

Job Report

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Project No. M-V-D-1 Date February 26, 1963
Project Name: Developmental Activities in Region V
Period Covered: January 1, 1962 to December 31, 1962 Job No. 2

Construction of Artificial Reefs in the Upper Laguna Madre

Objectives: The objective of this job was to provide an improved fisheries habitat in the upper Laguna Madre in the form of artificial reefs. Small trial reefs were constructed on the locations of the present reefs in March 1961 when five cubic yards of oyster shell were deposited and spread on each location. Each of these trial reefs was seeded with commercial oysters. While these oysters died in the summer of 1961, the shell on the trial reefs provided cultch for a new crop of oysters which appeared naturally in the spring of 1962. Additional sampling of the trial reefs showed that small fish and stone crabs had moved onto the reefs. On the basis of these successful trials, enlargement of these reefs was recommended.

Procedures: Permits were obtained from the U. S. Corps of Engineers for two shell reefs. One was to be constructed in the upper Laguna Madre, midway between Intracoastal Waterway Marker No. 51 and the mainland; the second was to be placed one mile east of Intracoastal Waterway Marker No. 63. (Figure 1).

Plans and specifications were prepared by the Game and Fish Commission Engineering Division. Bids for the construction of these two reefs were advertised for and received with the contract awarded to the Lloyd W. Richardson Construction Corporation of Aransas Pass, Texas. The reefs were constructed in October with approximately 1,261 cubic yards of washed mudshell placed and spread at each location to a depth of nine inches loose depth. Each reef is approximately 200 by 220 feet and covers an area of approximately one acre. A 20-foot creosoted fir timber pile was set in the center of each reef. The two reefs contain a total of 2,522 cubic yards of shell. At a cost of \$2.25 per cubic yard, placed and spread, each reef cost \$2,837.25 including placement of the piling. Both reefs were checked by area biologists and the construction was approved.

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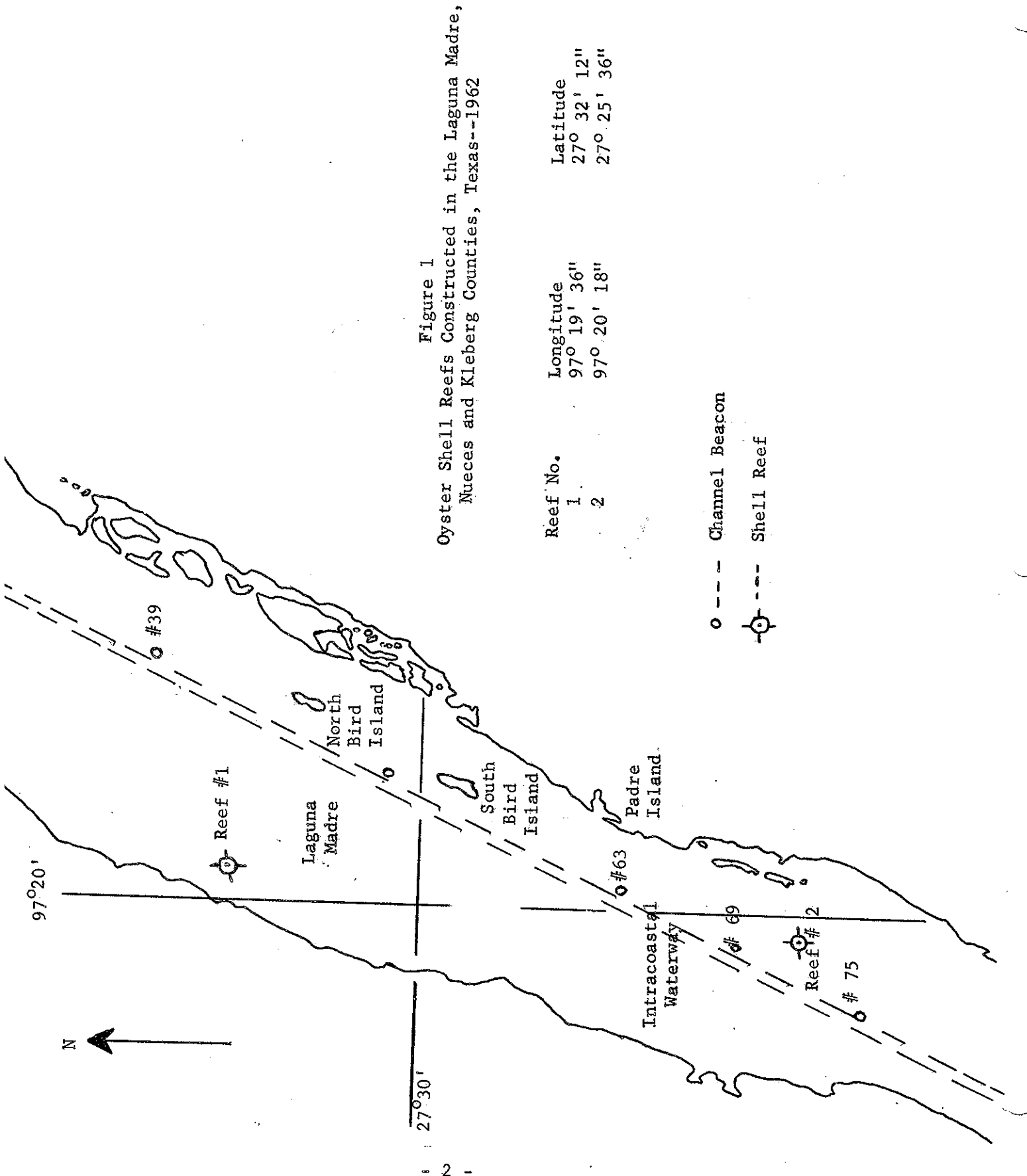


Figure 1
Oyster Shell Reefs Constructed in the Laguna Madre,
Nueces and Kleberg Counties, Texas--1962

Reef No.	Longitude	Latitude
1	97° 19' 36"	27° 32' 12"
2	97° 20' 18"	27° 25' 36"

--- Channel Beacon
--- Shell Reef