

LOUISIANA SITES

SITE - NEW ORLEANS, LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN, LA

SITE CODE - LPNO

TARGET SPECIES - *Crassostrea virginica*

NOMINAL SITE CENTER - 30° 02.18' N

90° 02.48' W

LOCATED ON NOAA CHART - 11369

SITE ACCESS - Access to the site is via boat, launched at the public ramp located under the Shoreline Drive bridge over the Inner Harbor Channel. The site is located just to the north of the ramp, on the southern edge of Lake Pontchartrain. Travel time to the site is less than 5 min. This site cannot be sampled when there is a strong north wind due to the high waves that develop.

SITE DESCRIPTION - This site was originally designated LPGO, Lake Pontchartrain, Gulf Outlet. The name was changed in 1995, as the site is actually located just off the New Orleans shoreline on the south side of Lake Pontchartrain. The site is located approximately 1 km northwest of the bridge, and to the west of the New Orleans Lakefront Airport. Oysters occur at this site, due to a deep salt water wedge that enters through the Inner Harbor Channel, from the Mississippi River. The high salinity water allows the oysters to exist in the deeper water on the bottom of Lake Pontchartrain, near the outlet. Station 1 is located some 400 m north of the U.S. Naval-Marine Corps Reserve Station, station 2 is 100 m north of the two tall light poles on the shore and station 3 is 100 m northeast of Station 2, and about 200 m offshore.

OYSTER COLLECTIONS

- 1995 The oyster stations were located along the edge of the channel in deep water. Small to medium sized oysters were very sparse as the Louisiana Fish and Wildlife Department have removed most of them in a replanting project. Separate samples for each station were not collected due to the sparse oyster population. Two hours of dredging was required to obtain sufficient oysters for the analytical work.
- 1996 The oyster population was very poor this year, with only a few small and medium sized oysters being found after an extensive search.
- 1997 No collection.

SEDIMENT COLLECTIONS

- 1995 No collection.
- 1996 The soft light brown silty sand sediment sample was collected in 7.5 m of water, near the nominal site center.
- 1997 No collection.

SAMPLING METHODS

- Oysters - stainless steel dredge
Sediment - stainless steel sediment grab, stainless steel scoop

WATER DEPTH - Subtidal, 4.0 m