The background of the entire page is a photograph of a bay. In the foreground, several people are swimming in the water. In the middle ground, there are several small motorboats. In the background, a larger boat is visible on the left, and another smaller boat is on the right. The sky is a pale blue with some light clouds.

RECREATIONAL CLAMMING SURVEY OF GREAT SOUTH BAY LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK 2008

PREPARED FOR:

**THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
250 LAWRENCE HILL ROAD
COLD SPRING HARBOR, NY 11724**

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April 2010

- **Study Area:**

Great South Bay from Smith Point to Suffolk/Nassau County Line
Substantial areas within Fire Island National Seashore jurisdiction

- **Duration:**

Calendar Year 2008 – Year
Round

- **Objectives:**

Obtain data on Recreational Clam Harvest – locations, catch rates,
harvesting methods, demographics, other data



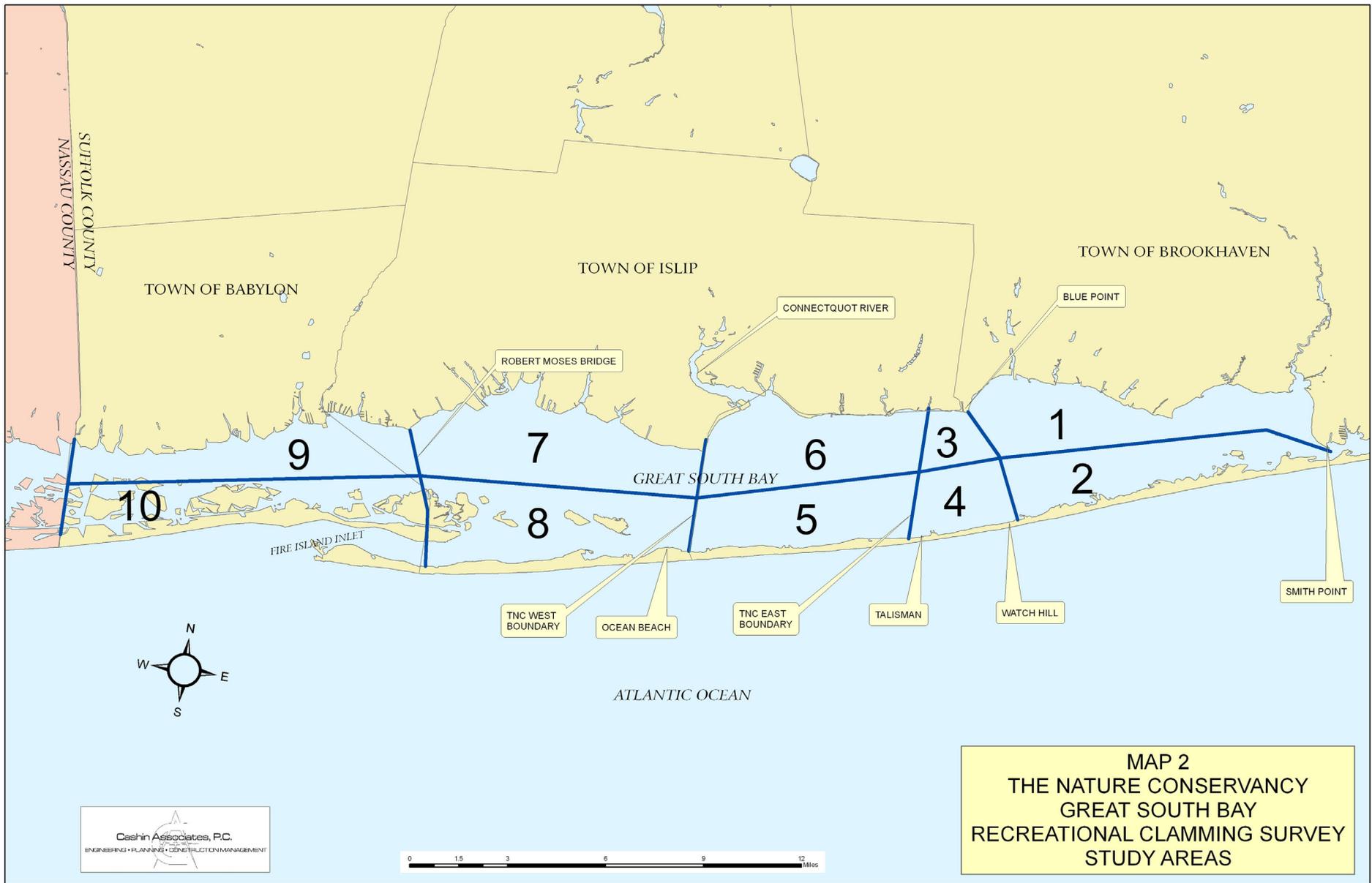
- **Methodology:**

Field Observation and Field Intercept interviews by boat and along shoreline, similar to NYSDEC survey performed in 1977

