

JOB REPORT

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Project No. MO-1-R-7 . Date July 15, 1959

Project Name: Oyster Investigation, Galveston Bay

Period Covered: June, 1958 to June, 1959 . Job No. D-2

Preliminary Survey of Oyster Bottoms in Galveston Bay

Objectives: To map oyster reefs and other areas which appear suitable for oyster cultivation.

Procedures: A drag chain and a sounding pole were used to locate exposed shell reefs. Sextant bearings from known points, usually Ship Channel beacons, were taken at a number of points on each reef. General outlines of the reefs were then drawn on the Coast and Geodetic Chart 1282 (Galveston Bay) by plotting the sextant bearings with a three-arm protractor. An alternate survey method consisted on taking bearings on marked points of a reef from both ends of a measured base line. This method, although more accurate, was also more time consuming and was only used for special surveys.

Findings: Preliminary bottom soundings were made at several locations on Red Fish Bar east of the Houston Ship Channel. Three small reefs were surveyed by the base line method. Such work was connected with the supervision of mudshell dredging activities and not an actual part of this project.

A complete set of shell survey charts was furnished by the mudshell industry late in the year. These charts indicate exposed shell reefs as well as mudshell, or buried shell deposits. A number of the exposed shell areas were checked to determine whether live oysters were present. In some instances the "exposed shell" was found to be covered by a thin layer of silt. Although suitable for future oyster plantings, these areas were unproductive at the time. Some live oyster reefs were not indicated on the charts even though the reefs were rather extensive. Although accurate in most cases, the charts could not be relied upon too heavily.

Comments: The objectives, as stated in the job description, have not been fulfilled. Time spent on the job was not in proportion to its importance. Full utilization of the mudshell industry for the benefit of the oyster resources necessitates more work along this line.

Prepared by R.P. Hofstetter . Approved by Howard T. Lee
Howard T. Lee

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Figure I

Galveston Bay Oyster Reefs (Incomplete)

