

## 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. 3

### Construction of Trial Reefs in Corpus Christi Bay

Objectives: The objective of this job was to determine if fisheries habitat could be improved along the southern shoreline of Corpus Christi Bay by the construction of artificial reefs.

It is an established fact that many important sports and commercial fish congregate over natural reefs. That artificially formed reefs could provide an improved fisheries habitat was determined after World War I, when fishing was found to be productive in the vicinity of wrecked and sunken ships. States which have since engaged in artificial reef construction include New York, Maryland and North Carolina on the Atlantic Coast, California on the Pacific Coast and Alabama and Texas on the Gulf Coast.

In bay waters Texas fishermen have long known that abundant fish populations may exist near natural oyster reefs. Artificially constructed oyster reefs can also produce oysters and associated organisms, thereby attracting food and game fish. Good catches of fish have been made off such reefs in the Port Isabel and Aransas Bay areas. The purpose of this job is to determine if artificially constructed shell reefs in selected areas of Corpus Christi Bay will produce oysters and associated organisms, which in turn will attract sport fish, thereby providing a concentration of sports and food fish for the sports fisherman.

Procedures: Permits were obtained from the U. S. Corps of Engineers for the construction of three shell reefs to be built along the southern shore of Corpus Christi Bay (Figure 1). A fourth reef was planned but was not constructed since a suitable location could not be found in time to file a permit application.

Plans and specifications were prepared by the Game and Fish Commission Engineering Division. Bids for the construction of these three reefs were advertised for and received with the contract awarded to the Lloyd W. Richardson Construction Corporation of Aransas Pass.

The reefs were constructed in September and October with approximately 800 cubic yards of washed mud shell placed and spread at each reef location to a depth of nine inches loose depth. Each reef is approximately 150 by 150 feet and covers approximately one-half of an acre. A 24-foot creosoted fir timber was placed in the center of Reef No. 1; and similar 20-foot piles were placed in the center of Reefs No. 3 and No. 4. The three reefs contain

a total of 2,413 cubic yards of shell. Construction costs, at \$2 per cubic yard of shell, placed and spread, totaled \$4,826 or \$1,609 per reef, including placement of piling. All three reefs were checked by area biologists and the construction approved.

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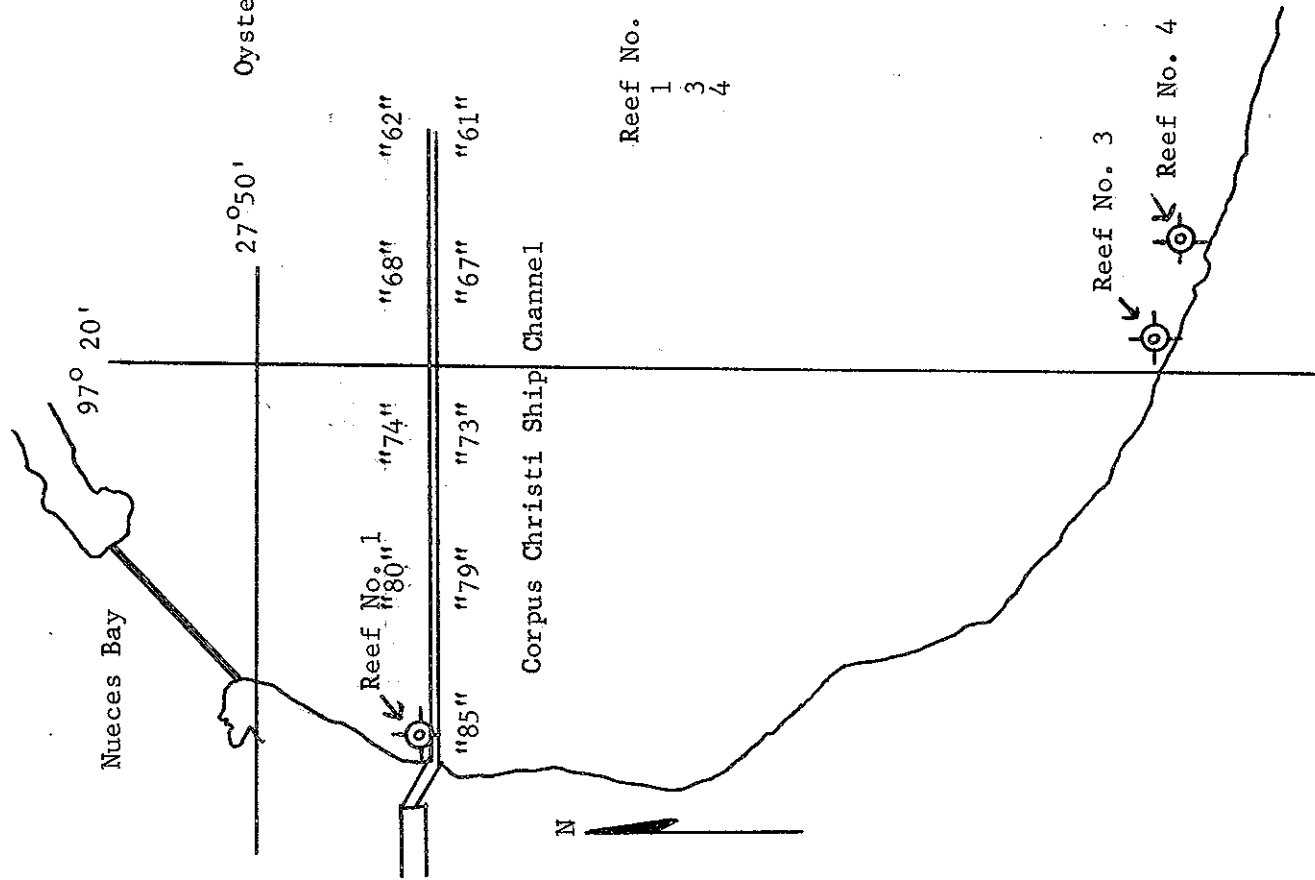


Figure 1  
Oyster Shell Reefs Constructed in Corpus Christi Bay  
Nueces County, Texas--1962

Corpus Christi Bay		
Reef No.	Longitude	Latitude
1	97°23'17"	27°48'47"
3	97°19'45"	27°43'12"
4	97°18'52"	27°42'59"