- **Field Results:**

Data collected on 85 different days, a total of 1,120 clammers interviewed or observed, primarily between March 2008 and November 2008





SUFFOLK COUNTY
NASSAU COUNTY

TOWN OF BABYLON

TOWN OF ISLIP

TOWN OF BROOKHAVEN

CONNECTQUOT RIVER

BLUE POINT

ROBERT MOSES BRIDGE

GREAT SOUTH BAY

FIRE ISLAND INLET

SMITH POINT

TNC WEST BOUNDARY

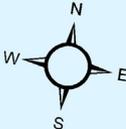
OCEAN BEACH

TNC EAST BOUNDARY

TALISMAN

WATCH HILL

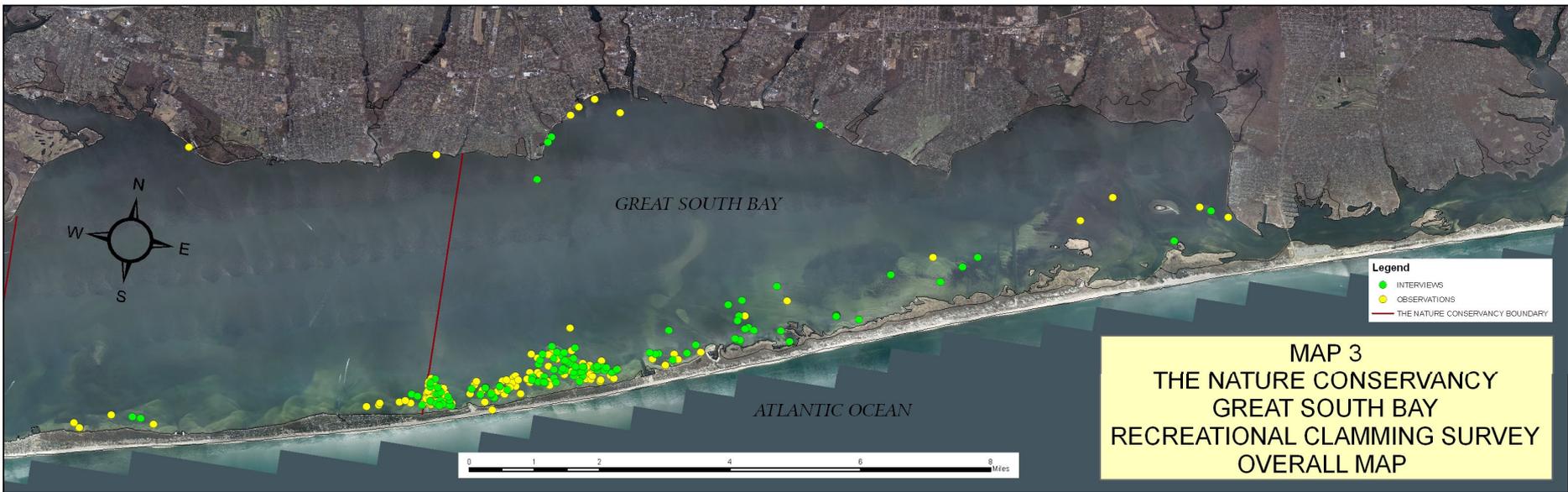
ATLANTIC OCEAN



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MAP 2
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
GREAT SOUTH BAY
RECREATIONAL CLAMMING SURVEY
STUDY AREAS



MAP 3
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
GREAT SOUTH BAY
RECREATIONAL CLAMMING SURVEY
OVERALL MAP

Table 1
Number of Clammers Interviewed/Observed by Area

Area	Name	No. Observed	No. Interviewed	Total
1	Brookhaven – Northeast	0	3	3
2	Brookhaven – Southeast	11	26	37
3	Brookhaven – Northwest	7	8	15
4	Brookhaven – Southwest	319	337	656
5	TNC South	23	20	43
6	TNC North	4	0	4
7	Islip North	1	0	1
8	Islip South	67	90	157
9	Babylon North	0	0	0
10	Babylon South	85	117	202
	TOTAL	517	601	1118

Table 2
Geographic Data
Recreational Clamming Activity by Certification Status
Percentage of Clammers Observed / Interviewed

	Percent (%)
Open (Certified)	89.3
Closed (Uncertified – Permanent and Seasonal)	10.7

