

## Beaufort County Stormwater Management Utility Board (SWMU Board) Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in Executive Conference Room, Administration Building, Beaufort County Government Robert Smalls Complex, 100 Ribaut Road, Beaufort, South Carolina

### Board Members

#### Present

Don Smith  
Marc Feinberg  
William Bruggeman  
James Fargher  
Patrick Mitchell

#### Absent

Allyn Schneider

### Ex-Officio Members

#### Present

Van Willis  
Andy Kinghorn  
Kim Jones

#### Absent

Scott Liggett

### Beaufort County Staff

Eric Larson  
Melissa Allen  
Katie Herrera  
Chris Inglese

### Visitors

Dr. Alan Warren, USCB Lab  
Neil Desai, City of Beaufort  
Brian Eber, Town of Hilton Head Island  
Jeff Netzinger, Town of Hilton Head Island  
Alice Howard, County Council  
Ellen Comeau, Clemson Extension  
Sam Connor, Beaufort County Resident  
Randy Moody, SC DHEC  
Mike Pearson, SC DHEC

#### 1. Meeting called to order – Don Smith

- A. Agenda – Approved.
- B. June 13, 2018 Minutes – Approved.

#### 2. Introductions – Completed.

#### 3. Public Comment(s) – None.

#### 4. Reports – Mr. Eric Larson and Mr. David Wilhelm provided a written report which is included in the posted agenda and can be accessed at:

<http://www.bcgov.net/departments/Administrative/beaufort-county-council/boards-and-commissions/council-appointed/board-list/stormwater-management-utility-board/agendas/2018/071118.pdf>

#### A. Utility Update – Eric Larson

In reference to the SoLoCo (item #1), on June 26<sup>th</sup> interest was expressed to participate, but the decision was made to go back to respective councils to discuss. The SoLoCo will be meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup> to finalize the FAQ. The consultant is waiting for a Notice to Proceed.

**B. Monitoring Update – Eric Larson**

In reference to #2, the County is working on a draft plan with consultant Beth McLaughlin and that should be ready soon. The next step would then be to share the plan with Dr. Warren and his staff and then present it to DHEC. Mr. Don Smith asked if the new restricted areas are included. Mr. Larson said yes, there are two new TMDL areas that are included. He said they are also looking at a monitoring plan for 303d streams to keep an eye on those areas as well.

In reference to #3B, the Okatie West project was modified to add an experimental BMP and there will be special monitoring to see the effectiveness of Bold and Gold [filter]. Mr. Smith asked if there is baseline data on the stream. Mr. Larson indicated there was.

**C. Stormwater Implementation Committee (SWIC) Report – Eric Larson**

Please reference the report, no additional updates.

**D. Stormwater Related Projects – Eric Larson**

Please reference the report, no additional updates.

**E. Professional Contracts Report – Eric Larson**

Mr. Larson gave an update on the capital improvement projects. The field work for Shanklin Road and Salt Creek are done and they are in the middle of geotech investigation and wetlands delineation, which should be done at the end of the month. The concept design for these two projects should be ready by the end of September. Brewer Memorial and Saw Mill Creek are around 75% complete with concept design.

**F. Regional Coordination – Eric Larson**

In reference to item #3, sanitary sewer extension options, Mr. Larson mentioned that the action items for staff (County, Town of Bluffton and BJWSA) are to focus on creating manageable project pieces that are prioritized in those watershed areas. In response to questions, Ms. Kim Jones explained that the purpose of the meetings is to set priorities (approximately a \$50 million plan). They would need to set criteria for priority, such as failing septic tanks areas (and flooding areas). She also noted that the plan was based on six distinct areas of the May River.

**G. Municipal Reports – Eric Larson**

Mr. Neil Desai mentioned that with new fiscal year, some new projects for the City of Beaufort will begin: Hermitage Outfall, Twin Lakes Outfall, Battery Shore Subdivision and Azalea Drive. Mr. Andy Kinghorn indicated the City will be working with DOT to resolve some concerns as well.

Mr. Smith asked Ms. Jones about the jump in violations compared to number of inspections in Bluffton. Ms. Jones replied that there was a lot of rain on sites that were out of compliance as well as some being out of the timeframe allotted to correct their BMPs. Mr. Brian Eber echoed what Ms. Jones reply that increased rain leading to increased violations; they saw this on Hilton Head as well.

**H. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4 Update) – Eric Larson**

Mr. Larson noted that the County MS4 program is seeing good trends with respect to inspections and violation. In reference to item # 5, it will be discussed under new business. In reference to item #7, the NOI for the permit has been submitted.

#### **I. Maintenance Projects Report – Eric Larson**

Please reference the report, no additional updates.

### **5. Unfinished Business**

**A. Regionalization – Recommendation to Enter into Contract with Consultant and Enter into MOUs with Participating Jurisdictions** – Mr. Larson indicated the County would be interested in participating in regional standards even if there was only one partner. Mr. Marc Feinberg asked if there is money in the budget if there is only one partner and the cost [\$180k] was split in half. Mr. Larson indicated that half of the funds are in the budget; the proposed cost share has Beaufort County at \$105k.

Mr. Billy Bruggeman asked if there will be different stormwater standards based on where you are. Mr. Larson explained that there would be a base set of standards and an overlay of standards by watersheds, not by political jurisdictions.

