



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DIVISION OF WATER MONITORING, STANDARDS AND PESTICIDE CONTROL

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Public Notice of the Suspension of Harvest from Shellfish Beds Dangerous to Health

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) routinely monitors water quality in shellfish growing areas throughout New Jersey to ensure the wholesomeness of shellfish intended for human consumption. Analysis of water samples indicate that certain waters in the area of the Delaware Bay, specifically, Maurice River Cove, the mouth of Bidwell Creek, and the Delaware Bay Cape Shore west of the Villas no longer meet their current shellfish growing water classifications as set forth in the Shellfish Growing Water Classification rules at N.J.A.C. 7:12 (https://www.nj.gov/dep/rules/rules/njac7_12.pdf).

TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:12-1.4(b) and the statutory authority granted the Department at N.J.S.A. 58:24-2 to protect the public health from the risk posed by the consumption of shellfish that may have been subjected to pollution or other conditions that may render the shellfish dangerous to health, I hereby immediately suspend the harvest of shellfish from the following waters, as further described below:

Maurice River Cove (302.5 acres)

Mouth of Bidwell Creek (81.3 acres)

Delaware Bay Cape Shore - West of the Villas (8.0 acres)

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:12-1.3, the waters in the afore mentioned areas are classified as *Approved and Conditionally Approved*. To be classified as *Approved*, the bacteriological quality of water samples at every sample station in the growing area shall not exceed the fecal coliform median or geometric mean of 14 colony-forming units (CFU) per 100 milliliters (ml) and the estimated 90th percentile shall not exceed 31 CFU per 100 ml. To be classified as *Conditionally Approved*, the bacteriological quality of water samples shall meet the *Approved* criteria during the time period of November 1 through April 30 and shall meet the *Restricted* criteria during the time period of May 1 through October 31. For more information on shellfish growing water classifications please see the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP), Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, incorporated by reference at N.J.A.C. 7:12-1.3(a) and available at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration website:

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

Water sampling data collected and analyzed by the Department indicate that certain shellfish growing waters in the aforementioned areas do not consistently meet the fecal coliform standards for *Approved*, or *Conditionally Approved* waters.

