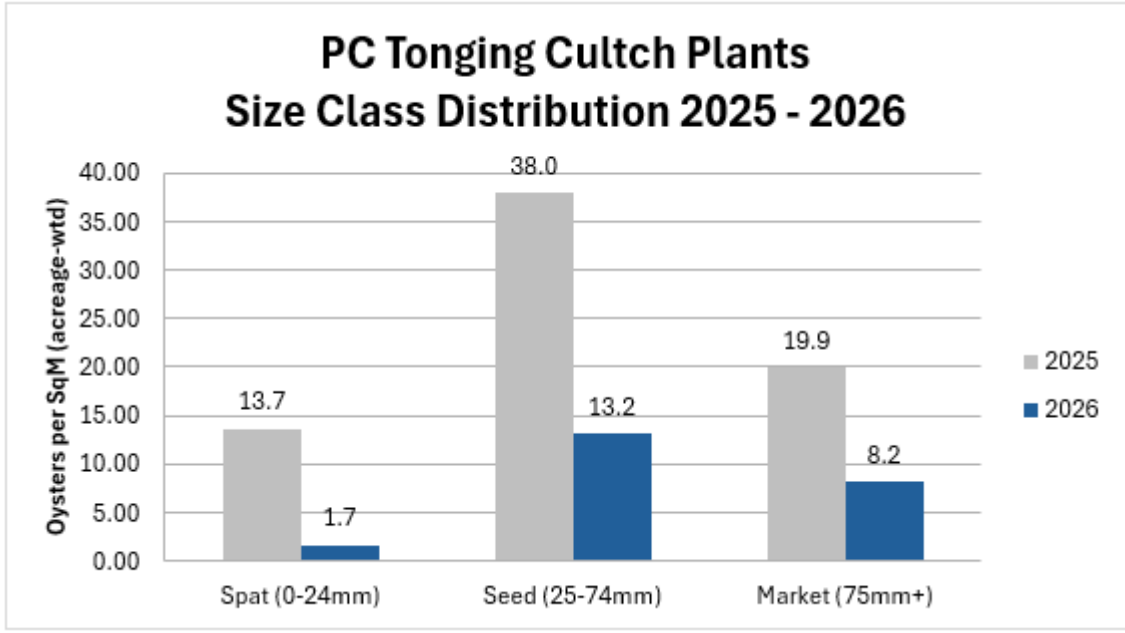
Reef footprint: approximately 575 acres

130
Dive samples

65
Dive sites



- Reef yielded consistent daily harvest, primarily from cultch plants.
- 60% of oysters (14,691 sacks) are located on cultch plants
- Observed decreases in density for all size categories.
- The number of market size oysters has declined relative to previous years

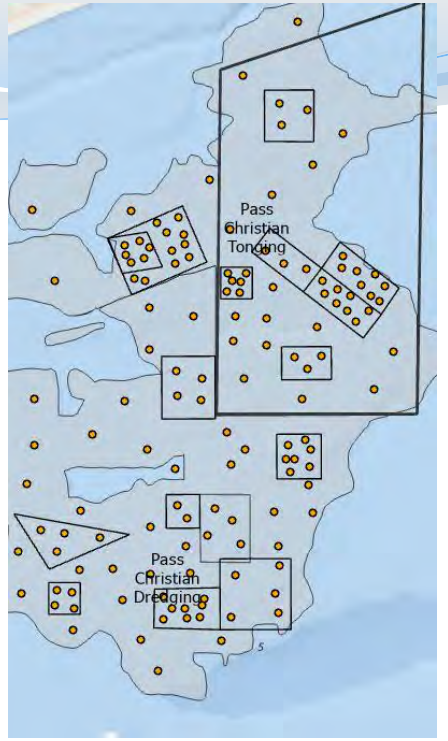


PASS CHRISTIAN DREDGING

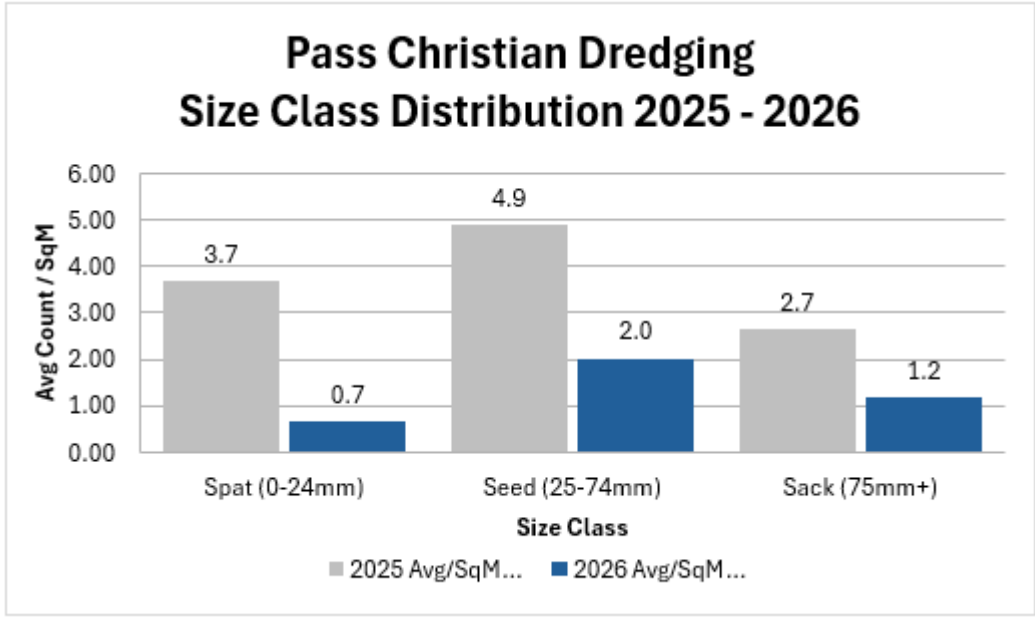
Reef footprint: approximately 1,194 acres

154
Dive samples

77
Dive sites



- Majority of sacks from dredgers were harvested from this reef.
- Approximately 90% of market size oysters are located on cultch plants.
- Increased natural mortality observed due to low-salinity event.
- Observed decreases in density for all size categories.

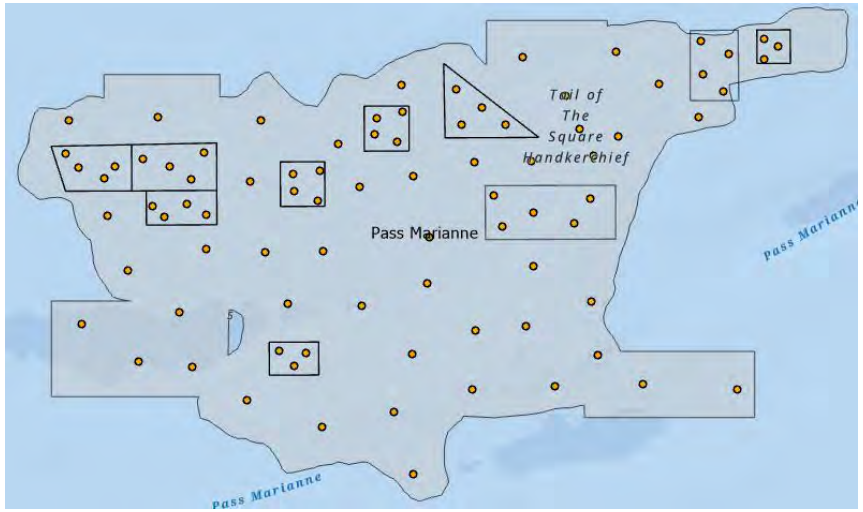


PASS MARIANNE

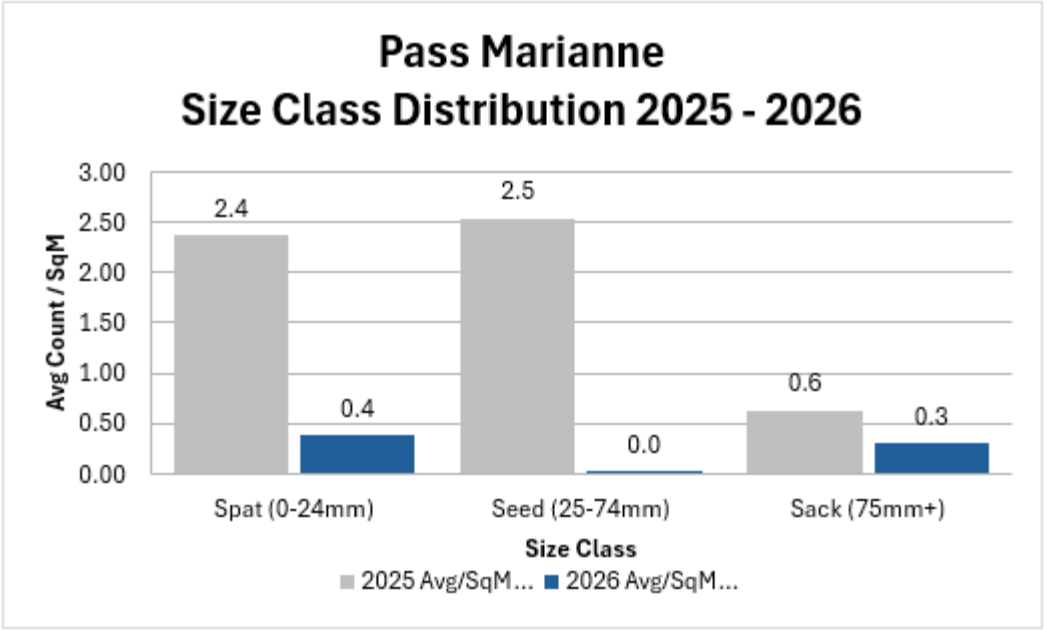
Reef footprint: approximately 2,410 acres

168
Dive samples

84
Dive sites



- This was the third highest reef for dredge harvest.
- Limited material and recruitment observed.
- Approximately 95% of market size oysters are located on cultch plants.
- The reef has exhibited low recruitment since 2023.