Mr. Patrick Mitchell asked if it is worth the consultant's time if there are only two or three participating municipalities and could others join on the back end if they decided later they want to participate. Ms. Jones mentioned the Town of Bluffton has budgeted for it and it is already in their work plan; the Town would be a participant. Mr. Larson explained there are five areas considering, but no one has made a commitment in writing yet. Mr. Larson and Ms. Jones both agree it is worth it only if two partners look to work regionally. Mr. Larson explained that a decision (at a higher level) would have to be made to determine if there would be a “buy in after the fact” option.

Mr. Smith asked why it is worth it? Ms. Jones explained it was initiative in their strategic plan to take a look at the ordinance and continued impairments, as there is an improved state of knowledge in design standards that are not reflected. The Town was prepared to do this alone, so when the regional approach came along it made sense to do it on a larger scale. Mr. Larson commented that it would help with jurisdiction shopping issues and watershed level planning, as well as regional projects that need collaboration for funding and getting off the ground [i.e. Mossy Oaks].

In response to a question about the cost, Mr. Larson explained the proposal is scalable, so if only two jurisdictions participate the price could be adjusted accordingly since the proposal has unit prices for meetings and other tasks.

A motion was made to recommend Mr. Larson's recommendation, which was to recommend if there are partners to cost share with, to hire the selected consultant [Center for Watershed Protection], and enter into one of more Memorandum of Understandings with one or more municipal partners to co-fund the project. The motion was approved (5/0). [The SoLoCo Memo is attached.](#)

### **6. New Business**

**A. Special Presentation – Shellfish Monitoring** - Mr. Mike Pearson with South Carolina DHEC Shell Fish Program presented information to the Board. Mr. Pearson shared that he has been with DHEC for 27 years and in 2007 became the Shell Fish Program Manager. He brought along Randy Moody, the local manager at the Beaufort DHEC office.

Mr. Pearson shared shellfish sanitation origins and the responsibilities of DHEC's shellfish program. He explained the water quality standards and classifications.

In response to a question about fecal coliform, Mr. Pearson explained it is a wide spectrum of bacteria and they do not differ between fecal coliform (wildlife and human). Mr. Marc Feinberg asked about administrative closures, if there is a certain distance. Mr. Pearson explained it is based on a particular model, and that is how the buffer zone for the closure is created.

Mr. Pearson shared shellfish classification percentages and new area closure maps. In Area 14 (Coosaw River/Whale Branch) there was a change at station 13; Half Moon Creek went to restricted (1000 foot closure at mouth of the creek). In Area 15 there was a change in Wallace Creek, it will be managed conditionally this year. In Area 16A, Morgan River/St. Helena Sound, the Village Creek station at the mouth went restricted this year. In Area 17, Broad River, Habersham Creek upgraded and Station 16 is approved. In Area 20 (Hilton Head) there are two closures in the headwaters portion of Broad Creek and Jarvis Creek.

Mr. Pearson noted that the FDA is who oversees their program.

Mr. Smith commented that Area 17 is a large body of water with little development; he asked if they had any idea where the issue is coming from. Mr. Pearson commented that brings up a good point. They are required to close back to an approved station. He explained that the distance between those stations in that area is large. He used May River as an example and shared that they added more (3) stations to help mitigate the distance between a bad station and the good one.

Mr. Pearson explained that they operate on systematic random sampling which is predetermined one year in advance for the dates they will be gathering data. Due to high tide, low tide, wind, rain, this method gives better representation overtime. They have two options for capturing data, worst case scenario (immediately after a storm) or a long term trend system (systematic random sampling).

Ms. Jones asked if there are any developments of using different indicators other than fecal coliform. Mr. Pearson said they are not; fecal coliform has been a tried and true measure. The illnesses are not there, so it is working.

There was discussion about whether or not this type of data has direct importance to the Stormwater Board when looking at certain issues that need addressed. Mr. Smith asked what DHEC does in areas they continue to see degrades in. Mr. Pearson said they try to partner with the communities; the local people have the local knowledge and are able to stimulate the local groups to get involved. They do shoreline surveys to look at land use activities, different dischargers and potentials.

Ms. Jones asked about the three year rolling average for new closure areas, since they were harvestable last year. Mr. Pearson commented it is a tough concept; they have to base it on the trends, which is the system they operate under. He noted that the areas that continue to flip-flop are the areas of concern. In response to a question, he explained most illnesses are from vibrio bacteria that naturally grow and not fecal coliform. They haven't seen illness associated with runoff pollution.

Mr. Bruggeman asked if they sample oysters or the water. Mr. Pearson said they sample the water. They can sample the tissues, but it is more expensive.

Mr. Desai asked if there are any trends in upgrades/downgrades along the eight coastal counties. Mr. Pearson commented that the trend tends to hover around 70%, areas will flip-flop.

[The Shellfish Monitoring presentation is attached.](#)

**B. Discussion Regarding Local and DHEC Stormwater Permitting** – Mr. Larson explained that the County accepts the local permit application and then applicant is then required to go to DHEC for a permit as well. The Charleston DHEC office looks for local MS4 approval, they may choose to do a review or simply process the application, and issue a NPDES permit at the State Level. Then the County will issue the local permits (zoning and building).

There has been increased pressure to change to the process due to the delay in time it is taking to get permits. DHEC desires that the County has a process that keeps them out of their process, which would not mandate the applicant to have a state permit as a condition of the local permit like it currently does. The County's proposal is to remove statements that require proof of the state permit, as they are confident their standards are higher than the state permit. During an inspection, as part of MS4 program, the County is supposed to ensure the state permit is onsite. This is where they would check for the state permit. With this change, the County would no longer be holding up local permits waiting on DHEC permitting.

