Abstract: The North Carolina (NC) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) - Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality Section (SSRWQ) identifies Designated Shellfish Growing Areas (SGA) covering the entire NC coast. The SSRWQ performs water sampling at designated stations throughout the year to determine the extent of contamination of waters in each SGA. Based on these results, shoreline survey information, and hydrographic factors, the DMF disseminates proclamations to create closed harvesting areas with specified closure boundaries, in which the harvest of shellfish is prohibited. Waters within each SGA may be permanently closed (prohibited), open (approved), or subject to being opened or closed (conditionally approved open or conditionally approved closed) based on an existing management plan for the area.

Purpose: To delineate the designated shellfish growing areas of North Carolina and the classify harvesting areas within each SGA.

Supplemental Information: For online maps of growing areas and more information, see http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/shellfish-sanitation-and-recreational-water-quality/maps.htm. A shapefile of this dataset may be downloaded at http://www.nconemap.com.

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Metadata: This data consists of shellfish growing area classifications valid as of 06/27/2013. Acknowledgement of products derived from this data set should cite the following: North Carolina Department of Natural Resources (NCDENR), Division of Marine Fisheries, Shellfish Sanitation and Recreational Water Quality Section. While efforts have been made to ensure that this data is accurate and reliable within the state of the art, NCDENR cannot assume
liability for any damages or misrepresentation caused by any inaccuracies in the data or as a result of changes to the data caused by system transfers.
Using a GIS software (ESRI's ARCGIS) polygons were created to represent shellfish growing areas as well as non-growing areas for a complete representation of coastal areas. Shellfish growing areas were delineated using 1:24,000-scale maps, 1:12,000-scale ortho imagery, and 1:200-scale GPS points for reference. GPS data collected using Trimble GeoXT handheld GPS units in the field. Data has been differentially corrected, either in real-time or through post-processing, in order to reduce error. Corrected data should achieve sub-meter accuracy, according to manufacturer specifications.
GPS points collected with mapping grade GPS receivers, data post-processed with Trimble software, points entered into GIS, points used to create boundary lines and the closing of polygons to determine areas.

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