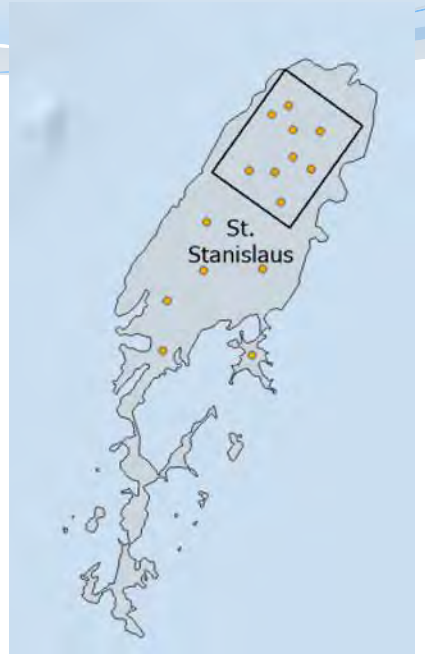


ST. STANISLAUS

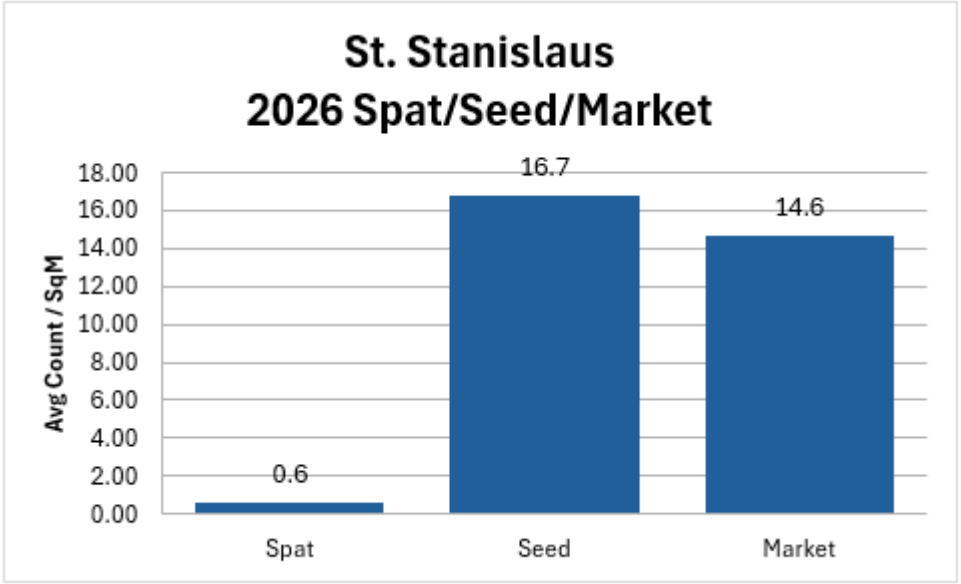
Reef footprint: approximately 75 acres

30
Dive samples

15
Dive sites



- Limited harvest observed in the previous season.
- Approximately 95% of market size oysters are located on cultch plants.
- The reef has exhibited substantial growth over the last 2 - 4 years.
- Limited spat observed during assessment, potential for additional spat sets in the fall.



WAVELAND

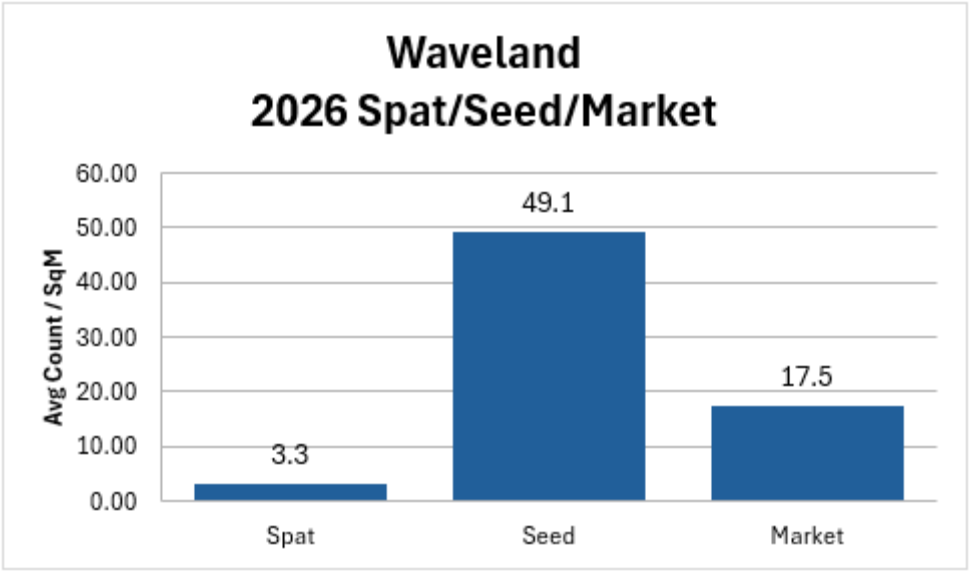
Reef footprint: approximately 14 acres

8
Dive samples

4
Dive sites



- No harvest was observed from this reef last season.
- Smallest reef area sampled, good distribution of size classes.
- Nearly all oysters on a historical cultch plant.
- Area II B is managed based on 0.5 inches of rainfall and a 10-foot river stage. Harvest may be limited due to these conditions.



BILOXI BAY

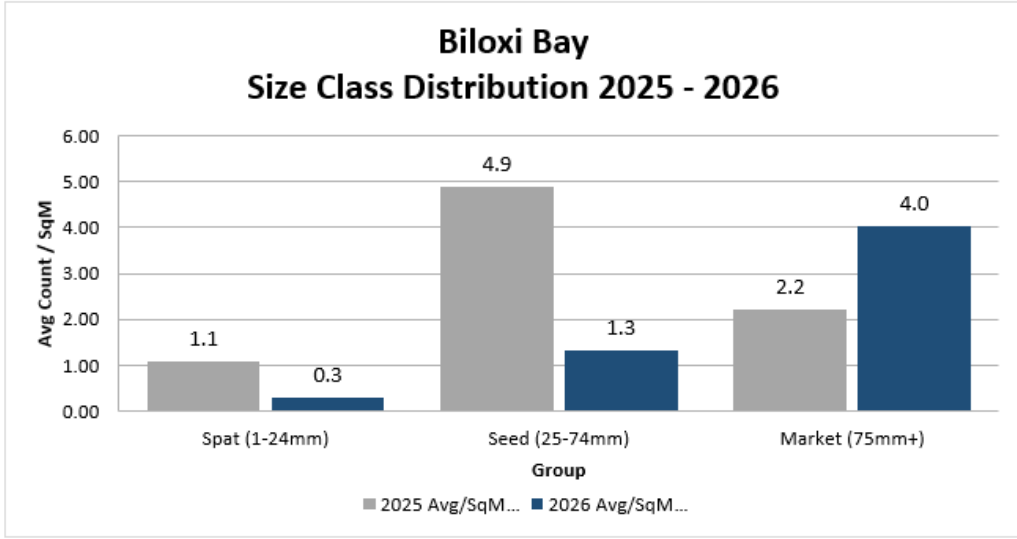
Reef footprint: approximately 227 acres

100
Dive samples

50
Dive sites

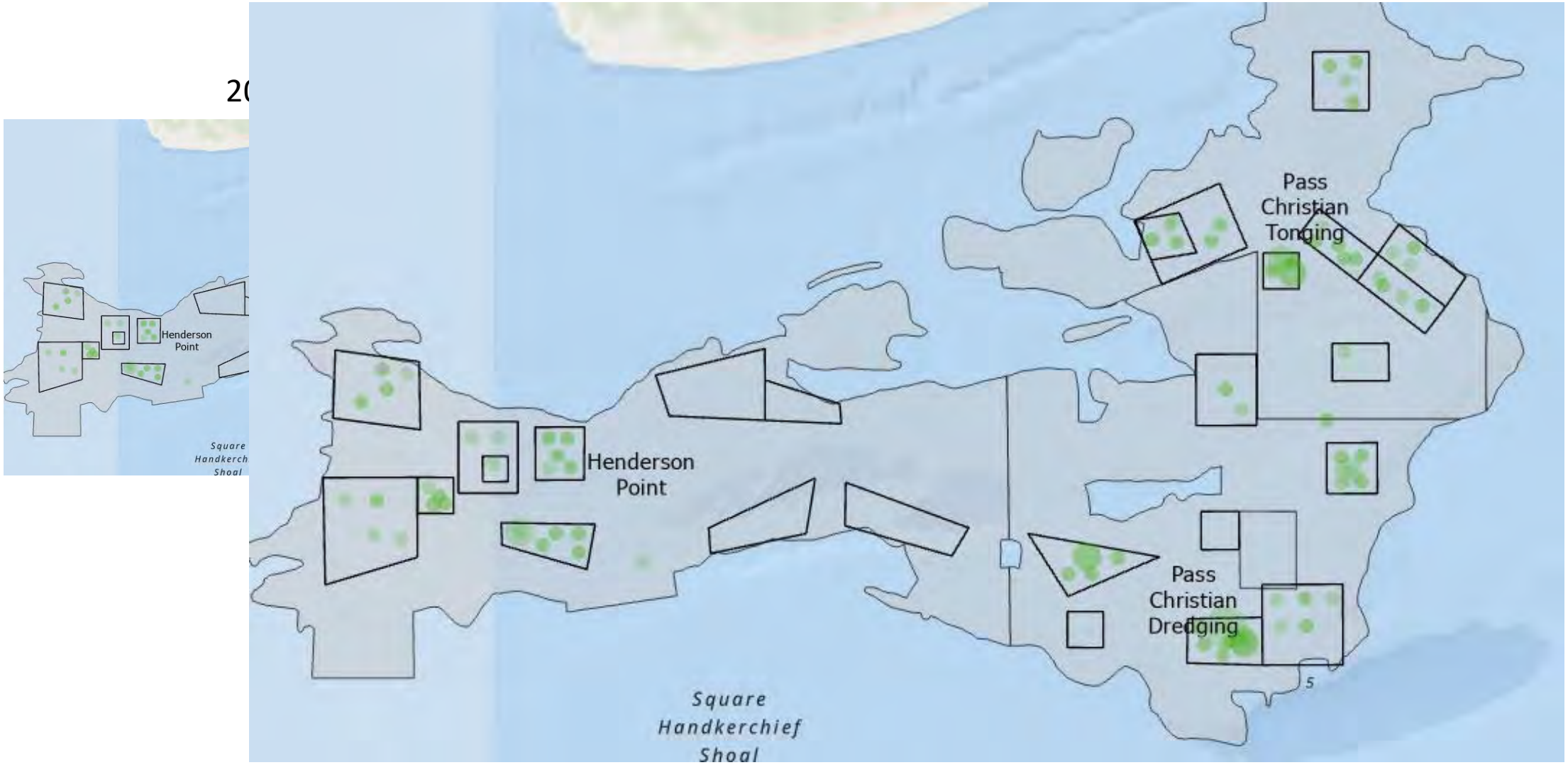


- Last harvest from Biloxi Bay occurred in 2018.
- Biloxi Bay is comprised of multiple cultch plants. Majority of the area is a cultch plant from previous years.
- Recruitment lower relative to western sound and continues to be limited during the spring and summer. Plan to monitor spat tiles during the fall.
- 2025 Seed class has progressed into market size, however next class size is low for the future.