Mr. Larson recommended that the board vote to approve the proposed changes to the BMP manual and submit a letter to DHEC to resolve the permitting issue. He noted that changes to BMP manual per the ordinance start and end with the Stormwater Utility Board.

In response to a question, Mr. Larson explained that it is administrative changes only, taking the responsibility off of the County and putting it on the applicant.

A motion was made to approve the proposed amendments to the County's BMP manual and submit a letter to DHEC to change the MS4 permit stormwater management plan. The motion was approved (5/0).

Attached is a draft letter to DHEC and proposed changes to BMP manual to make a change to the permitting process.

**C. Okatie West Project Field Day** – Mr. Larson informed the Board that the Open House Site Visit would for Okatie West Regional Stormwater Detention Project will be taking place on Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the project site. It is grant requirement and an opportunity for the community to see the finished project and speak with the team that built the project. [The Okatie West Open House flyer is attached.](#)

**7. Public Comment(s)** – None.

**8. Next Meeting Agenda** – Approved.

**9. Meeting Adjourned**

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Southern Lowcountry Regional Board (SoLoCo)  
Elected representatives of the City of Beaufort, & Towns of Port Royal & Yemassee

FROM: SoLoCo Stormwater Technical Subcommittee (incl. staff from BC, JC, ToB, CoB, CoH,  
and ToPR)

DATE: June 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Recommendations to select a consultant and fund a project to develop a regional  
stormwater technical standard and model ordinance

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### **Recommendation:**

The Stormwater Technical Subcommittee recommends the elected officials of SoLoCo and throughout the Lowcountry region agree to the procurement of the Center for Watershed Protection, a stormwater consultant, to assist with the development of regional stormwater design standards and a model ordinance. Further, the subcommittee recommends that the cost of said project be shared among all jurisdictions based on a distribution using population figures. The project cost will be \$179,554.

### **Background:**

As directed by our elected officials, making up the membership of the SoLoCo, at the December 5, 2017 meeting, staff members representing participating jurisdictions of the SoLoCo have met multiple times to develop a plan to write a unified regional stormwater technical standard that could be implemented uniformly throughout the region. Understanding the importance of the regional approach, these staff members invited staff from other jurisdictions not part of the SoLoCo, namely the City of Beaufort and Town of Port Royal. This subcommittee has been working to develop a scope of work to achieve these goals. Staff members quickly realized this is an effort that cannot be done within the limited resources, budget, and time of existing departments.

On March 27, 2018, the subcommittee presented a proposal to the SoLoCo Board to hire a consultant and co-fund the project in the amount of \$179,554. During that meeting, the Towns of Ridgeland and Hilton Head Island stated they would not be participating in the project. The SoLoCo Board voted that the members of the Board should consider the request as each jurisdiction prepared their annual budgets. They further agreed to reconvene at the June meeting and state their commitment to participate and fund the project as proposed.

Following that meeting, discussions among the subcommittee members concluded that with a 3-month window until a decision would be made that we should do a 2<sup>nd</sup> Request for Qualifications and solicit additional proposals. Our scope of services was identical to the scope presented in March. In summary, the project will:

- Benchmark the region among similar communities in SC and the southeast coast
- Define stormwater design standards that are consistent with our mission statement
- Engage stakeholders before, during, and after the standards are developed

The subcommittee received two proposals: 1) The Center for Watershed Protection, and 2) Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions. The subcommittee convened on June 1, 2018 to review and rank proposals. In general, both teams were found to be qualified for the project. However, the fee proposals were significantly different, \$179,554 and \$223,420, respectively. Without an overwhelming reason to pay more for the same end product, the subcommittee selected the Center for Watershed Protection without further deliberation.

The following options for a cost sharing arrangement among the participating jurisdictions for this scope of work are as follows. Based on statements made to the SoLoCo Board at the March 27, 2018 meeting, the Towns of Hilton Head Island and Ridgeland have been removed from the proposed cost share:

Cost Share for Regional SW Std. Development	Split by Population <sup>(2)</sup>		Split by land mass (sq. mi) <sup>(3)</sup>		Even Distribution
	Population	Cost	Land Mass	Cost	
Port Royal	<b>12,785</b> <b>(7.6%)</b>	<b>\$13,669</b>	19.0 (1.8%)	\$3,282	\$29,925
Beaufort, City	<b>13,445</b> <b>(8.0%)</b>	<b>\$14,374</b>	24.7 (2.4%)	\$4,260	\$29,926
HHI <sup>(4)</sup>	N/A	<b>\$0</b>	N/A	\$0	\$0
Bluffton	<b>18,897</b> <b>(11.3%)</b>	<b>\$20,203</b>	52.2 (5%)	\$9,015	\$29,926
Unincorp. BC	<b>98,494</b> <b>(58.7%)</b>	<b>\$105,302</b>	267.8 (26.0%)	\$46,703	\$29,926
Yemassee <sup>(1)</sup>	N/A	<b>\$0</b>	N/A	\$0	\$0
Unincorp. Jasper	<b>18,603</b> <b>(11.1%)</b>	<b>\$19,889</b>	624.2 (60.0%)	\$107,717	\$29,926
Hardeeville	<b>5,721</b> <b>(3.4%)</b>	<b>\$6,116</b>	49.7 (4.8%)	\$8,576	\$29,925
Ridgeland <sup>(4)</sup>	N/A	<b>\$0</b>	N/A	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$179,554</b>		<b>\$179,554</b>	<b>\$179,554</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Beaufort County will assume this cost wholly on behalf of the Town of Yemassee.

