JOB REPORT

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Project No. MO-6-R-1 . Date July 15, 1959

Project Name: Survey of the Major Oyster Fishing Reefs and Associated Organisms in Area M-6.

Period Covered: June 15, 1958 - June 15, 1959 Job No. D-2

Inventory of the Bottom Sediment Types Present in Area M-6

Objective: To determine the bottom composition of the area and to chart the bottom sediments as a guide for possible location of proposed artificial reefs or reef expansion.

Procedure: Samples of the bottom sediments were obtained with an Eckman Dredge used in conjunction with soundings made throughout the area. The bottom composition and zones were plotted on Geodetic Survey Map 1285 for future reference.

Findings: Aransas Bay and Copano Bay have a total of 105,600 acres of which less than ten percent is utilized as oyster beds to any extent. The average depth in Aransas Bay is eight feet whereas Copano Bay is considerably shallower with an average depth of four feet.

The main bottom types present are mud, sand and shell. There are zones of transition between each basic type which is composed of a mixture. In these transition zones there are such compositions as sand and mud, shell and mud, and sand and shell. The following map shows the basic bottom types but lack of space does not permit extensive marking of the transitional zones. The inter-reef areas are predominantly shell and mud and the area near a shore line is generally sand in Aransas Bay and shell and mud in Copano Bay.

Prepared by Thomas L. Heffernan . Approved by Howard T. Lee
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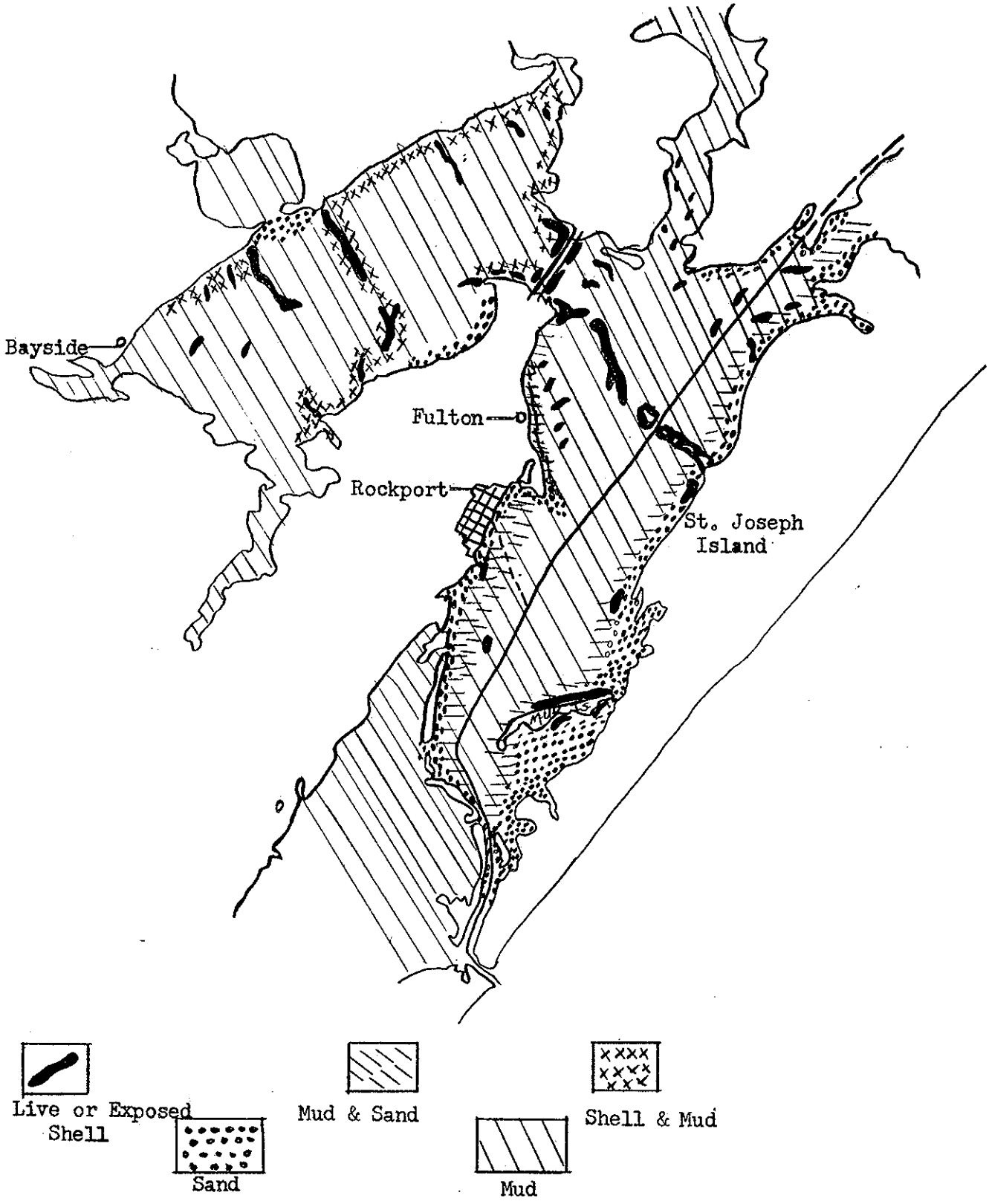

Bottom Types in the Aransas - Copano Bay System