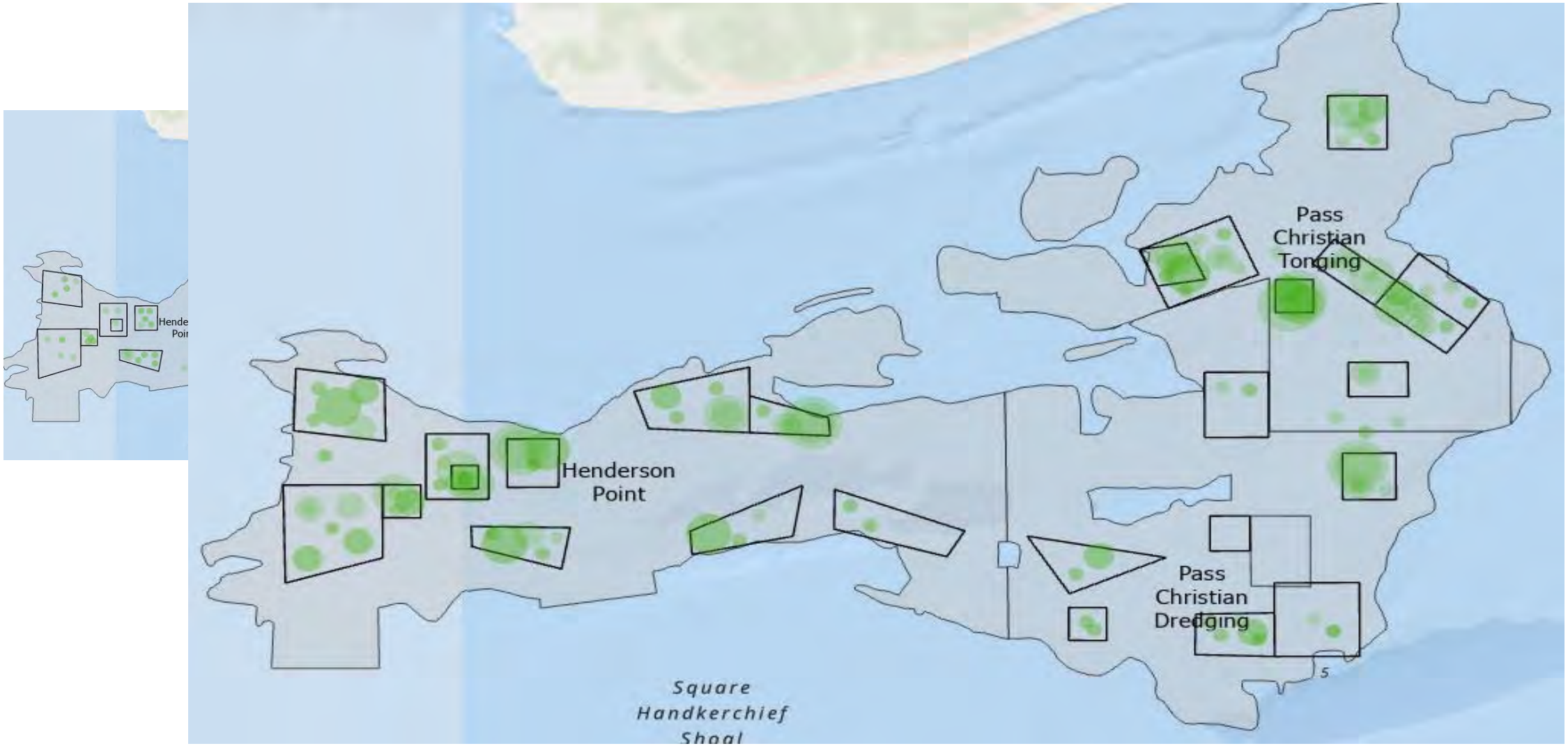
HEAT MAP: Market Size Oysters

2024



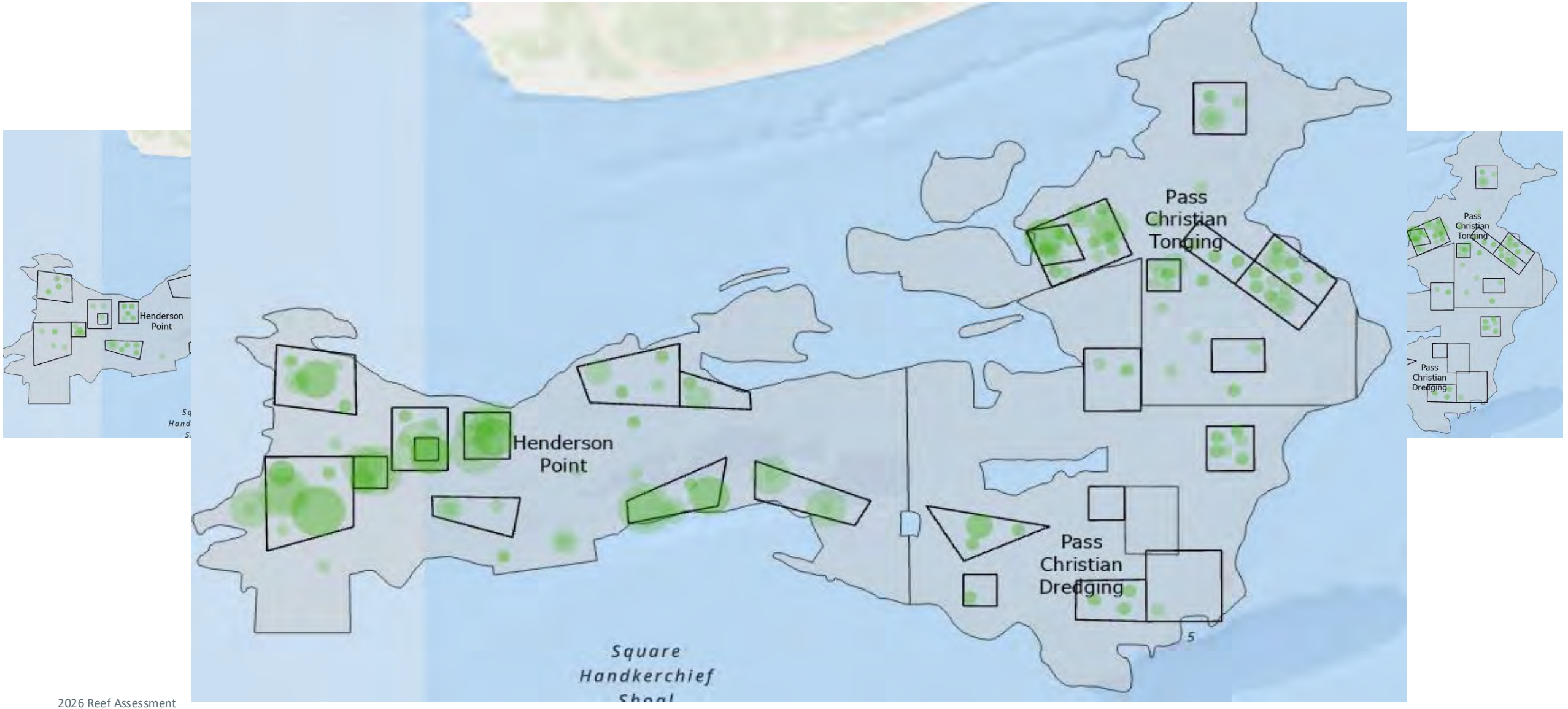
HEAT MAP: Market Size Oysters

2025



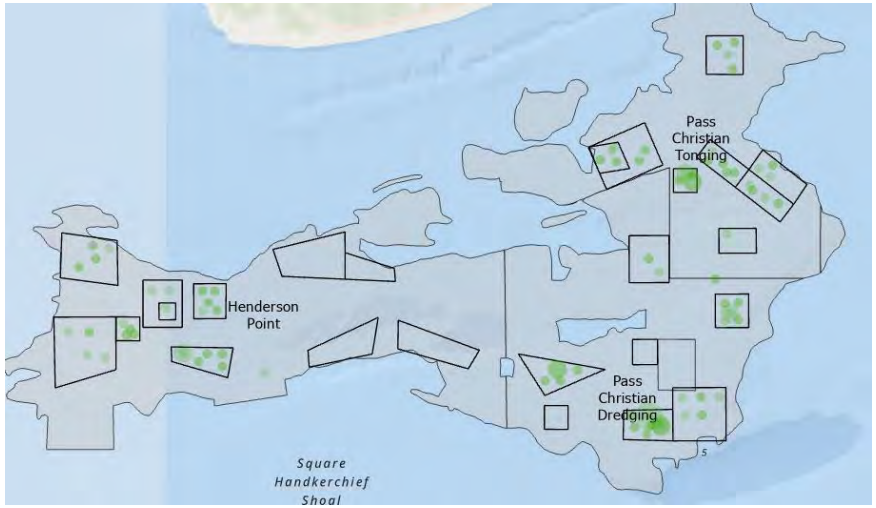
HEAT MAP: Market Size Oysters

2026

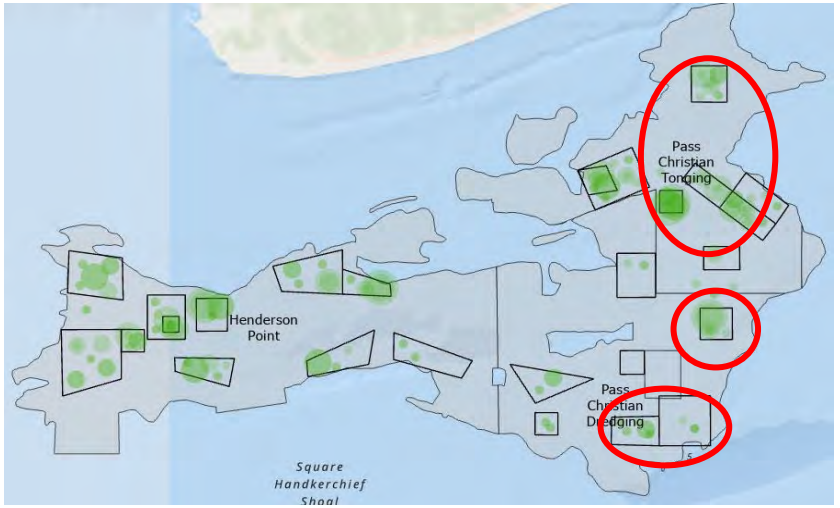


HEAT MAP: Market Size Oysters

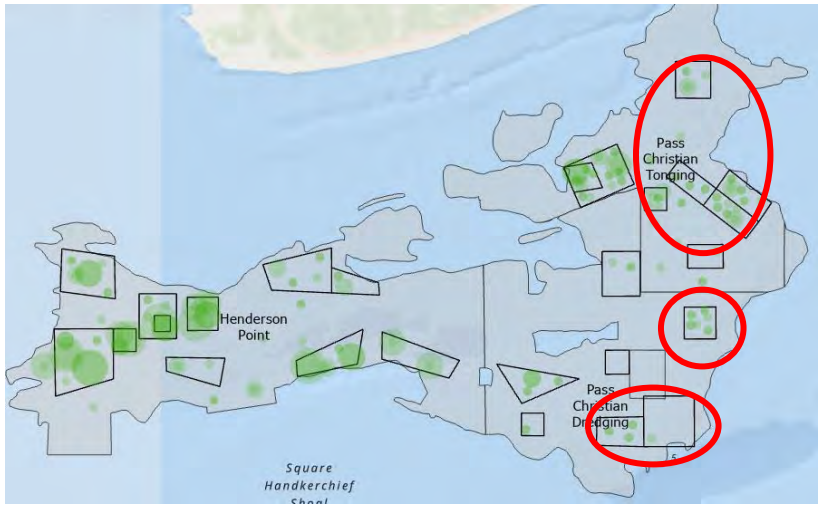
2024



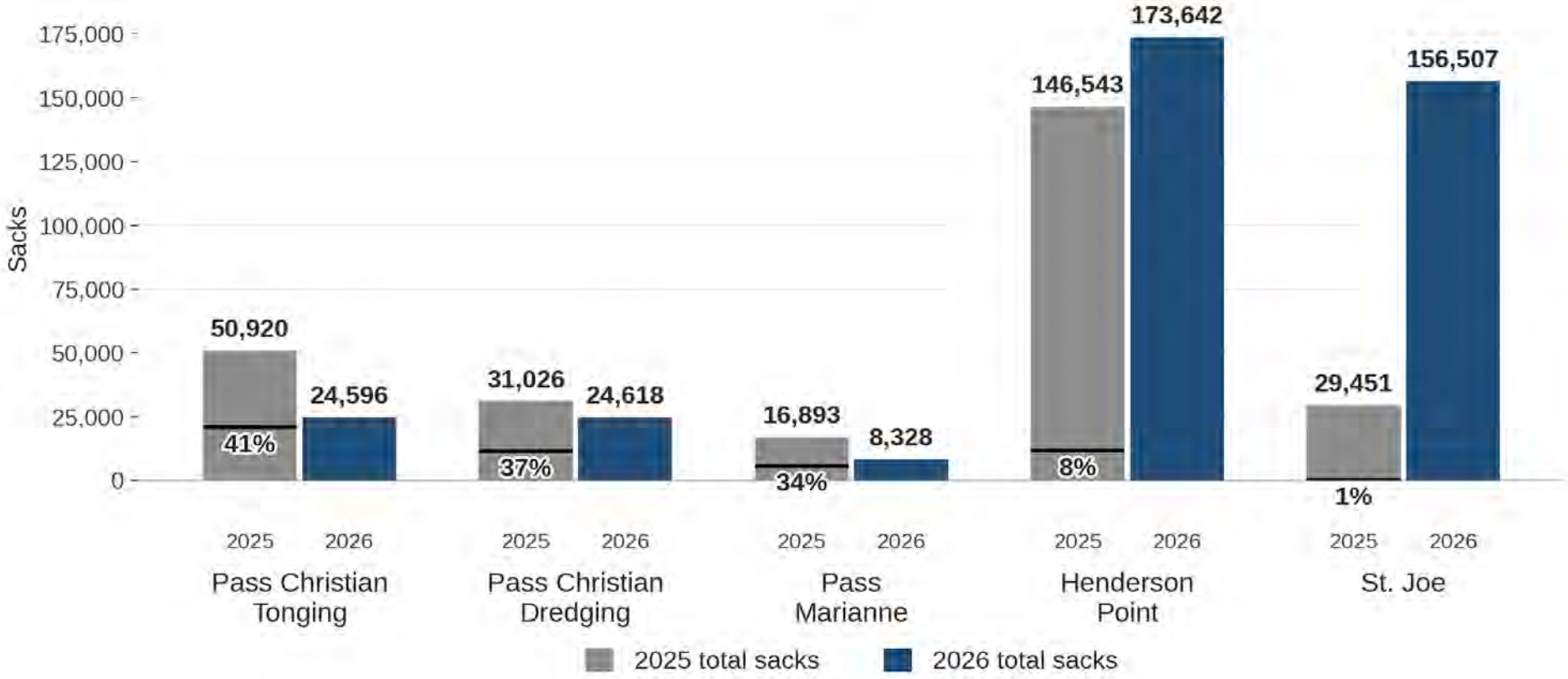
2025



2026



Total Sacks Only - 2025 and 2026



Reef	2025				2026		
	Reef Estimate	30% Quota	Sacks Harvested	% Total Sacks Harvested	Reef Estimate	30% Quota	Change vs 2025
Henderson Point	146,543	43,963	11,516	8%	173,642	52,093	18%
St.Joe	29,451	8,835	421	1%	156,507	46,952	431%
Pass Christian Tonging	50,920	15,276	20,766	41%	24,596	7,379	-52%
Pass Christian Dredging	31,026	9,308	11,612	37%	24,618	7,385	-21%
Pass Marianne	16,893	5,068	5,770	34%	8,328	2,498	-51%
St. Stanislaus	0	0	342		7,349	2,205	
Waveland	0	0	0		3,605	1,082	
Total	274,833	82,450	50,427		398,645	119,594	

Discussion Topics

- **Opening Date**
  - **October 1, 2026, at legal sunrise.**

- **Sack Limits**
  - Dredge Options (20 per day)
  - Tonging Options(15 per day)

- **Tonging only Reefs**
  - St. Stanislaus
  - Waveland
  - Biloxi

- **Harvester check out/in**
  - **7:00am – 1:30pm**

- **Text Message (Oyster@dmr.ms.gov)**

QUESTIONS?

Oyster Harvest Days Calculator

Type in the yellow and blue cells only. Everything else calculates itself.

