

Informational Report
1965 Razor Clam Surveys

Introduction

Surveys of several beaches south of Clatsop County were repeated in 1965 to estimate the harvest and to explore for evidence of repopulation. The samples were necessarily small because time and personnel were not available for a thorough study, however, enough data were obtained to estimate the harvest from Meyers Creek area. Details concerning the physical characteristics of the beaches were omitted but will be investigated in another study.

Results

Table 1 lists the beaches checked in 1965 and the results, and Figure 1 shows their locations. In general, the Cannon Beach area—including Indian, Cannon, Arch Cape, and Cove beaches—and Meyers Creek beach, on the south coast, were the most productive. Short Sand, Bay Ocean, and Beaver Creek beaches produced clams for sport diggers in 1965, but too little information is available to make a statement about them.

Cannon Beach Area

Except for minor digging at Indian Beach, the Cannon Beach area has supported no digging in recent years. The interest in the area lies in the fact that good numbers of small clams were readily available in 1965 and at least the potential exists for 4- to 5-inch clams next year. A two-day dig in the area resulted in 342 clams which averaged only 3-3/4 inches in length. Cove Beach produced the best with most of the clams showing on outside bars. The age composition of the clams is shown in Figure 2. Older clams appear to be missing in the population.

Meyers Creek Beach

Meyers Creek was sampled on nine tides in March, May, and late June on

Table 1. Razor Clam Beaches Surveyed in 1965.

Date	Beach	Number of Digs	Clams Per Dig	Biological Sample	Age Composition
1-16	Short Sand	-	-	20	Mostly 3's
5-15	Short Sand	20	-	-	-
7-30	Short Sand	-	-	15	0's
7-13, 15	Cannon	0	-	25	0's
7-3, 11	Indian	0	-	80	0's
7-13, 15	Arch Cape	0	-	65	0's
7-13, 15	Cove	0	-	252	90% 0's
7-30	Manzanita	0	-	1	0's
3-17	Beaver	35	17.1	0	1's and older
3-16	Sixes	3	1	1	0's
3-13, 14, 15	Meyers Creek	41	17.9	152	73% 1's
5-2, 3, 4	Meyers Creek	125	13.2	-	95% 1's
6-27, 28, 29	Meyers Creek	290	20.3	-	80% 1's
8-29	Bay Ocean	0	-	40	63% 0's

tides ranging from -0.5 to -2.0. On each day of sampling, over half of all the diggers on the beach were checked as they left the beach.

It is estimated that some 83,000 clams were dug by about 4,500 diggers in 1965, and averaged 18.3 clams per digger.

Age was determined on 3,576 clams and is graphically represented in Figure 2. Growth appears to be slow at Meyers Creek as 1+ clams were about 6 mm smaller than Clatsop Beach 1+ clams. However, digging was reported to have been better for larger clams in 1964.

