

**SITE** - PASS CHRISTIAN, MISSISSIPPI SOUND, MS

**SITE CODE** - MSPC

**TARGET SPECIES** - *Crassostrea virginica*

**NOMINAL SITE CENTER** - 30° 18.14' N

89° 19.63' W

**LOCATED ON NOAA CHART** - 11372

**SITE ACCESS** - This site is accessible via automobile, taking the first exit on the west side of the Hwy. 90 bridge between Bay St. Louis and Pass Christian. Follow the road south along the shoreline to Veterans Pier. A boat ramp is located on the south side of the jetty/pier, which is necessary for the sediment sampling.

**SITE DESCRIPTION** - At the pier, oysters are found attached to the rocks and rubble, and along the muddy sand bottom. The oysters are intertidal, and accessibility is easiest at low tide. Station 1 is on the north side of the jetty, station 2 is on the seaward side of the "T" end of the jetty and station 3 is on the south side of the jetty. An alternate site lies some 1.65 nm to the northeast (bearing 57°). Here the oysters are located on a submerged reef, which parallels the Hwy. 90 bridge. The reef is 10 m south of the bridge, on the east side of the channel in 2.5 m of water. GPS coordinates for this reef are 30° 18.87'N and 89° 18.05'W.

#### **OYSTER COLLECTIONS**

1995 The site was not scheduled to be sampled this year.

1996 There was a good population of medium sized oysters to be found growing on the rocks and rubble of the jetty. The shells were all very fragile.

1997 No collection.

#### **SEDIMENT COLLECTIONS**

1995 No collection.

1996 A fine-grained silty sand sediment sample was collected using a grab, from the end of the "T" shaped fishing pier that extends some 50 m out into the bay.

1997 No collection.

#### **SAMPLING METHODS**

Oysters - hand

Sediment - stainless steel sediment grab and stainless steel scoop

**WATER DEPTH** - intertidal, 0 - 0.2 m