STEP 1 - HARVESTERS AND SACK LIMITS (type in		
Tongers per day	20	
Dredge boats per day	20	
Tonger sack limit (per tonger, per day)	15	*Sacks one tonger may land in a day*
Dredger sack limit (per boat, per day)	30	*Sacks one dredge boat may land in a day*
Quota percentage	30%	*Share of each reef's total sacks that may be harvested*

SACKS LANDED PER DAY (calculated)	
Tong fleet (tongers x tonger limit)	300
Dredge fleet (boats x dredger limit)	600
Both fleets together	900

STEP 2 - REEF AREAS (type total sacks in orange, g					
Reef Area	Total Sack	Quota	Gear	Sacks/Day	Days Open
Pass Christian Tonging	24,596	7,379	Tong	300	25
Pass Christian Dredging	24,618	7,385	Dredge	600	12
Pass Marianne	8,328	2,498	Dredge	600	4
Henderson Point	173,642	52,093	Dredge	600	87
St. Joe	156,507	46,952	Dredge	600	78
St. Stanislaus	7,349	2,205	Tong	300	7
Waveland	3,605	1,082	Tong	300	4
TOTAL	398,645	119,594			217

STEP 3 - SEASON LENGTH		
	Quota	Days
Tong fleet reefs	10,666	36
Dredge fleet reefs	108,928	182
SEASON LENGTH (both fleets working the same days)		182

Harvest Quota Calculator

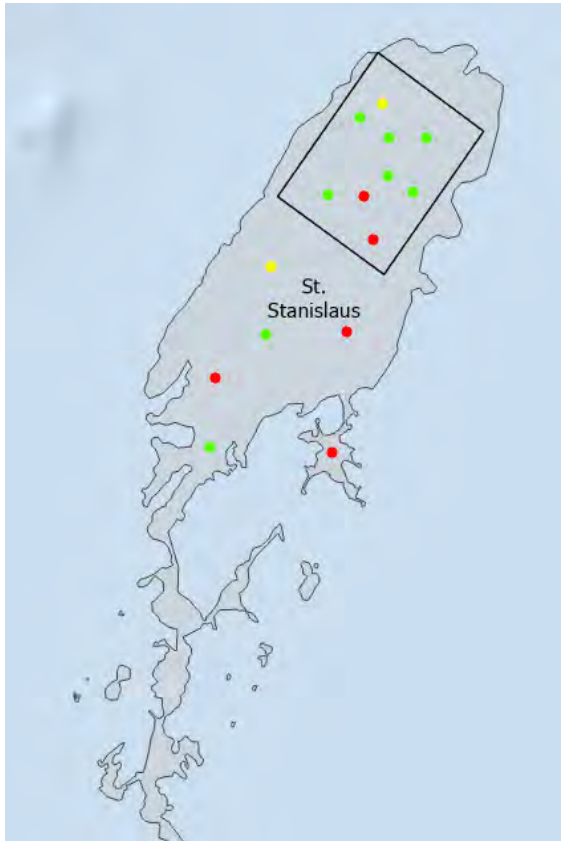
Harvest Days In Each Month (Excluding Sundays and State Holidays)							
October	November	December	January	February	March	April	Total
27	23	26	24	23	27	25	175
Days Open in 2024-2025							
-	11	7	13	11	-	-	42
Days Open in 2025-2026							
17	24	24	14	15	7	22	123

