

**SHELLFISH INVESTIGATION  
INFORMATION REPORT 70-3**

**1968 RAZOR CLAM SURVEYS**

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### INTRODUCTION

This report is the second of a series concerned with the razor clam resource south of Tillamook Head. The northern beaches include Indian, Crescent, Cannon Beach-Arch Cape, Cove, Short Sand, Oceanside, and Netarts. The southern beaches include South Beach (Newport), Whiskey Run, and Bastendorff (Coos Bay), and Myers Creek (Gold Beach). The southern group was sampled incidental to other work so data are not adequate to estimate the harvest.

The locations of the beaches are shown in Figure 1. A more complete description is given in Shellfish Information Report No. 1.

### RESULTS

Table 1 lists the beaches surveyed in 1968 and the results. Only Indian and Short Sand beaches of the northern group provided substantial digging. At Indian Beach 680 diggers dug 9,000 clams. One-year and 3-year clams predominated (Figure 2).

Short Sand Beach was the most productive as 2,350 diggers took 31,000 clams. Figure 2 shows 1-year clams dominated the catch.

Cove and Arch Cape beaches provided good digging in 1966 and 1967 but produced very little in 1968. Although 750 diggers were active, digging was slow. Random samples in April and July produced 111 clams, mostly 1 year olds. Some recruitment was indicated.

Digging at Cannon Beach was nil except for Crescent Beach on the extreme north end. Three random samples in May and July produced 98 clams, mostly 1 year olds. Only five diggers were seen on the beach. Three of these were commercial diggers with a total of 60 pounds.