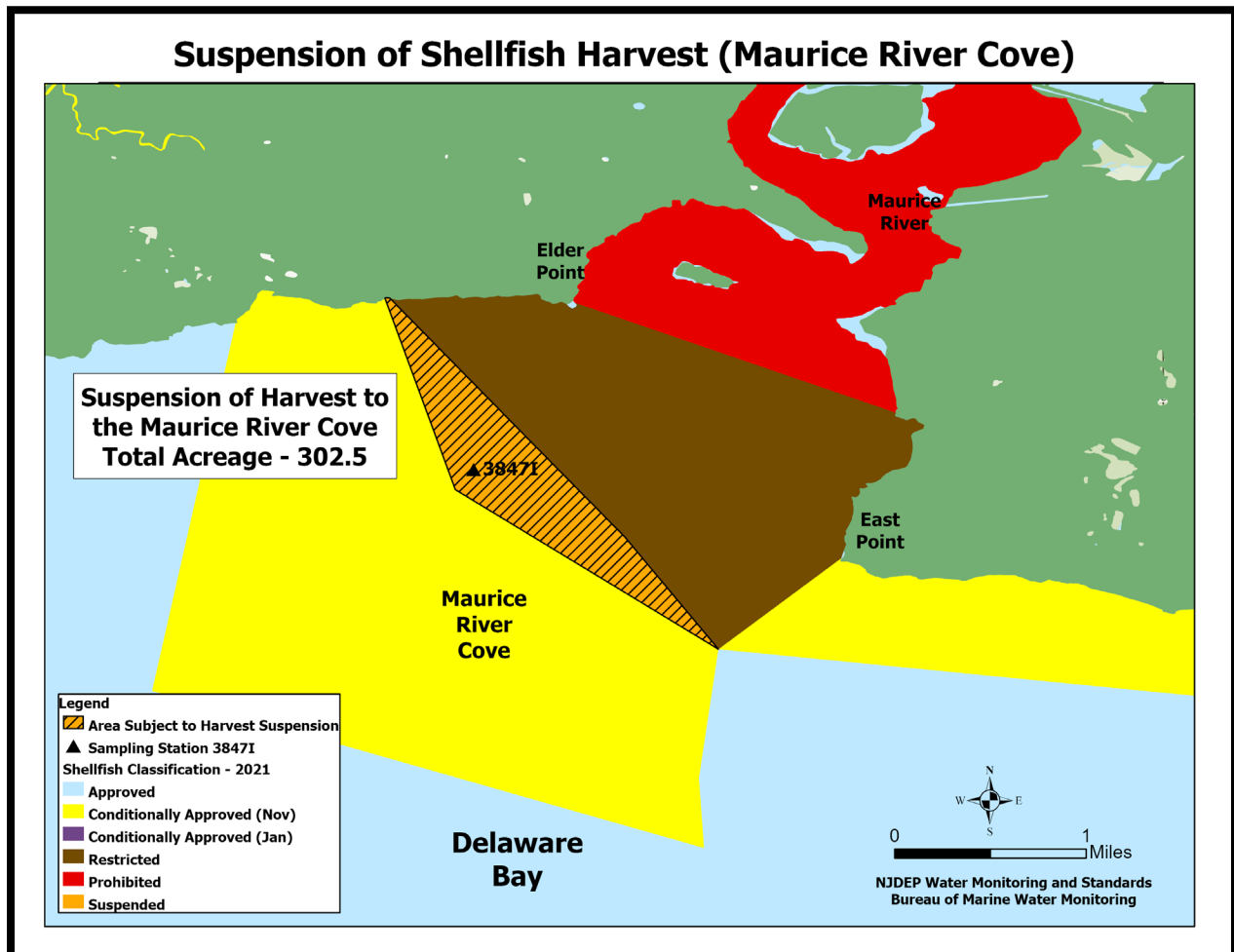
The suspension of harvest shall take effect immediately and continue pending the establishment by rulemaking of the appropriate classification and boundaries of the waters so classified, as provided by N.J.A.C. 7:12-1.4, or until further determination by the Department that the area of water subject to the suspension meets the standards for its current classification.

Date: 5/4/22

Bruce Friedman
Bruce Friedman, Director
Division of Water Monitoring, Standards &
Pesticide Control