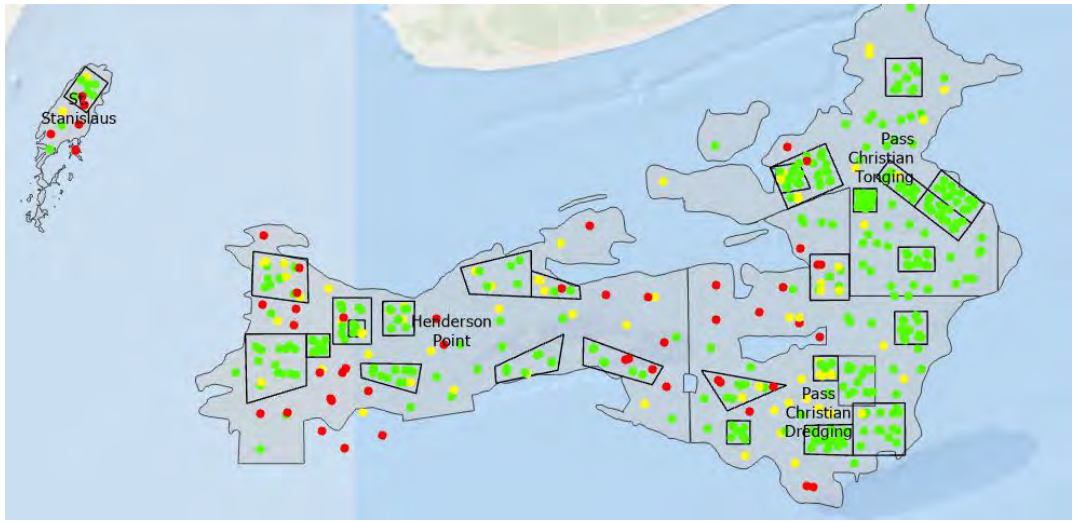
NSSP Time / Temperature Requirements – 2026-2027 Time Schedule

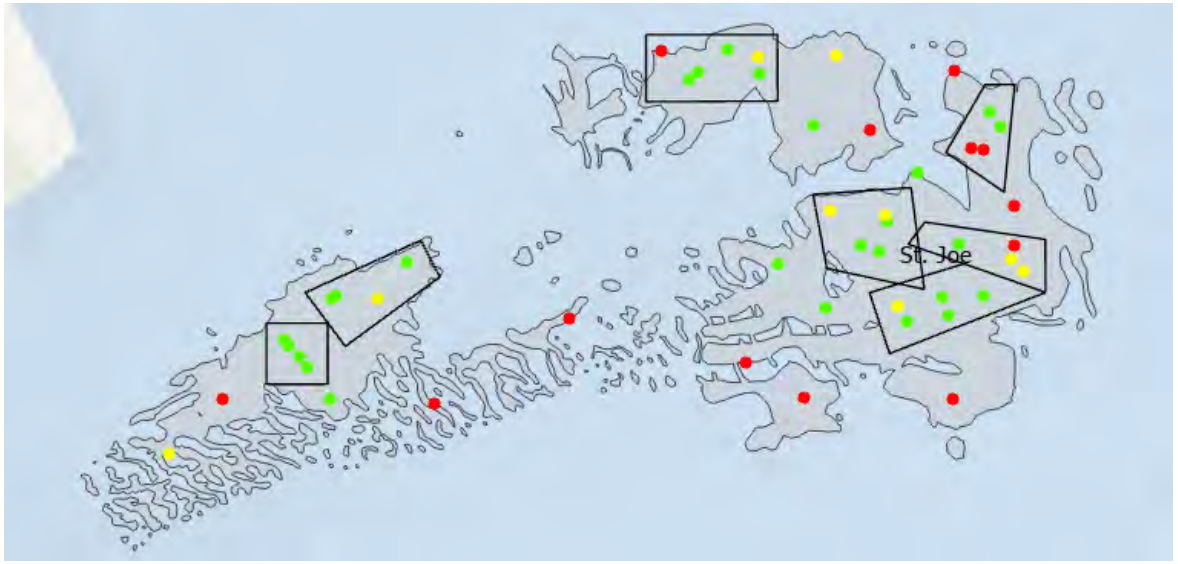
	Maximum Time Unrefrigerated (hrs.)	Maximum Time to cool down (hrs.)		Maximum Time Unrefrigerated (hrs.)	Maximum Time to cool down (hrs.)
May 2026	3	2	November 2026	18	10
June 2026	2.5	2	December 2026	24	10
July 2026	2.5	2	January 2027	24	10
August 2026	2.5	2	February 2027	18	10
September 2026	4	2	March 2027	18	10
October 2026	5.5	2	April 2027	8	2

