

Job Report

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Project No. M-4-R-2 Date 15 August 1960.

Project Name: General Ecological Survey of the Matagorda Bay Area.

Period Covered: 15 June 1959 - 15 June 1960. Job No. D-2

Inventory of Bottom Types, Their Locations and Distributions.

Objective: To survey the bottom types in area M-4.

Procedure: Night observations, roller-dragging, sounding, and other methods found necessary were employed. Observations were accomplished in conjunction with Job No. A-3.

Findings: The time allotted to this project was used to locate and map exposed shell and live oyster reefs. A state tract map showing the location of exposed shell and live oyster reefs will be placed on file in the Marine Laboratory in Rockport, Texas. General areas are shown in Figure I.

The oyster reefs and exposed shell locations shown on this map are not complete. Lavaca and East Matagorda Bays should have more work done on bottom surveys before a complete map of oyster and exposed shell bottoms can be made for this area.

The scattered live oyster bottom, shown on the map, in the eastern end of Matagorda Bay are actually scattered live oyster reefs located on the spoil piles created by shell dredges. These reefs are so numerous and small that it is impossible to locate each one separately; therefore, the entire area is grouped as one and labeled as scattered live oysters.

The oysters in the secondary bays in this area are subject to heavy mortality during a short period of time. Collegeport Cove in Tres Palacios Bay had a dense population of oysters during the oyster season of 1958-1959. A total mortality of oysters occurred during the summer of 1959 from unknown causes. An extended period of very low salinities which occurred during this summer period may have been one of the reasons for mortality.

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Accepted by: Howard T. Lee
Howard T. Lee

Date 12 January 1961

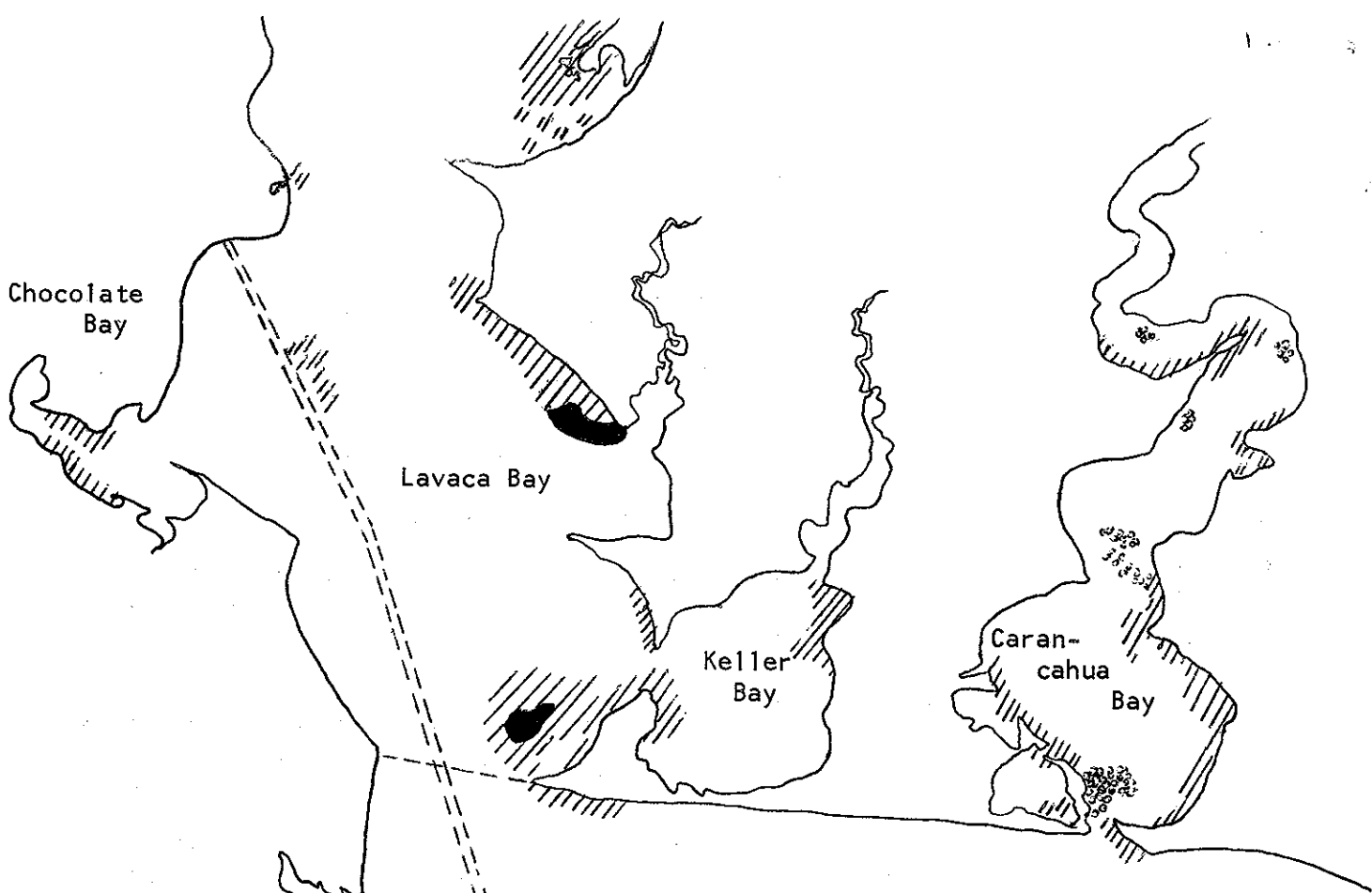
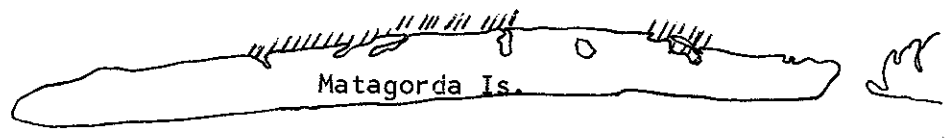


Figure I

Exposed Shell and Oysters in the Matagorda Bay Area

- Dense live oysters ----■
- Scattered live oysters -▨
- Exposed Shell -▤

Matagorda Bay



Matagorda Is.

GULF OF MEXICO

Figure I - Continued

Exposed Shell and Oysters in the Matagorda Bay Area