<sup>(2)</sup> Source: Vintage July 1, 2016 Population Estimates: Population Estimates

<sup>(3)</sup> Source: Beaufort County GIS data for BC, Wikipedia search, JC Comp. Plan for JC. (excludes water areas)

<sup>(4)</sup> Hilton Head Island and Ridgeland have chosen not to participate in the regional effort.

After careful consideration of the pros and cons for each option, the subcommittee came to consensus on a distribution of cost based on population. While annexations can shift costs, the impacts of growth from development is most evident in population changes. It is the opinion of the subcommittee that the need for uniform regional stormwater standards for future growth is equally as great in “built out” communities facing redevelopment pressures. Population figures more fairly represent needs now and in the future. Thus, the subcommittee recommends a cost share based on population figures. Once the project is underway, the needs and concerns of all jurisdictions participating should be addressed evenly without preference to the larger financial contributors.

The Stormwater Technical Subcommittee thanks you for your continued commitment to regionalism and this important environmental and development topic.



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control  
Healthy People. Healthy Communities.

# Beaufort County Stormwater Management Utility Board Meeting July 2018

Mike Pearson

South Carolina DHEC

Shellfish Sanitation Section



# Shellfish Sanitation - Origins

- Public Health Controls of Shellfish became a national concern in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with a large number of illnesses associated with consuming raw Shellfish.
- A wide spread typhoid outbreak during the winter of 1924, prompted the US Surgeon General to develop necessary controls to ensure a safe shellfish supply to the consuming public.

# Responsibilities

- **Classification of growing waters**
- Patrol of closed growing waters
- Plant Sanitation

# Growing Water Classification

- Sample 465 stations monthly
- Data is summarized in Annual Sanitary Survey for each of the 25 Growing Areas, covering approximately 580,000 acres.
- Waters are classified as Approved, Conditionally Approved, Restricted or Prohibited.

# Shellfish Water Quality Standards

## Approved

- Geometric Mean of 14 FC/100ml
- 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile of 43 FC/100ml
- Based on a Three Year Trend\*\*

Old Primary Contact Standard for Swimming:

Mean of 200 FC/100ml

One time 400 FC/100ml

# Shellfish Water Quality Standards

## Restricted

- Geometric Mean of 88 FC/100ml
- 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile of 260 FC/100ml