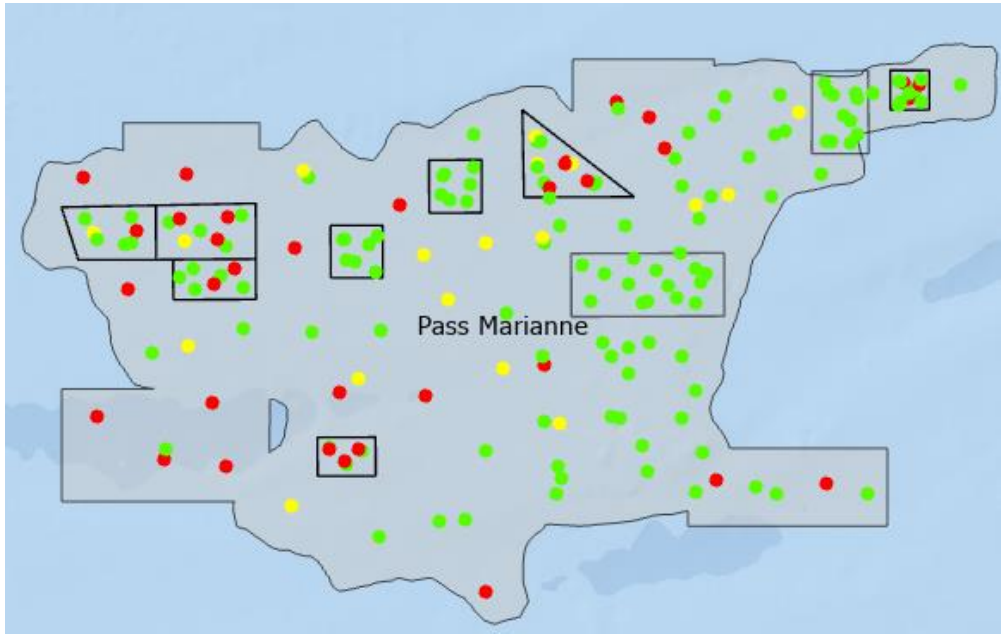
2024 - 2026 Bottom Type

Firm, Moderate, Soft

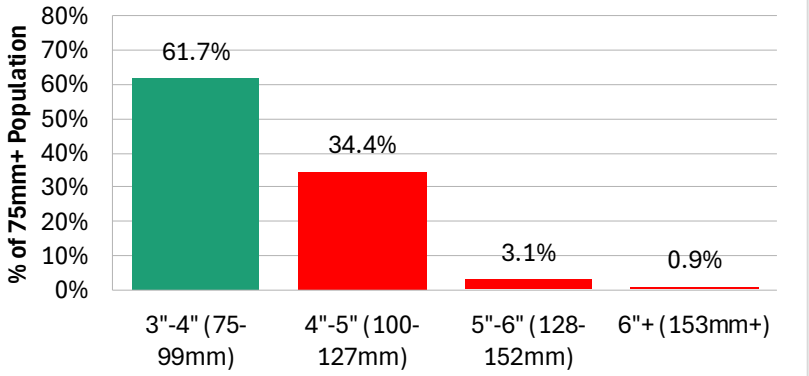




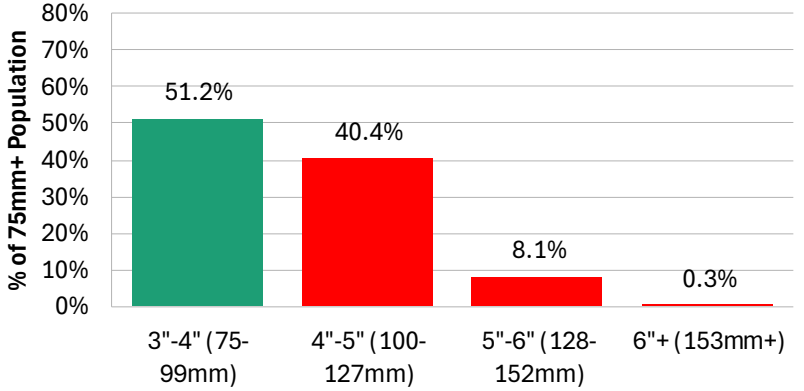


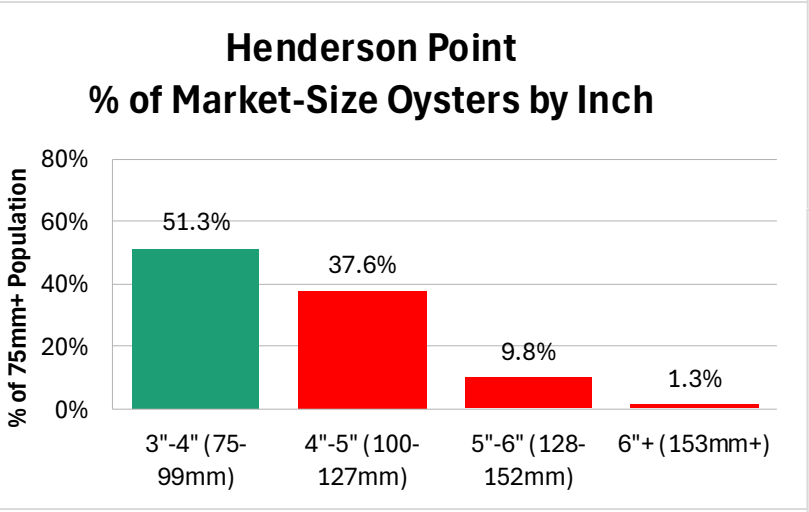


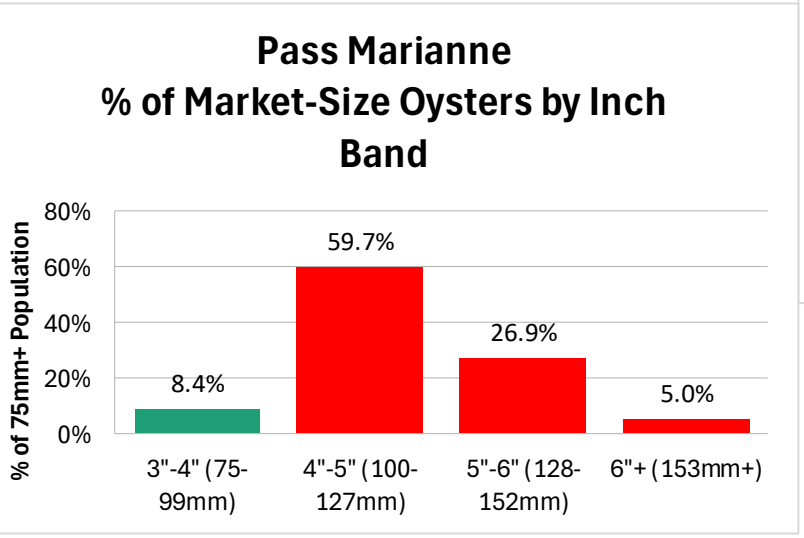
Market Size % Distribution By Reef

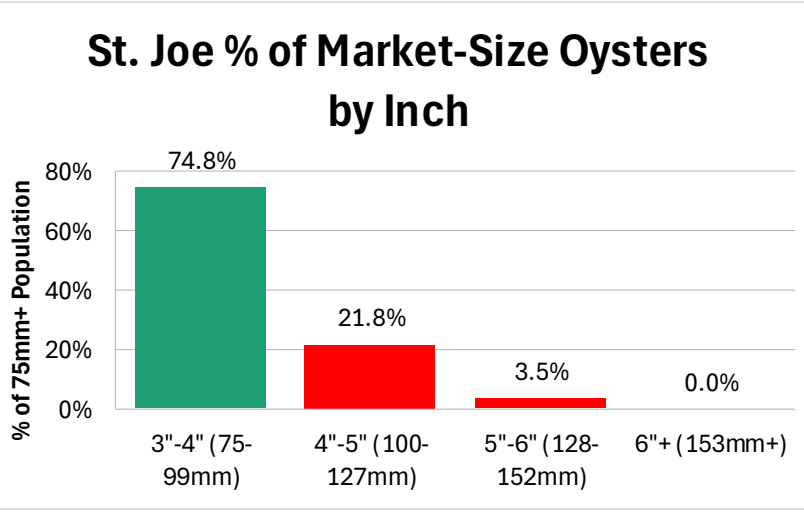


Reef Area	Total Sacks	% 3"-4" (75-99mm)
Pass Christian Tonging	24,596	61.7%
Pass Christian Dredging	24,618	51.2%
Pass Marianne	8,328	8.4%
Henderson Point	173,642	51.3%
St. Joe	156,507	74.8%
St. Stanislaus	7,349	75.4%
Waveland	3,605	0.0%
Grand Total	**398,645**	

