

SITE - PASS A LOUTRE, MISSISSIPPI RIVER, LA

SITE CODE - MRPL

TARGET SPECIES - *Crassostrea virginica*

NOMINAL SITE CENTER - 29° 05.37' N

89° 04.49' W

LOCATED ON NOAA CHART - 11361

SITE ACCESS - Access to the site is via boat, launched from the Venice Marina. From the boat basin, head upstream to the main fork of the Mississippi River at The Jump, then proceed downstream to the Head of Passes. Take the east fork holding to the south shore to avoid the large sandbar at the entrance to Pass a Loutre. Proceed east to the second cut to the south, and go down Southeast Pass to the first oil tanks (29° 07.75' N, 89° 05.78' W), and then south into Redfish Bay via a narrow reed-lined channel. No attempt should be made to travel to this site except in calm weather. An alternate route is to continue on down Southeast Pass to the mouth, then come back (northwest) into Redfish Bay.

SITE DESCRIPTION - The site is located at the extreme southeast edge of Redfish Bay, just to the north of the last small island. Prominent landmarks are the Port Eads Lighthouse (240°) at South Pass, and the green tanks on the Exxon platform (350°). The oysters are dredged 5 to 10 m out from the reed lined shore in 1 m of water. A composite sample was collected due to the small size of the reef.

OYSTER COLLECTIONS

1995 No collection.

1996 There was a good population of oysters in large clumps in one small area. The sample is a composite.

1997 No collection.

SEDIMENT COLLECTIONS

1995 No collection.

1996 The dark brown silty sediment sample was collected just off the shoreline from the oyster reef.

1997 No collection.

SAMPLING METHODS

Oyster - stainless steel dredge

Sediment - stainless steel sediment grab and stainless steel scoop

WATER DEPTH - subtidal, 1.0 - 2.0 m