Table 5 – Monthly Totals – Observations and Interviews

Interviews

May	June	July	August	September	October
2	49	412	122	14	2

Observations

May	June	July	August	September	October
7	69	164	240	29	7

Total

9	118	576	362	43	9
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Table 10 – Residence of Clammers

Islip	44.06%
Brookhaven	30.81%
Babylon	13.60%
Smithtown	2.24%
Oyster Bay	1.03%
Hempstead	0.86%
Huntington	0.52%
North Hempstead	0.34%
NYC	0.69%
Out of State	5.16%
Out of Country	0.69%

Table 11 – Age of Clammers

Children (under 14 yrs)	17.18%
Youth (14-25 yrs)	19.20%
Middle (26-50 yrs)	51.85%
Senior (over 50)	11.77%

Table 13 – Recreational Clamming Permits

		Percent
Islip Residents	No/permit	69.9
	Yes/permit	30.1
Babylon Residents	No/permit	55.7
	Yes/permit	44.3
Oyster Bay Residents	No/permit	0%
	Yes/permit	100%

Table 17 – Ways Eaten

	Percent
Raw	37.3
Baked	22.0
Sauce	17.0
Grilled	13.7
Chowder	10.0

Table 18 – Preferred Sizes

	Percent
Seeds	2.3
Littlenecks	44.1
Cherrystones	41.8
Chowders	11.1
All	0.7

Table 19 – Willingness to Release Large Clams

	Percent
Yes	92.6
No	7.4

Table 20 – Reported Trends in Abundance

	Percent
Fewer Clams	73.8
More Clams	4.3
Same	15.0
Do not know	6.9

Table 24 – Catch Rates per Area

	Clams per person per hour
Area 2 – Brookhaven Southeast	12.3
Area 4 – Brookhaven Southwest	20.9
Area 5 – TNC South	14.3*
Area 8 – Islip South	13.9
Area 10 – Babylon South	21.7
Overall Average	20.6
Notes: 1) * Limited data set of 5 2) Areas 1, 3, 6 and 7 had insufficient data. Area 9 had no significant clamming effort	

Table 25
Estimated Size Composition of Catch (%)

	Seeds	Necks	Cherries	Chowders
Area 1	5	60	35	0
Area 2	5	85	10	0
Area 3	ID	ID	ID	ID
Area 4	5	80	20	0
Area 5	5	90	5	0
Area 6	ID	ID	ID	ID
Area 7	ID	ID	ID	ID
Area 8	5	85	10	0
Area 9	ID	ID	ID	ID
Area 10	5	20	45	30

TABLE 26B
ESTIMATED ANNUAL HARVEST 2008 – BUSHELS
RECREATION CATCH

	June 15 th – September 15 th			Remainder of Year	Yearly Total
Area	Weekend/ Holiday	Week Days	Sub-Total		
1	8.5	23.0	31.5	6.3	37.8
2	9.3	11.4	20.7	4.1	24.8
3	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.2	1.2
4	270.8	60.6	331.4	66.3	397.7
5	3.7	6.7	10.4	2.1	12.5
6	6.2	3.3	9.5	1.9	11.4
7	0.9	2.5	3.4	0.7	4.1
8	47.5	88.7	136.2	27.2	163.4
9	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
10	343.7	422.9	766.6	153.3	919.9
Totals	690.9	619.8	1,310.7	262.1	1,572.8

Table 28 – Comparison of Present Study with 1977 Fox Study

	Present Study	1977 Fox Study	Percent of Change
Total Recreational Catch	1,573 bushels	4,796 bushels	-67%
Estimated No. of Recreational Clammers	1,700 persons	2,179 persons	-22%
Hourly Catch Rate	20.6 clams/hr.	46 clams/hr.	-55%
Total Hours of Recreational Clamming	23,900 hours	54,718 hours	-56%
Average Length of Clamming Trip	1.6 hours	1.74 hours	-8%
Average No. of Trips Per Year	8.9 trips	14.4 trips	-38%
Percent of Recreational Catch Made During Summers	83.3%	51.2%	+63%
Percent of Clamming on Weekends	55.2%	58%	-5%
Recreational Catch as a Percent of Commercial Catch	27%	0.73%	+3,600%
Reported Commercial Catch 2007 and 1977	5,834 bushels	658,44 bushels	-99%

Conclusions:

1. Most recreational clamming occurs within FINS jurisdiction, except for Babylon.
2. Clamming is considered a very important recreational activity by those interviewed.
3. Recreational clammers have become an important user group for the resource, must be considered in resource management initiatives.
4. Seeding programs for areas frequented by recreational clammers would benefit a greater number of residents and promote environmental awareness.
5. Recreational clammers found to be concerned about the resource and its conservation, would be receptive to educational programs and regulations aimed at resource protection.



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