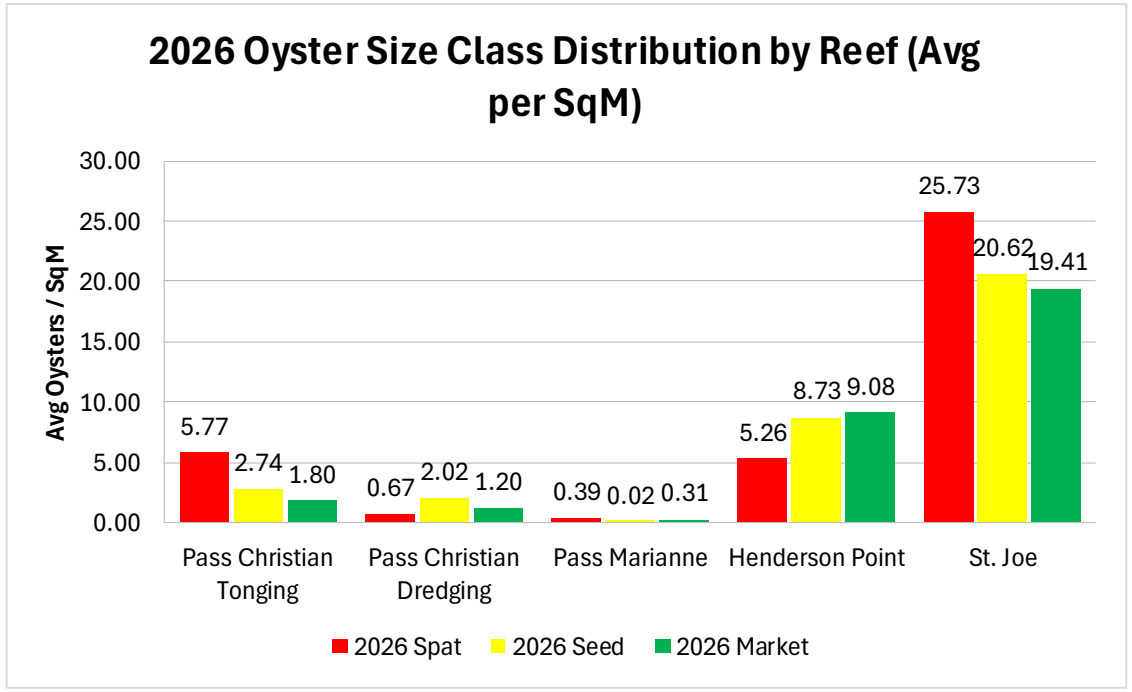


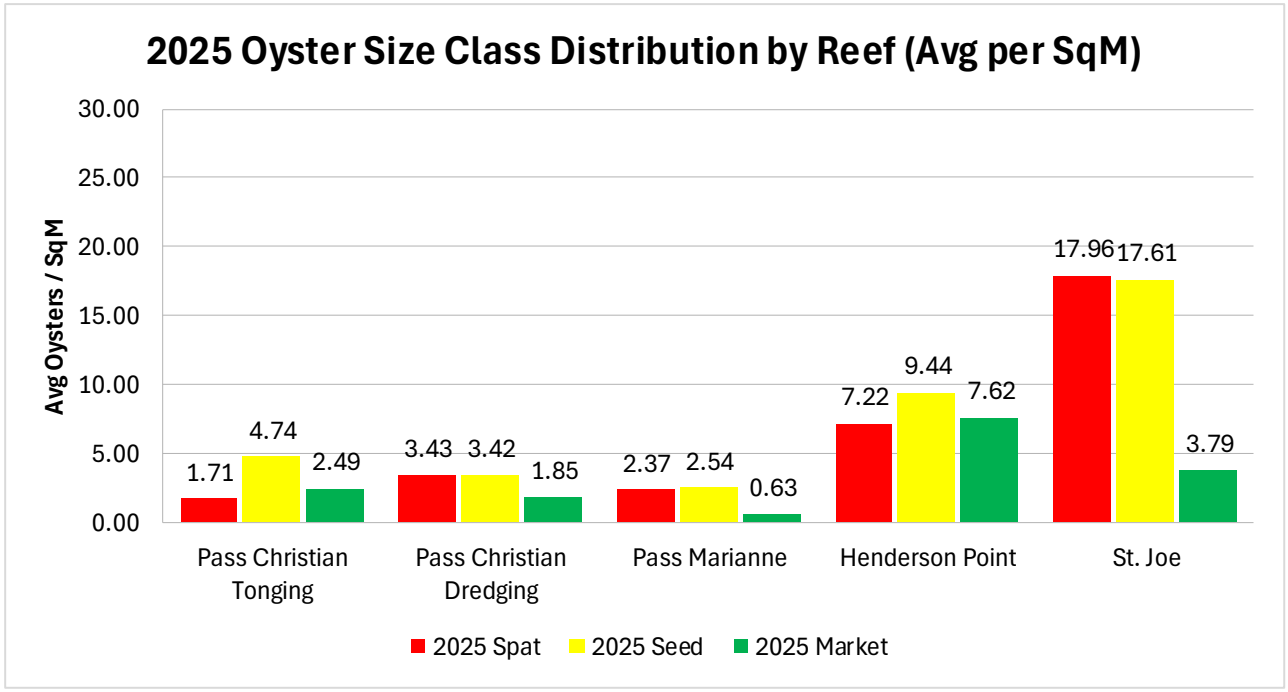


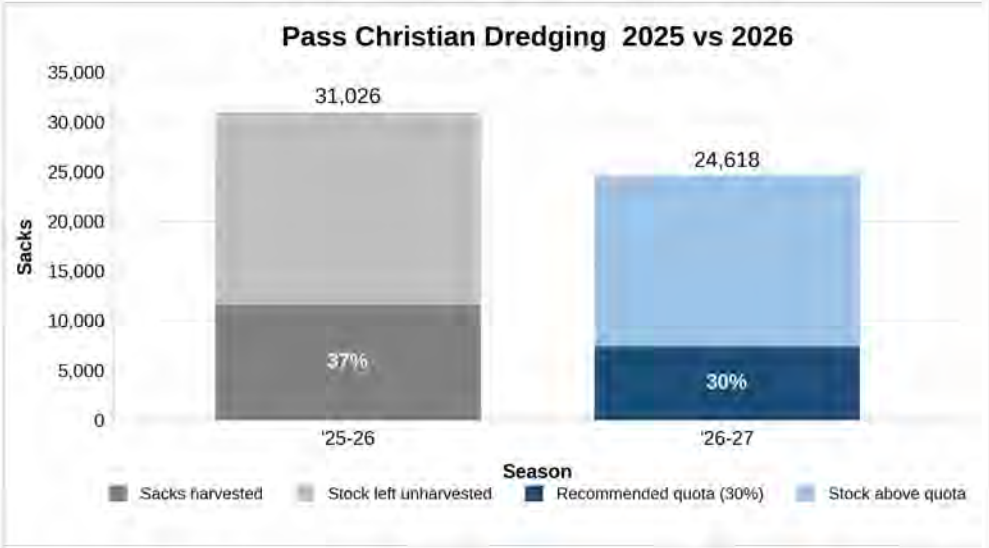


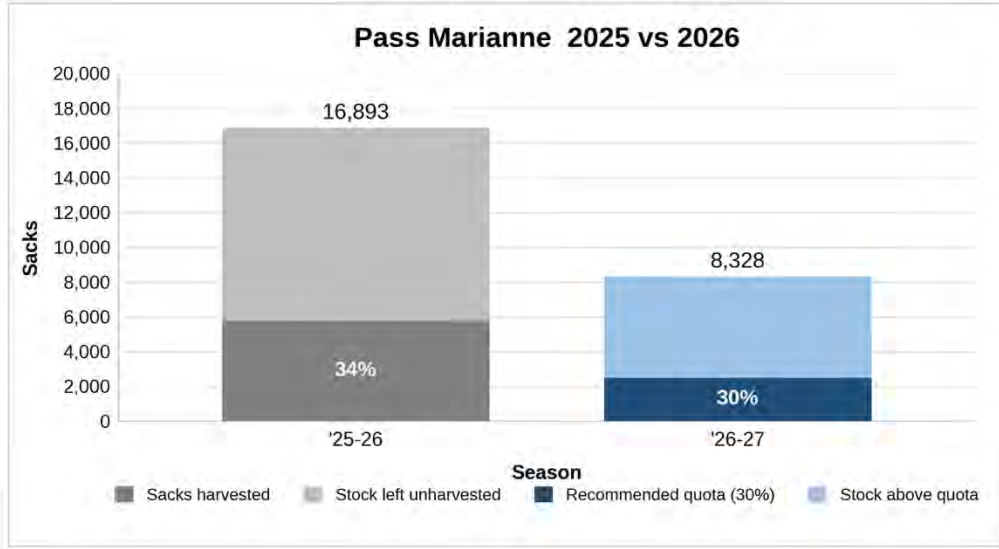


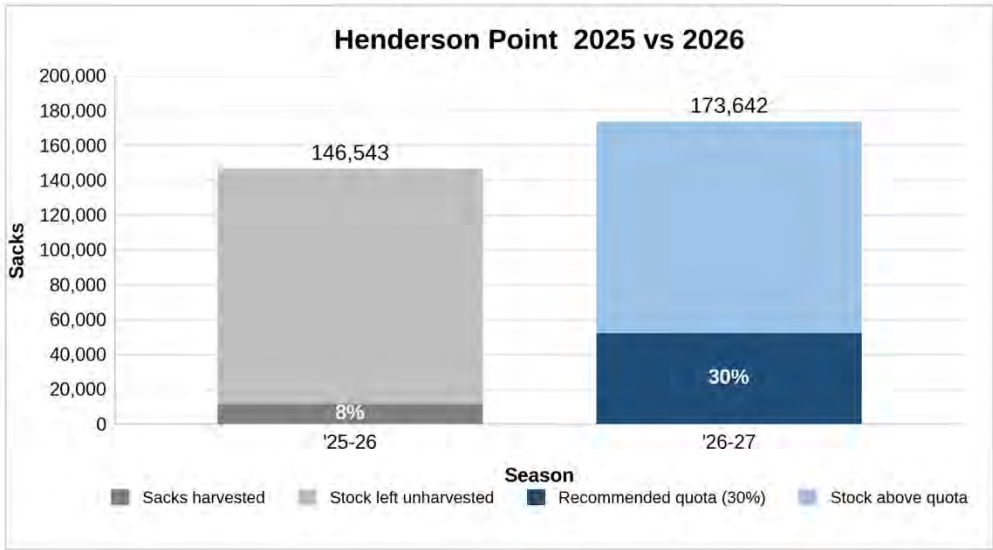
2025 vs 2026 Oyster Size Class Distribution by Reef (Avg per SqM)

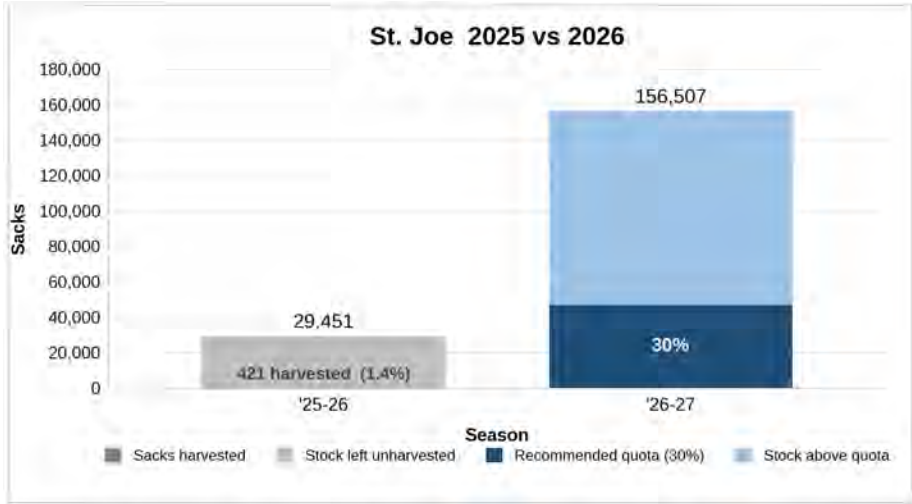





Pass Christian Dredging 2025 vs 2026
Sacks
35,000
30,000
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
31,026
24,618
37%
30%
'25-26
'26-27
Season
Sacks harvested
Stock left unharvested
Recommended quota (30%)
Stock above quota


Pass Marianne 2025 vs 2026
Sacks
20,000
18,000
16,000
14,000
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0
16,893
8,328
34%
30%
'25-26
'26-27
Season
Sacks harvested
Stock left unharvested
Recommended quota (30%)
Stock above quota


Henderson Point 2025 vs 2026
Sacks
200,000
180,000
160,000
140,000
120,000
100,000
80,000
60,000
40,000
20,000
0
146,543
173,642
8%
30%
'25-26
'26-27
Season
Sacks harvested
Stock left unharvested
Recommended quota (30%)
Stock above quota


St. Joe 2025 vs 2026
Sacks
180,000
160,000
140,000
120,000
100,000
80,000
60,000
40,000
20,000
0
29,451
156,507
421 harvested (1.4%)
30%
'25-26
'26-27
Season
Sacks harvested
Stock left unharvested
Recommended quota (30%)
Stock above quota

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Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

September 15, 2026

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State Saltwater Finfish Records

Joshua Waters

September 22, 2026

Conventional Tackle

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Conventional Tackle

Spanish Hogfish

Bodianus rufus

New Record: 1 lbs. 6.40 oz.

Angler: James Graham

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Conventional Tackle

Southern Stargazer

Astroscopus y-graecum

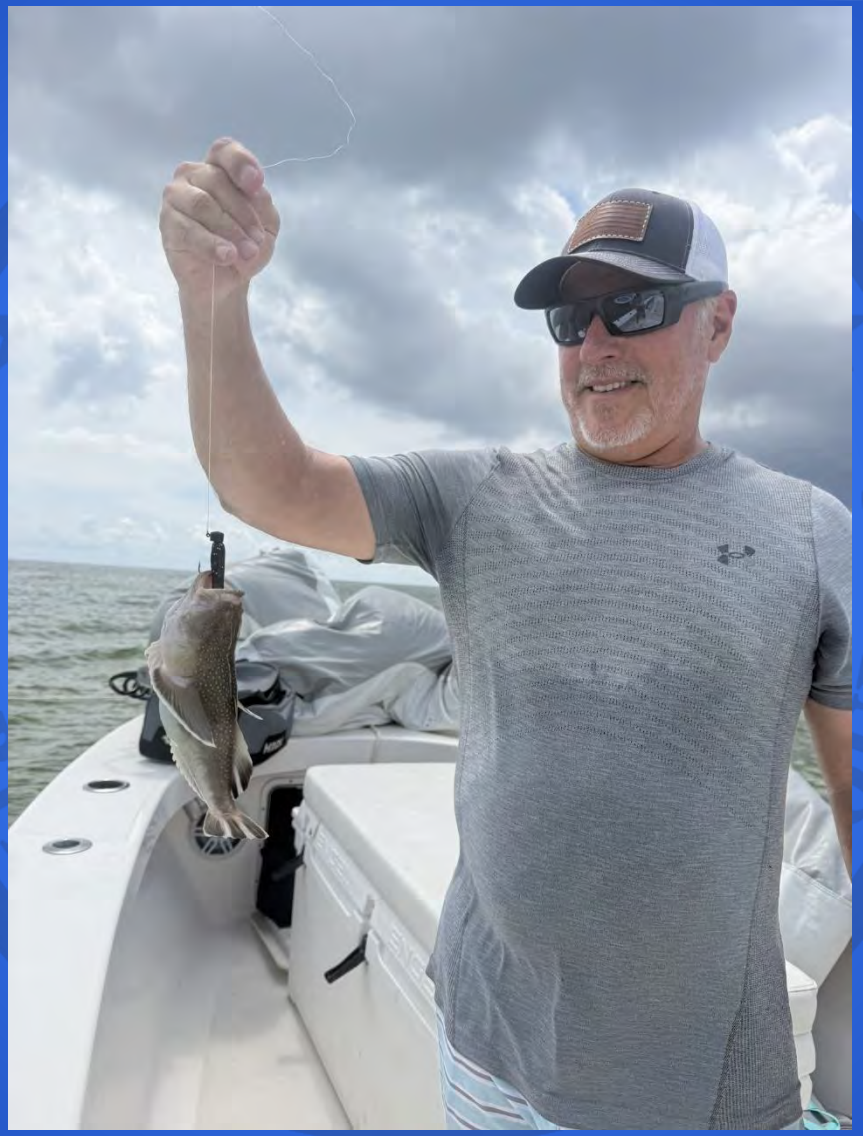
New Record: 0 lbs. 7.80 oz.

Angler: Scott Thibodeux

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Youth Conventional Tackle

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Youth Conventional Tackle

Spanish Mackerel

Scomberomorus maculatus

Old Record: 4 lbs. 6.40 oz.

New Record: 5 lbs. 8.32 oz.

Angler: Riley Armes

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Required Action:
Motion to recommend the approval of the State Records

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Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

September 15, 2026

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Grand Bay NERR

NERR Art Show 2026

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Invitation to the NERR Art Show 2026



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Our Vision

To inspire our community to value, support, and practice ecosystem conservation.

In 2015, we began to offer *art workshops* to connect with new audiences invited to celebrate the beauty of this reserve.



