

JOB REPORT

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Project No. MO-2-R-2 Date 15 July 1960

Project Name: Survey of the Major Oyster Fishing Reefs and Associated Organisms
in Area MO-2.

Period Covered: August 1, 1959 - July 31, 1960. Job No. B-2

Survey and Inventory of the Invertebrate Forms Associated With The Oyster Reefs in Aransas and Copano Bays.

Objective: To determine the invertebrate population present, the relative abundance and distribution.

Procedure: Samples of the invertebrate fauna were mostly collected from dredge and tong samples of oysters. Some specimens were found in spat collectors and some were collected by hand. All collections were made in conjunction with other jobs in the project. The specimens were preserved and identified.

Findings: The following check list of specimens included only those found on and around the oyster reefs studied during this project.

Porifera

Cliona calata. Boring Sponge - Abundant on the reefs in upper Aransas Bay during the summer months.

Microciona prolifera. Red Encrusting Sponge - Common on Paul's Mott and Jay Bird Reefs.

Coelenterata

Aurellia aurita. Moon Jelly - Several specimens were noticed in the lower portion of Aransas Bay near Mud Island.

Dactelometra quinquecirrha. Sea Nettle - Prevalent throughout Aransas and Copano Bays.

Stomolophus meleagris. Cabbage Head - Very abundant through the summer months in all areas.

Astrangia astreaformis. A few clusters of this coral were found on Long Reef in August, 1960.

Ctenophora

Beroë ovata.

Mnemiopsis mccradyi. Both species of Ctenophores were common through Aransas and Copano Bays from early spring to late fall.

Bryozoa

Membranipora sp.

Bugula sp. Both species of Bryozoa were found on most reefs in Aransas Bay.

Little Bugula was seen in Copano Bay although Membranipora was prevalent.

Mollusca

Brachidontes exustus. These mussels are abundant on all reefs in Aransas and Copano Bays.

Martesia smithii. Scattered specimens of this bivalve were found bored into oyster shell on several reefs in the upper portion of Aransas Bay.

Anachis avara semiplicata. Common on most reefs in the Aransas Bay area.

Mercenaria mercenaria. Quahog - One specimen dredged up on Long Reef in Aransas Bay.

Chione cancellata. Cross-barred Venus - Scattered specimens found on several reefs in upper Aransas Bay.

Crepidula plana. Slipper Shell - Found on all reefs in Aransas and Copano Bays. Rivals B. exustus as the most prevalent mollusc collected.

Thais haemastoma. Florida Dye Shell - Several specimens collected near Mud Island.

Anomia simplex. Jingle Shell - Common in Aransas and Copano Bays. Very abundant in Aransas Bay.

Crassostrea virginica. Commercial Oyster - The most common mollusc in the area and the basis of the survey.

Arca transversa. Transverse Ark - Several specimens found near Mud Island.

Annelida

Polydora websteri. These mudworms are abundant on all reefs in the area.

Dexiospira sp. Worm tubes - Abundant in all areas. Has become a major fouling organism in Copano Bay.

Arthropoda

Palaemonetes intermedius. Grass Shrimp - Found in algae clumps on a few reefs in lower Aransas Bay.

Pagurus longicarpus. Hermit Crab.

Pagurus pollicaris. Hermit Crab.

Clibanarius vittatus. Hermit Crab - Common throughout the Aransas Bay system.

Crangon armillatus. Pistol Shrimp - Several specimens collected from reefs throughout Aransas Bay.

Petrolisthes armatus. This crab appeared to be the most prevalent during the summer months.

Callinectes sapidus. Blue crab - Common throughout all areas.

Panopeus herbsti. Common on all reefs in Aransas and Copano Bays.

Neopanope texana sayi. Prevalent in the lower Aransas Bay region.

Eurypanopeus depressus. Rivals P. armatus as the most prevalent species in the area. Becomes the most abundant during the winter months.

Menippe mercenaria. Stone Crab - Adults are not common but many juvenile forms were collected from May through August.

Pinnothereus ostreum. Pea Crab - One specimen collected from an oyster from Cedar Bayou near Mesquite Bay.

Balanus improvisus. Barnacle - Common in all areas.

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Date

7 Nov. 1960