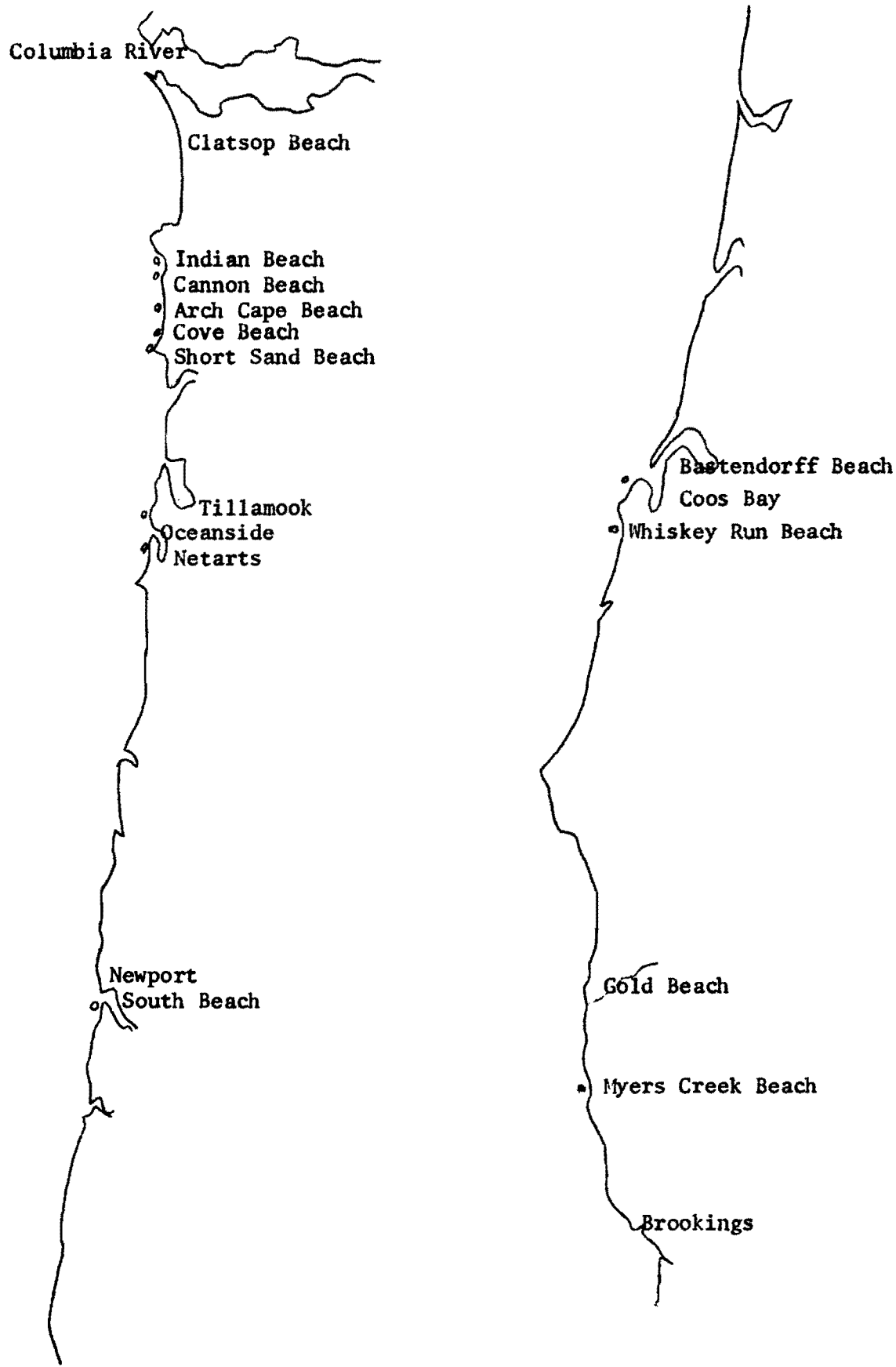


Figure 1. Outline of Oregon Coast Showing 1968 Razor Clam Beach Surveys

Table 1. Razor Clam Beaches Surveyed in 1968

| Beach       | No. of<br>Digs<br>Sampled | Clams<br>Per Digger | Biologist<br>Sample | Per Cent Age Composition |    |    |    |   |   |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----|----|----|---|---|
|             |                           |                     |                     | 0                        | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4 | 5 |
| Indian      | 40                        | 13.2                | 113                 | 3                        | 65 | 9  | 22 | - | 1 |
| Crescent    | -                         | -                   | 98                  | 3                        | 70 | 16 | 9  | - | 2 |
| Cove        | 89                        | -                   | 111                 | 8                        | 59 | 19 | 14 | - | - |
| Short Sand  | 134                       | 13.1                | 111                 | 9                        | 76 | 10 | 5  | - | - |
| Oceanside   | 3                         | 7.7                 | -                   | -                        | 65 | 26 | 5  | 4 | - |
| Netarts     | 12                        | -                   | 9                   | -                        | 56 | 33 | 11 | - | - |
| South Beach | 15                        | 12.4                | -                   | 5                        | 58 | 36 | 1  | - | - |
| Bastendorff | 64                        | 6.9                 | -                   | 30                       | 62 | 6  | 2  | - | - |
| Whiskey Run | -                         | -                   | 23                  | 4                        | 61 | 35 | -  | - | - |
| Myers Creek | 16                        | 15.6                | -                   | 12                       | 41 | 14 | 31 | 2 | - |

Digging in the Oceanside-Netarts area was fair for the few people who took part. Good digging was reported at Oceanside in May and June.

On the south coast Beaver Creek Beach failed to produce in 1968 and the digging shifted to South Beach at the north end of the area. Fifteen diggers were checked in August with 186 clams. Digging was reported to be good earlier in the season.

In the Coos Bay area digging was slow. At Bastendorff Beach 64 diggers were checked with 111 clams. A random sample at Whiskey Run netted 23 clams.

Myers Creek digging appeared good in 1968. The average catch per digger was 15.6 in June.