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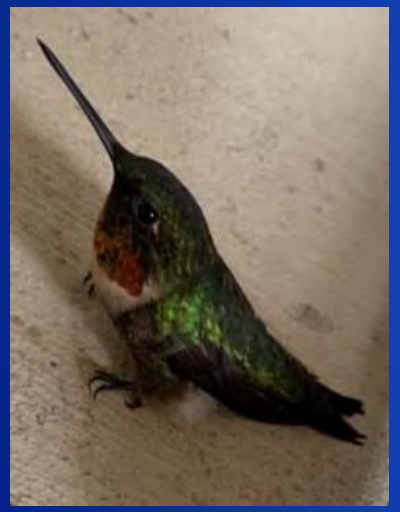
Art & Science

Connect artists with nature & ecosystem conservation

Aim to inspire them to see, create & know more

Provide relevant, current natural history information

Goal to use art pieces to further engage





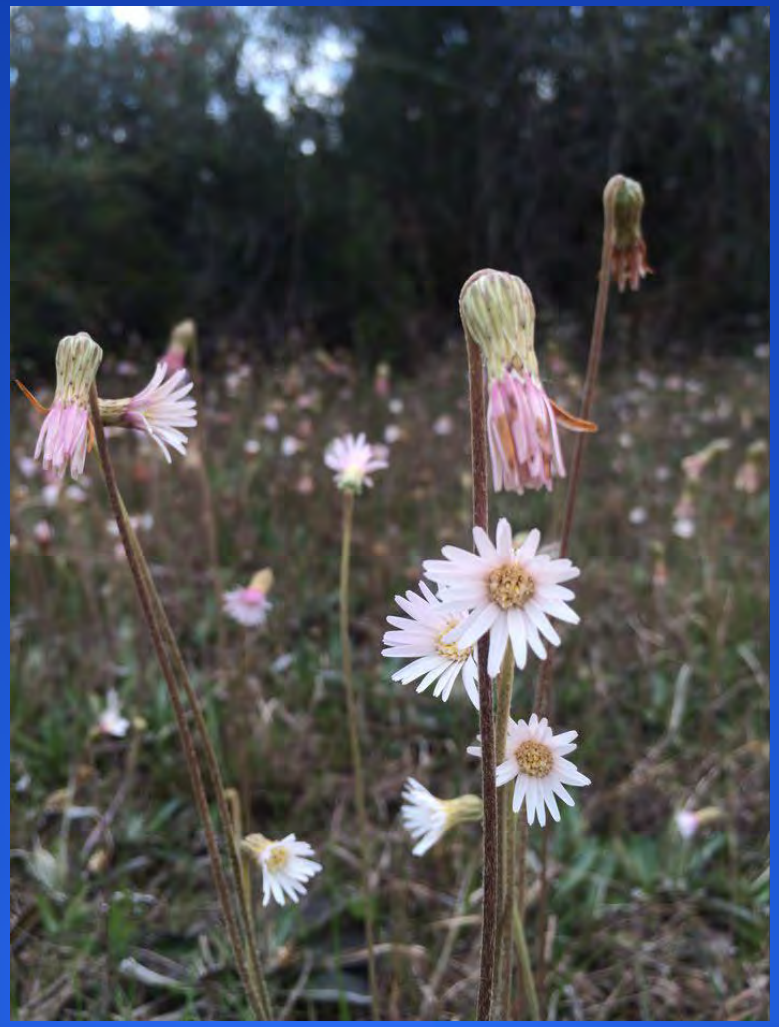


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1. Go Outside & Unwind









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2. Find Your Inspiration











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3. Learn to Batik

















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4. Create Art













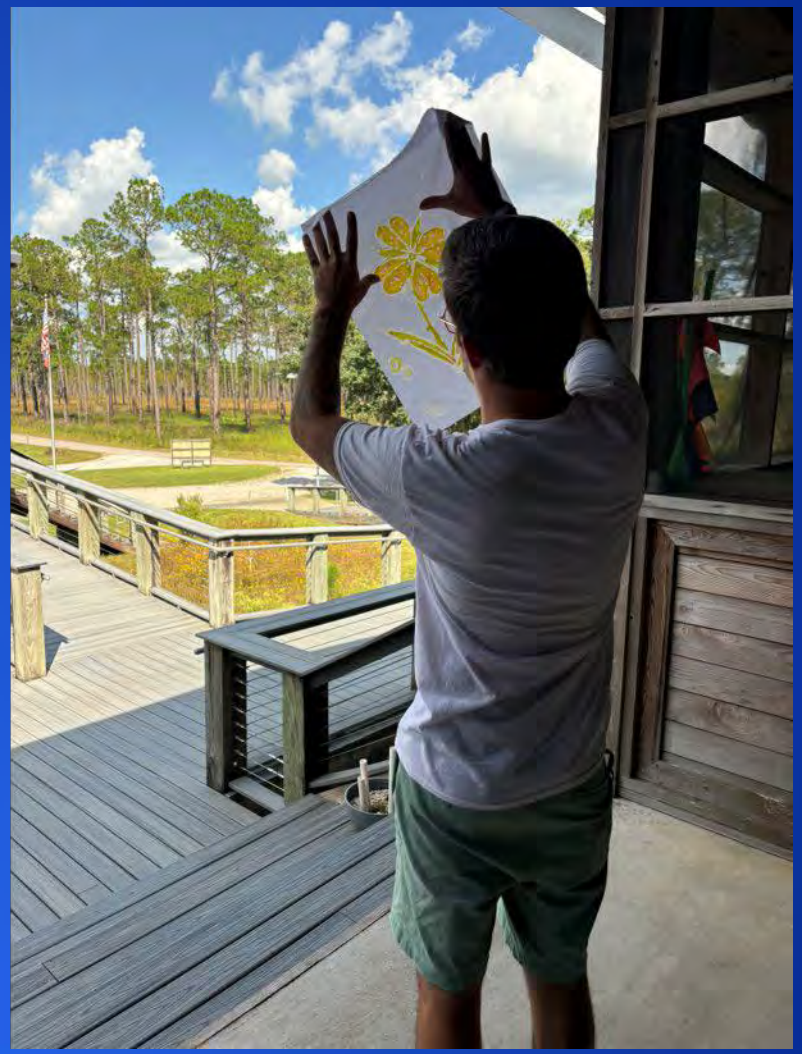
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Veterans' Program











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Expanding the Program







We found independent artists who wanted to contribute to the program.

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3. Learn a *Technique*

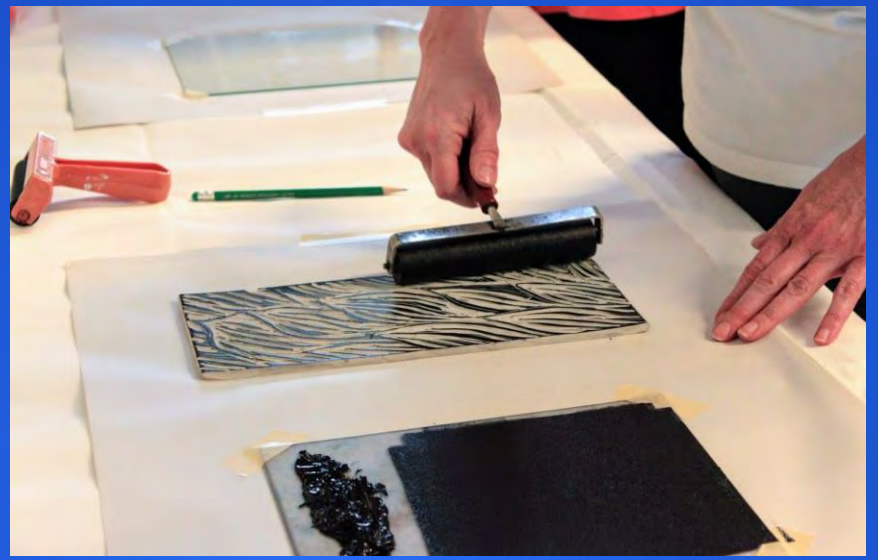












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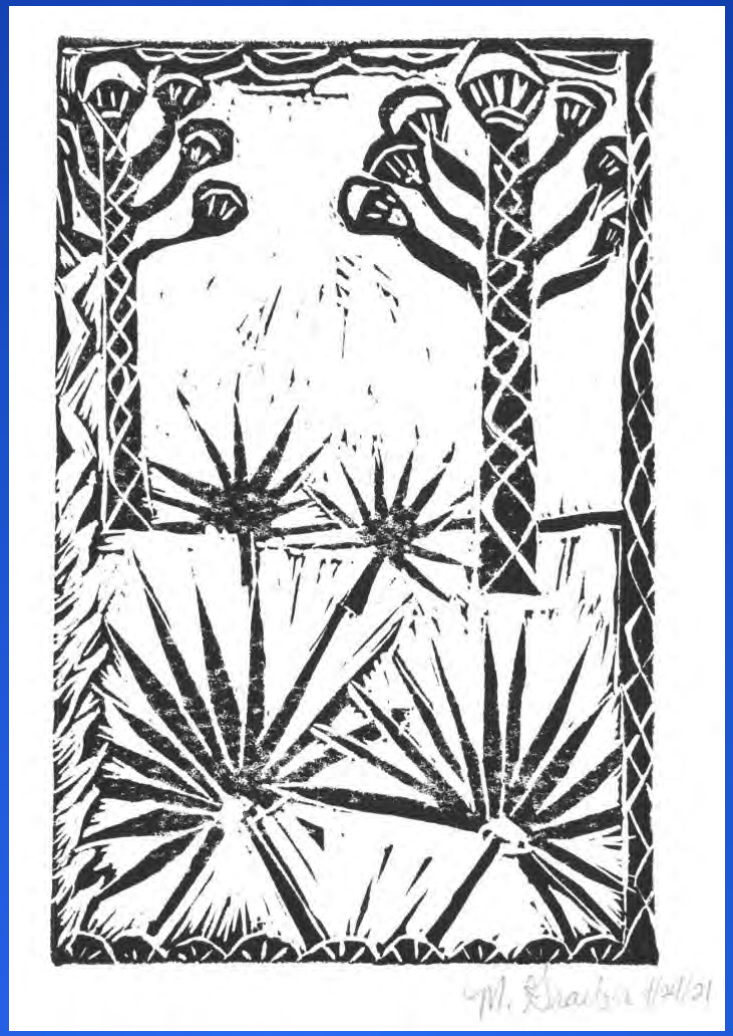
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4. Create Art











ENHANCE ★ PROTECT ★ CONSERVE

Broadens the Reach of the NERR

Trained Gulf Coast NERRs

Our participants (most newcomers)
see the reserve;
learn an art technique;
and, leave with reserve-inspired art
for their homes.

They create memories & experience
the *value* of land conservation.



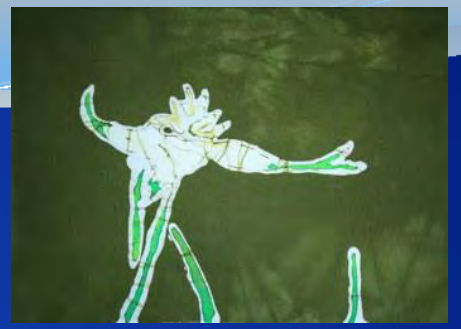
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Show Preview











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Invitation to the NERR Art Show 2026



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Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources

September 15, 2026