# Other Classifications

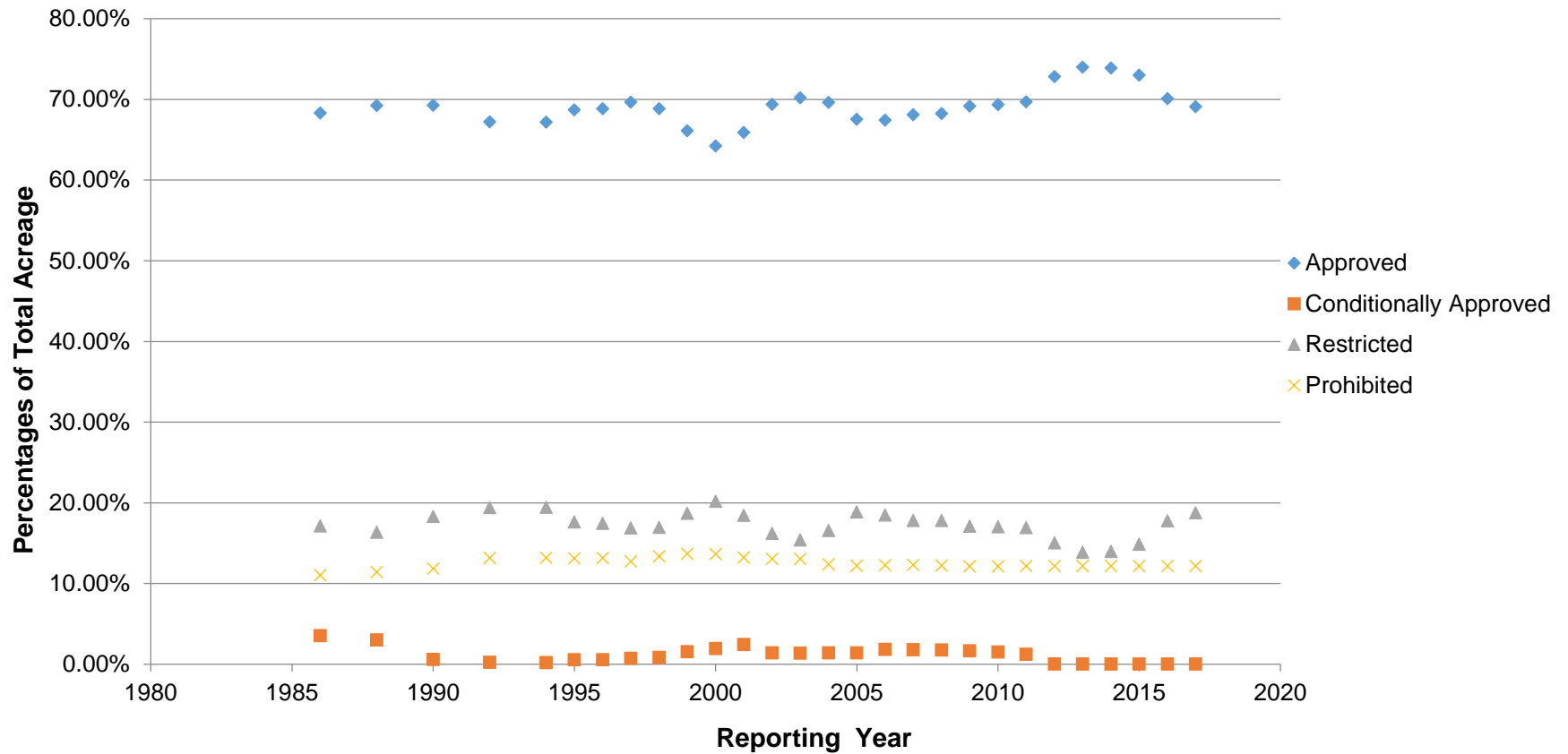
## Conditional Management

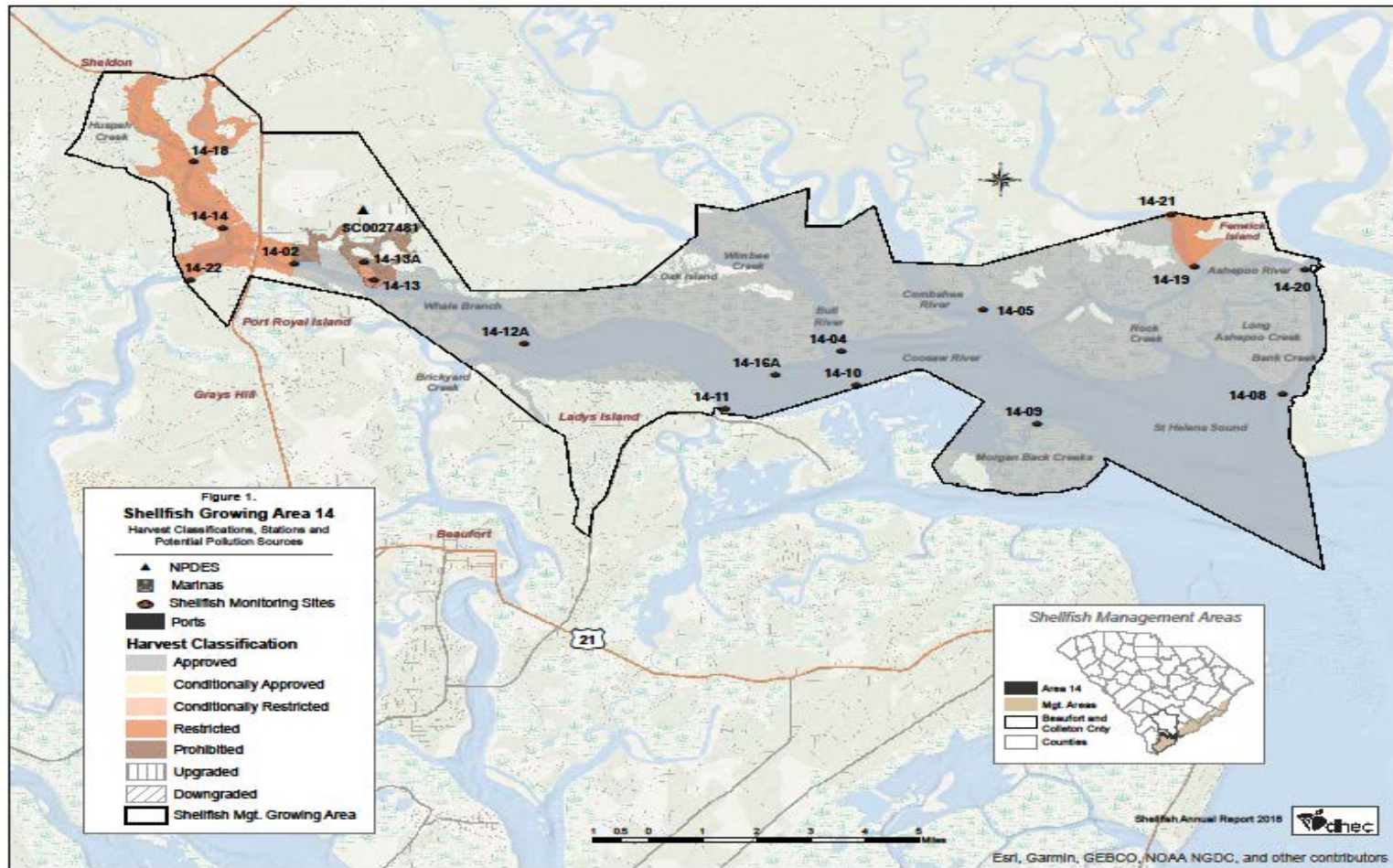
- Based on a measureable parameter (rainfall or river stage)