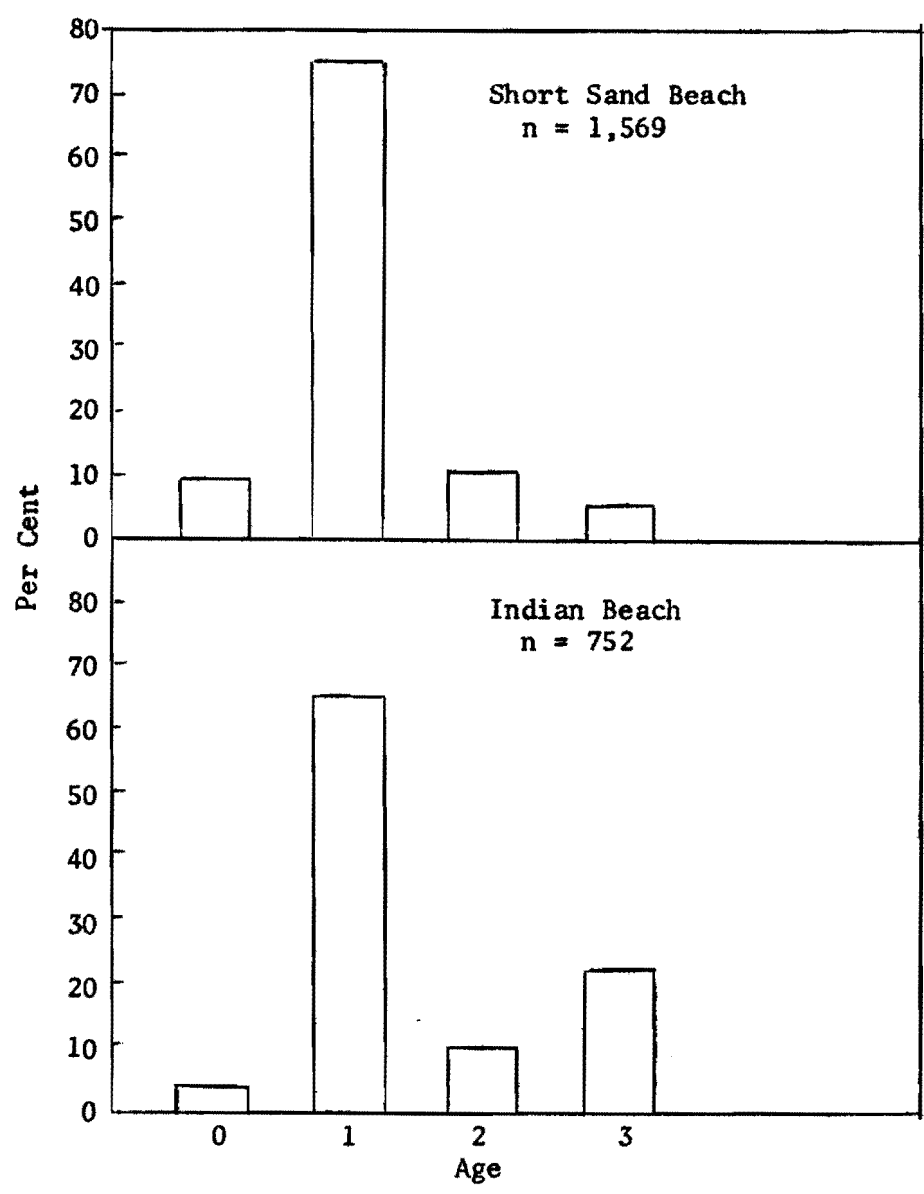


Figure 2. Age Composition, in Per Cent, of Razor Clams Dug at Short Sand Beach and Indian Beach, 1968

## DISCUSSION

Razor clam digging on the beaches south of Tillamook Head was slightly better in 1968 than in 1967. However, some of the digging shifted to new areas on some beaches and the areas dug in 1967 went untouched in 1968.

There are indications that many isolated beaches along the coast produce razor clams, but limited access and a sparse population of clams discourages most novice diggers. Some of these areas are Manzanita, Nye Beach at Newport, and Bandon beaches.

In general the problems of wastage and harvest of small clams are minor south of Tillamook Head. Also, relatively few diggers are active. As long as these conditions prevail the area should remain open to digging.