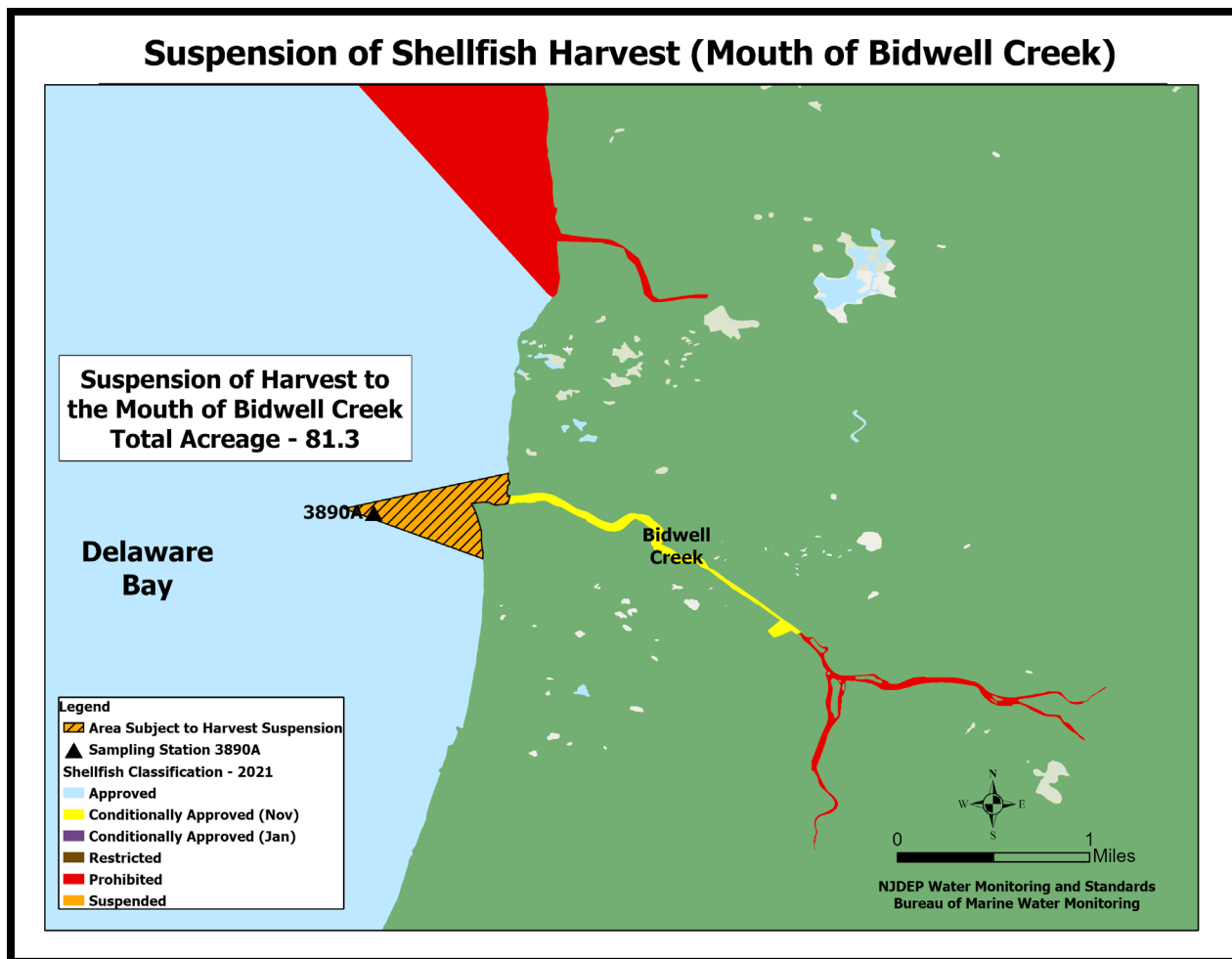
Maurice River Cove (302.5 acres)

All of the water from a point with coordinates of latitude 39.188139 N., longitude 75.037800 W. in the Maurice River Approach Channel then bearing northwest to a point at latitude 39.196639 N, longitude 75.044889 W, then bearing northwest to a point at latitude 39.204639 N, longitude 75.052778 W, then bearing northwest to a point at latitude 39.215251 N., longitude 75.063203 W. on the western bank of the Maurice River Cove, then bearing southeast to a point at latitude 39.200188 N., longitude 75.05766 W., then returning back to the point of origin and terminating.



Mouth of Bidwell Creek (81.3 acres)

All of Bidwell Creek and tributaries from a point inside the mouth of the creek at latitude 39.127474 N., longitude 74.888657 W. then bearing west and southwest to a point south of the mouth of Bidwell Creek at latitude 39.123256 N., longitude 74.891404 W., then bearing northwest to a point in the Delaware Bay at latitude 39.127034 N., longitude 74.901858 W., then bearing northeast to a point on the shoreline north of the mouth of Bidwell Creek at latitude 39.129680 N., longitude 74.889479 W., then bearing south along the shoreline and east into the mouth of Bidwell Creek to a point at latitude 39.128416 N., longitude 74.888562 W. and terminating.



Delaware Bay Cape Shore - West of the Villas (8.0 acres)

All of the waters of the Delaware Bay contained within a line starting at a point on the shoreline west of the Villas in Cape May County at latitude 39.028833 N., longitude 74.942206 W., then bearing northwest to a point in the Delaware Bay at latitude 39.029275 N., longitude 74.944715 W., then bearing southwest to a point in the Delaware Bay at latitude 39.028106 N., longitude 74.945382 W., then bearing southeast to the shoreline at latitude 39.027540 N., longitude 74.943505 W., then along the shoreline northeast back to the point of origin and terminating.

