Job Report

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Project No. M-5-R-2 Date December 6, 1961

Project Name: Oyster and Fisheries Investigations of Area M-5

Period Covered: July 1, 1960 to June 30, 1961 Job No. C-2, C-3

Inventory of Macrofloral Forms Present and Utilization by Other Marine Forms

Objectives: To collect and identify the macroflora of the area. Determine species present and distribution of species. Evaluate ecological importance to area.

Procedure: Marine plants were collected by hand in the shallow water areas and by dredge in deeper waters. The specimens were preserved and identified by the area biologist. Distribution and ecological significance were ascertained when possible.

Findings: During the period of this study random samples were taken of the macroflora of the area. No attempt was made to compile a checklist of the flora of the area. Those species which were abundant in the area were collected and identified, and their distribution mapped to determine what portions of the area are vegetated (Figure 1). The following list comprises those species found in abundance, or at least frequently, in this area.

List of Macroflora of Area M-5

ALGAE

Cladophora sp.
Enteromorpha flexuosa (Wulfen) J. Agardh
Gelidium crinale (Turner) Lamouroux
Acetabularia crenulata Lamouroux
Gracilaria sp.

SPERMATOPHYTES

Ruppia maritima Linnaeus
Diplanthera wrightii Aschers
Spartina alterniflora Lois
Distichlis spicata Linnaeus

The three most abundant plants in this area are *Ruppia maritima*, *Diplanthera wrightii*, and *Gracilaria sp.*

Juveniles of all of the endemic commercial and sport fish have been found concentrated in those heavily vegetated areas following spawning.

These vegetated areas are important to the survival of juvenile game fishes and provide cover and protection for these small fish until they reach a less susceptible size.

Comments: The vegetated portions of Area M-5, if unmolested by man, will provide nursery areas for juvenile game and commercial fish and will provide future stocks of fish in this area.

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Accepted by Terrance R. Leary

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