## Prohibited

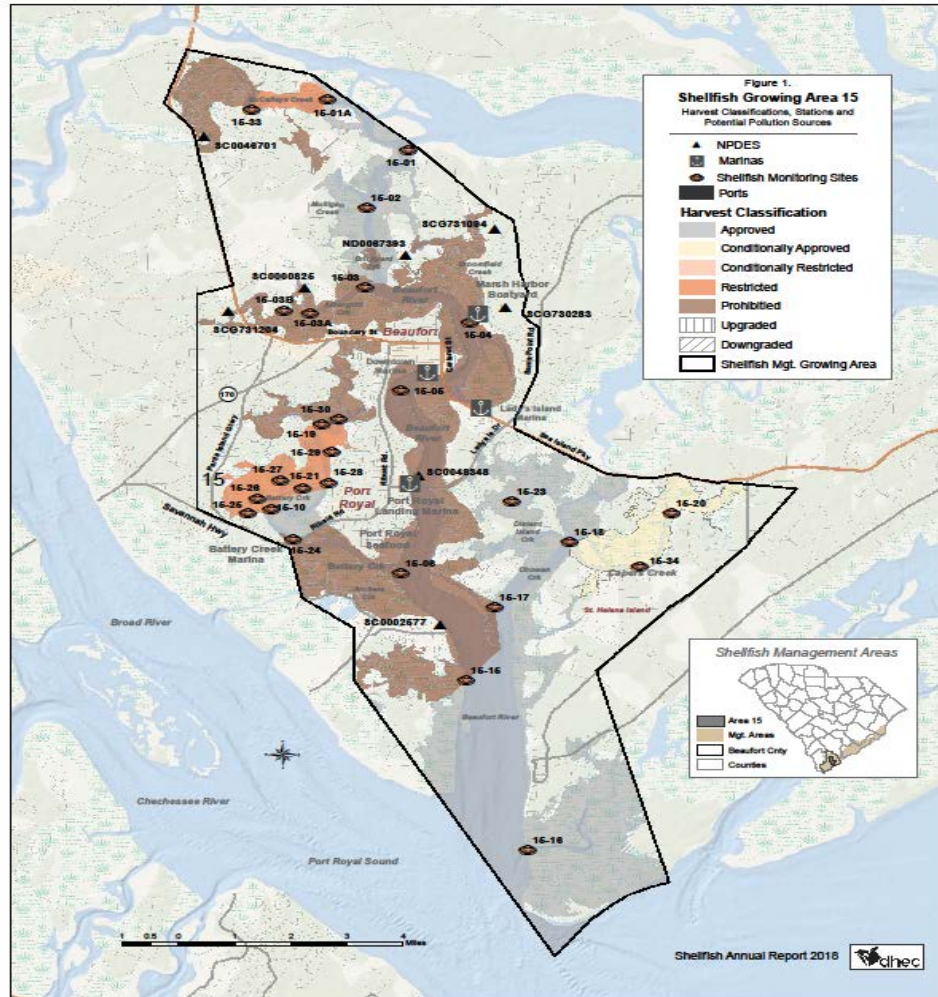
- Administrative Closure due to potential pollution (marinas and wastewater outfalls)

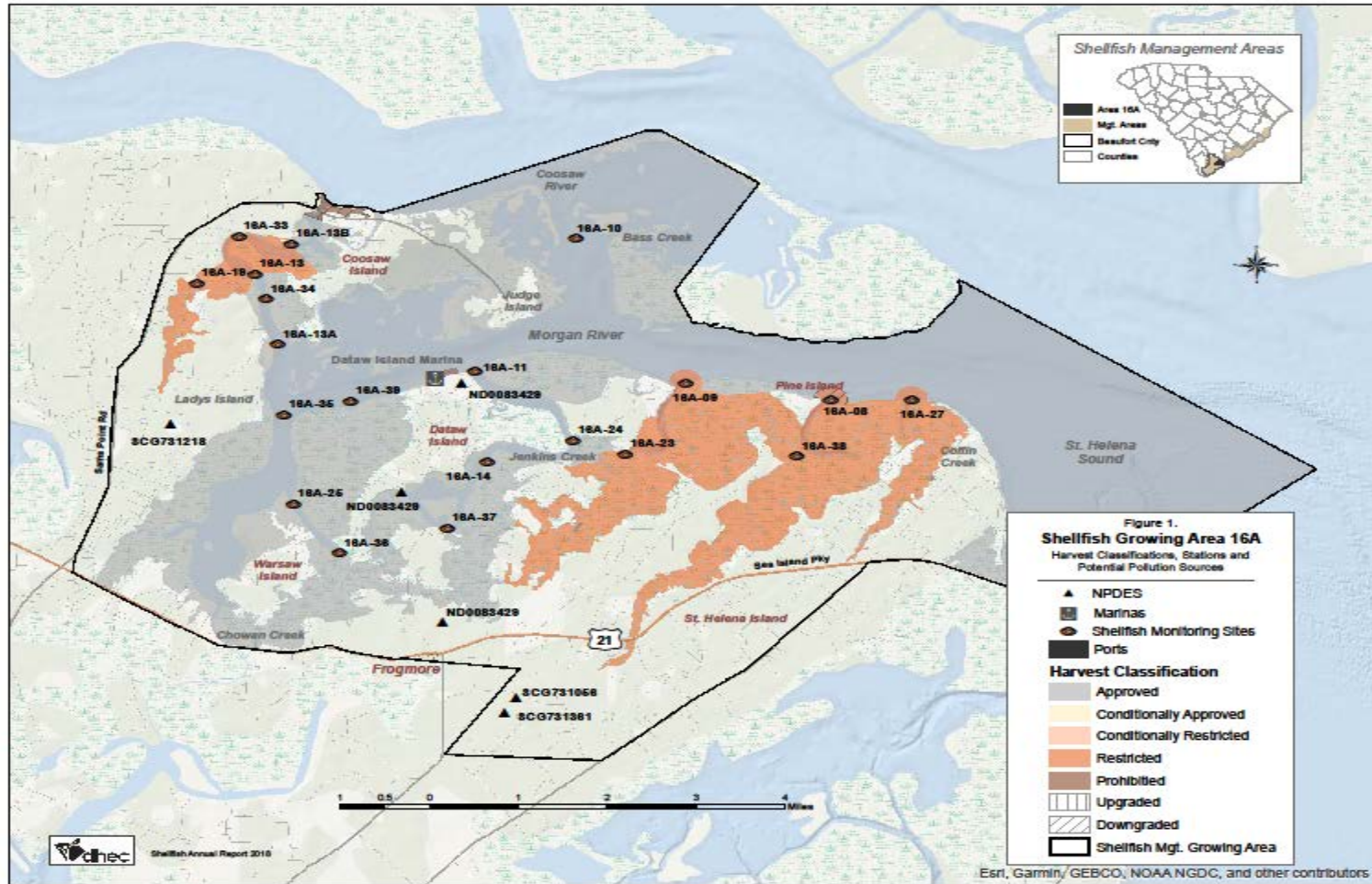
### SHELLFISH CLASSIFICATION PERCENTAGES 1986 - 2017