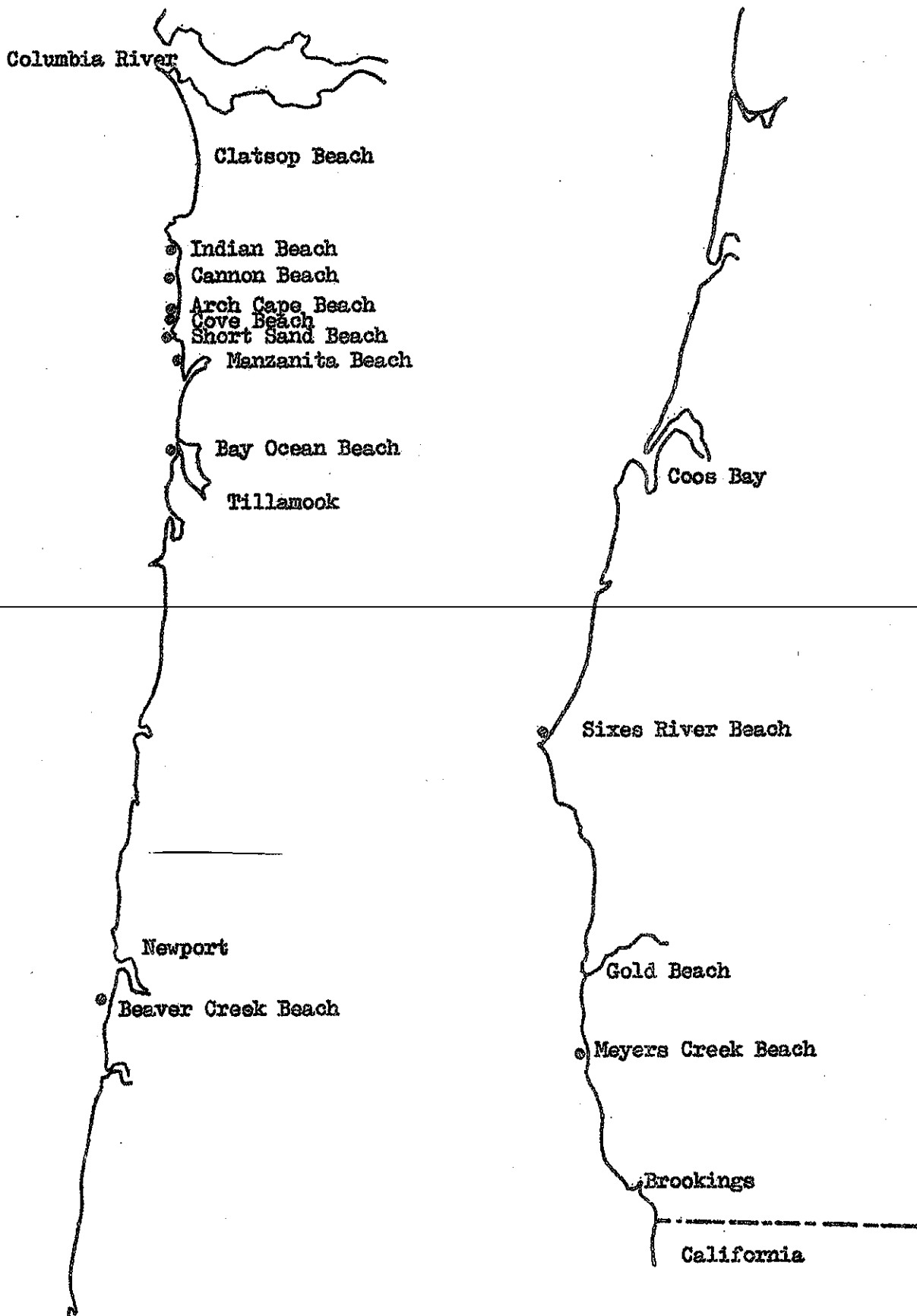


Figure 1. Outline of Oregon Coast Showing 1965 Razor Clam Beach Surveys.

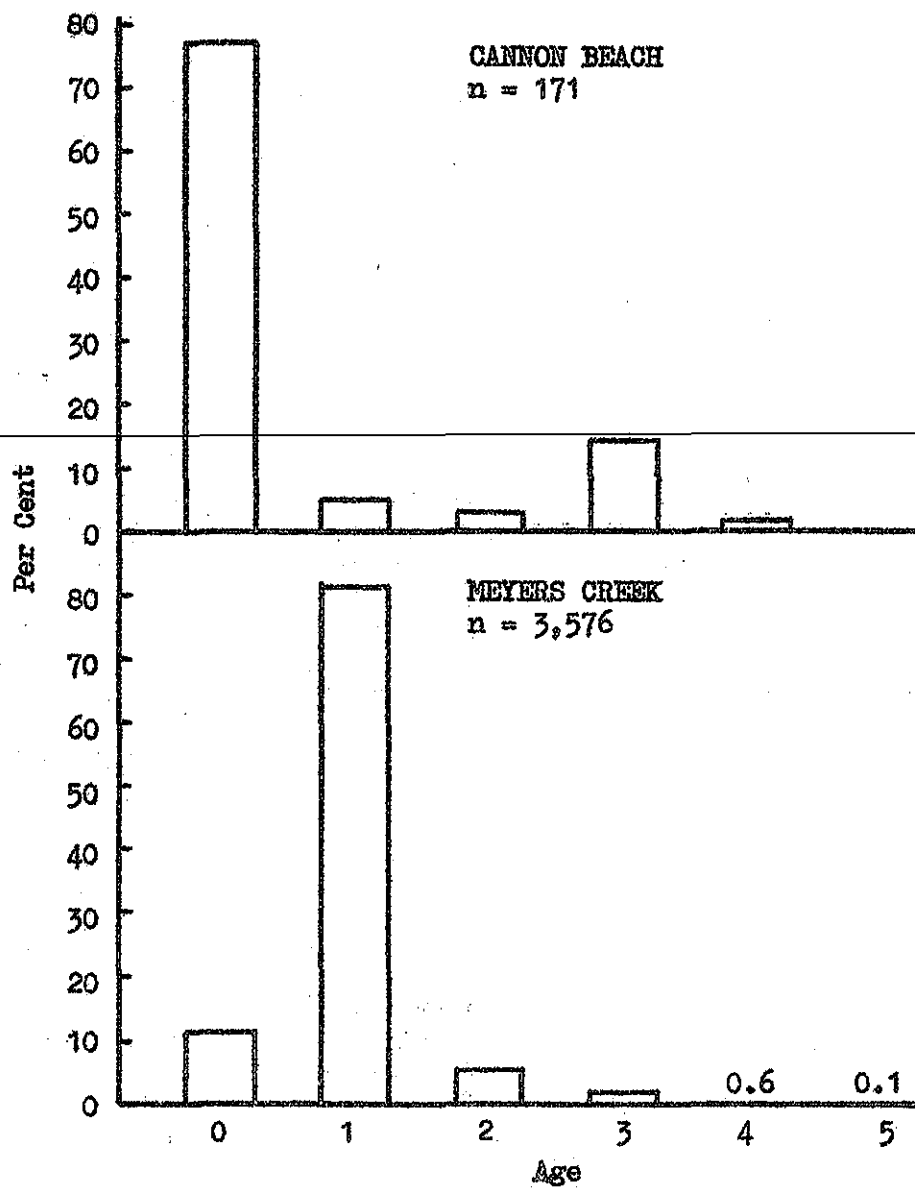


Figure 2. Age Composition of Cannon Beach and Meyers Creek Razor Clams, 1965.

Discussion

Although the number of razor clams appears to be increasing in most of the areas checked in 1965, there is no assurance that digging also will improve. The sporadic history of the southern beaches suggests that favorable conditions for survival are not consistent, but it is hoped that the study of physical characteristics to be conducted in 1966 will increase our knowledge concerning the limiting factors.

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