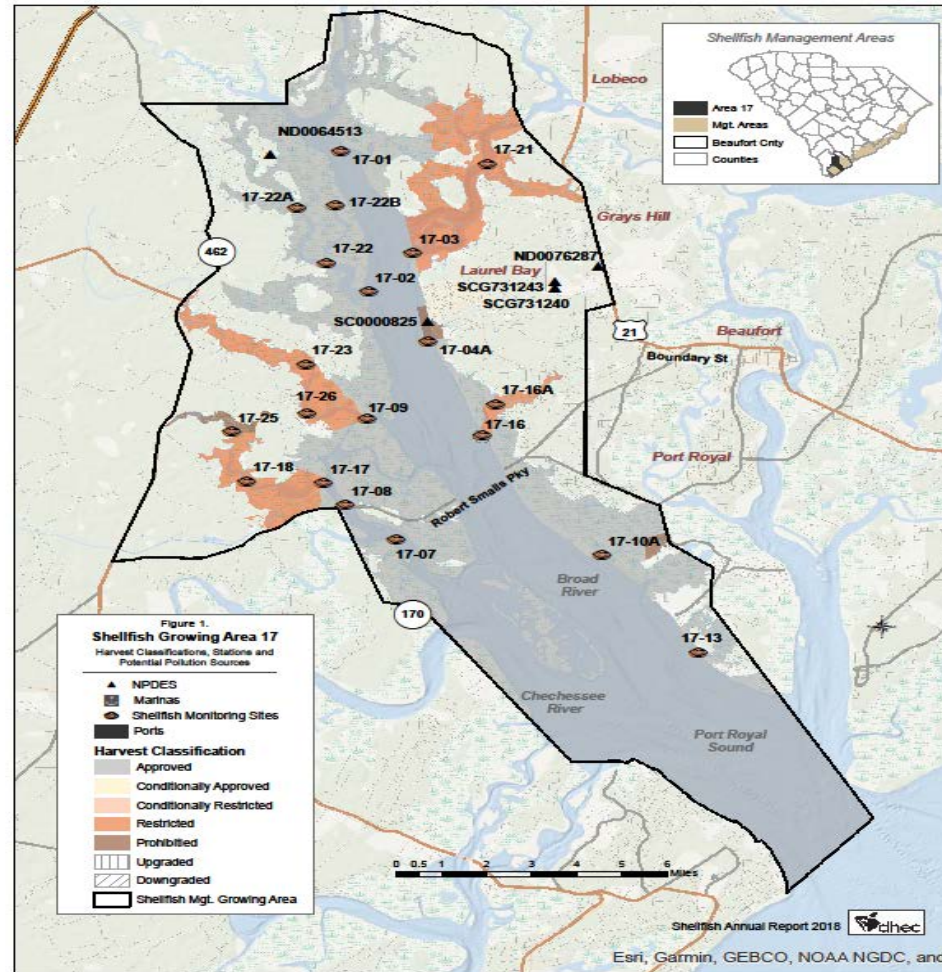


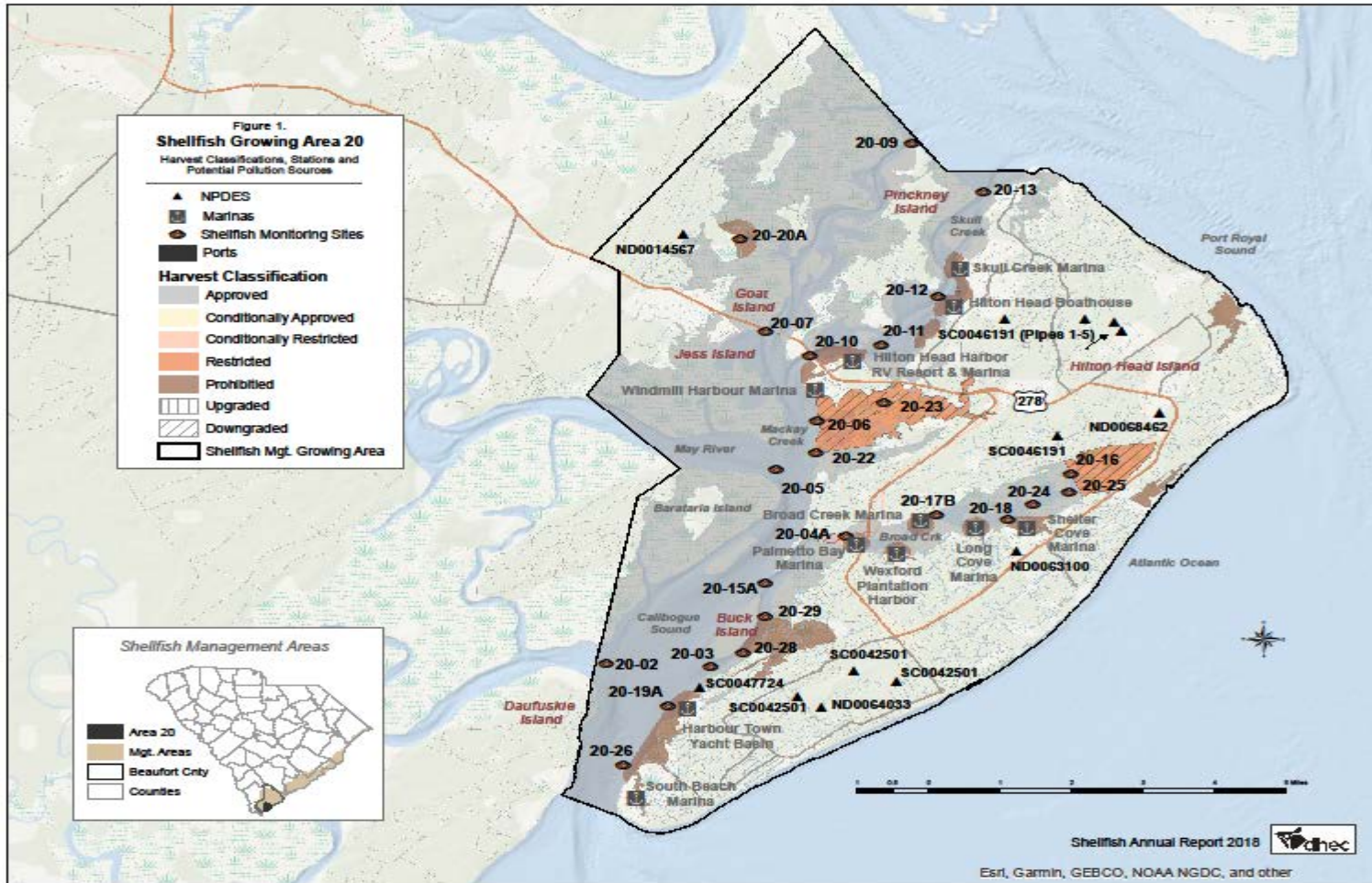














# Helpful Links

South Carolina DHEC

[www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference

[www.issc.org](http://www.issc.org)

US Food and Drug Administration

[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

## Contact Information

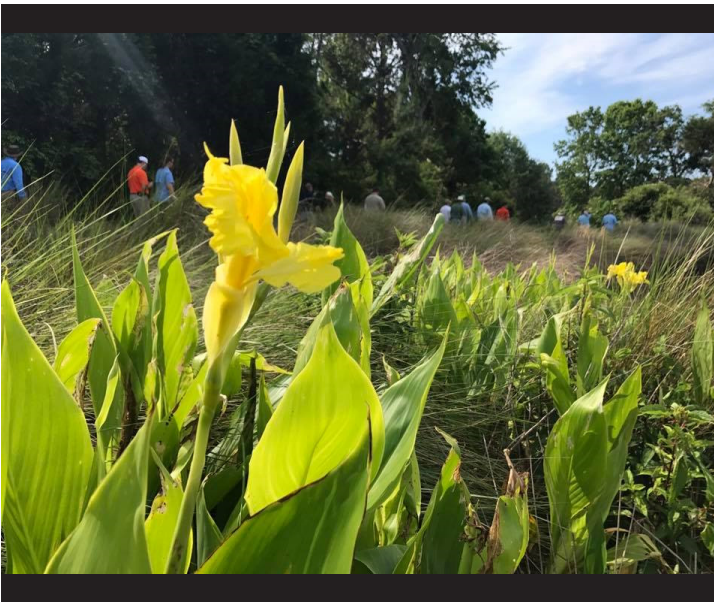
- Mike Pearson – Program Manager  
Email – [pearsodm@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:pearsodm@dhec.sc.gov)  
Phone – 843-238-4378
  
- Randy Moody – Beaufort – Manager  
Email – [moodyjr@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:moodyjr@dhec.sc.gov)  
Phone – 843-846-1030

# Okatie West Regional Stormwater Detention Project Site Visit and Open House

Friday, July 27th, from 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.

*Join Beaufort County Stormwater as they host an open house at the newly completed Okatie West Regional Stormwater Detention Project, a Clean Water Act Section 319 grant project!*

*Come and learn about the current designs and techniques in detention as well as bacteria and nutrient removal from local stormwater managers and professionals!*



*All stormwater professionals, contractors, developers, property managers, and stakeholders are invited!*

*Representatives from Beaufort County, Ward Edwards Engineering, R. B. Baker, USCB Water Quality Lab, & Environmental Conservation Solutions, LLC will provide:*

- *Project design demonstrations*
- *Guided tours*
- *Answers to any questions*



## **DIRECTIONS:**

*The project site is located off of SC 170 in the Okatie area east of Sun City. Use the address for National HealthCare as your guide. The project entrance is just north of the NHC entrance on the right as you travel northbound.*

*Use caution when entering and exiting SC 170. Follow the access road northeast to the project site. Be advised the access road is not paved and the terrain is rugged so plan accordingly.*

***Parking is limited.***

*This event will be held rain or shine! For more information, contact Melissa Allen:  
melissaa@bcgov.net  
(843)-255-2805*