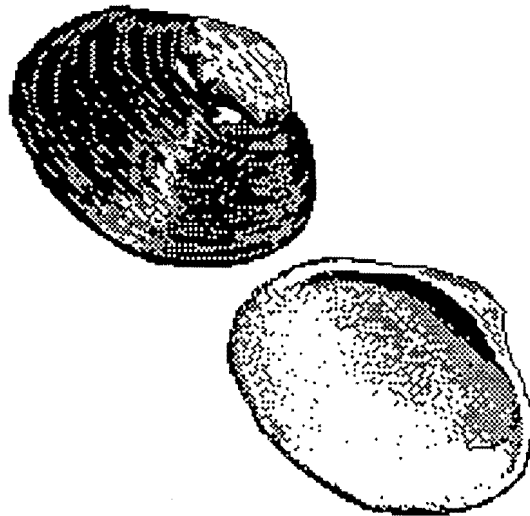


OREGON DEPARTMENT
OF
FISH AND WILDLIFE

BAY CLAM
DATA SERIES REPORT

1992



1992 BAY CLAM DATA SERIES REPORT

by

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1992 BAY CLAM DATA SERIES REPORT

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of our bay clam studies in 1992. Activities summarized include commercial clam fishery monitoring only. This report is presented as a series of tables with a minimum of discussion; other reports will evaluate the data presented here. The tables included give a historical overview of clam harvesting activities and are presented in a manner to allow future analysis to show trends of changes in stock status and fishing activities. This report is intended primarily to be an internal document, to be used as a reference by the shellfish staff.

Recreational clam digger interviews for 1992 were eliminated totally due to budgetary restraints for the first time since 1976. Lack of adequate funding and personnel forced the elimination of this valuable information source. We plan to attempt to reinstate part of this program with volunteer help in 1993.

COMMERCIAL CLAM HARVEST

We issued 115 permits to commercial fishermen to harvest bay clams in 1992 (Table 1). Twenty-nine fishermen reported landings of 62,044 lbs of clams. In 1991, 40 fishermen reported landings of 87,842 lbs. Cockle clams represented the bulk of the commercial catch in 1992 at 35,800 lbs (57.7%) (Table 2). Tillamook Bay was the major producer of bay clams in Oregon with 35,935 lbs (57.9%). The Yaquina, Umpqua and Coos estuaries followed in order producing 7,067, 6,095, and 5,986 lbs of clams in 1991 respectively (Table 3).

Increased harvest effort for native littlenecks and gapers resulted in a significant Yaquina Bay harvest level. Yaquina Bay yielded 7,067 lbs of clams in 1992 as compared to 1,013 lbs in 1991.

Table 1. Oregon commercial clam harvest in pounds, 1970-92.

Year	Harvest (lb)	# Diggers	# Landings	Ave. lb/landing	# Permits Issued
1970	25,884	40	258	100.3	0
1971	28,526	50	230	124.0	0
1972	61,523	37	354	174.8	0
1973	17,156	19	187	91.7	0
1974	16,315	23	182	39.6	0
1975	25,908	19	116	227.3	0
1976	88,054	7	97	946.8	0
1977	85,733	29	155	304.0	0
1978	216,926	15	218	943.2	0
1979	94,912	19	128	741.5	0
1980	80,467	36	176	442.1	0
1981	81,138	30	336	222.5	0
1982	134,105	46	538	245.3	0
1983	136,185	41	811	168.0	0
1984	120,574	30	704	171.3	0
1985	99,254	44	614	161.7	65
1986	82,829	36	664	124.7	65
1987	46,283	34	385	120.2	121
1988	44,696	28	258	173.2	136
1989	60,482	24	221	273.7	111
1990	72,756	38	384	189.5	92
1991	87,842	40	473	185.7	126
1992	62,044	29	410	151.3	115

Table 2. Summary of pounds of bay clams reported commercially harvested in Oregon by species, 1970-92.

Year	Butter	Cockle	Gaper	Littleneck	Softshell	Macoma	Total
1970	885	12,257	1,218	863	10,661	0	25,884
1971	217	9,391	10,345	639	7,714	220	28,526
1972	52	7,269	34,006	1,406	18,772	0	61,505
1973	95	5,756	185	9,771	1,349	0	17,156
1974	412	6,073	0	8,987	843	0	16,315
1975	0	6,855	15,024	4,311	360	0	26,550
1976	816	322	85,831	455	630	0	88,054
1977	607	859	81,775	232	1,366	894	85,733
1978	1,452	6,717	207,685	1,056	52	0	216,962
1979	606	2,299	91,028	0	979	0	94,912
1980	40	2,244	74,459	4,268	456	0	81,467
1981	2,409	4,580	68,508	4,892	749	0	81,138
1982	3,654	10,517	106,440	13,231	248	0	134,090
1983	4,035	2,579	95,091	34,444	36	0	136,185
1984	4,842	17,912	50,573	46,874	366	0	120,567
1985	1,646	29,412	20,121	46,266	1,809	0	99,254
1986	2,862	31,681	17,021	27,487	3,558	0	82,609
1987	3,046	20,202	6,368	14,140	2,527	0	46,283
1988	2,492	30,068	3,816	6,884	1,436	0	44,696
1989	3,806	44,344	5,164	6,032	1,136	0	60,482
1990	4,604	45,607	10,391	7,521	4,633	0	72,756
1991	3,690	58,282	8,660	8,708	9,215	0	87,842
1992	475	35,800	8,609	10,980	6,180	0	62,044

Table 3. Summary of pounds of bay clams reported commercially harvested in major Oregon estuaries, 1970-92.

Year	Nehalem	Tillamook	Netarts	Yaquina	Asea	Siuslaw	Umpqua	Coos	Coquille	Total
1970	258	7,819	2,210	444	0	0	10,631	4,522	0	25,884
1971	589	6,168	1,598	1,819	0	0	7,459	10,893	0	28,526
1972	80	9,637	914	57	70	0	6,105	44,642	0	61,505
1973	329	11,997	1,191	0	0	0	786	2,853	0	17,156
1974	882	9,309	2,049	398	0	0	445	3,232	0	16,315
1975	0	4,637	0	0	13	0	309	21,553	38	26,550
1976	0	998	0	0	480	0	0	86,576	0	88,054
1977	0	2,619	0	71,013	0	0	35	12,066	0	85,733
1978	0	3,111	0	172,047	0	0	0	41,804	0	216,962
1979	174	433	0	74,565	0	3,432	0	16,308	0	94,912
1980	373	5,320	486	244	0	9,109	0	65,935	0	81,467
1981	65	4,259	0	128	0	684	0	76,002	0	81,138
1982	10,862	11,501	37	15	0	223	25	111,427	0	134,090
1983	31,856	3,144	200	5,253	0	15	0	95,717	0	136,185
1984	23,069	42,663	0	22	0	50	0	54,763	0	120,567
1985	40,349	34,148	240	0	0	895	268	23,030	324	99,254
1986	30,545	28,737	480	6	0	1,206	0	19,557	2,078	82,609
1987	10,723	22,936	0	1,114	250	654	0	10,214	392	46,283
1988	0	34,450	0	1,153	230	1,200	28	7,086	549	44,696
1989	80	49,650	0	2,790	993	600	150	6,183	36	60,482
1990	5,810	47,198	0	1,543	410	0	3,432	14,363	0	72,756
1991	6,331	50,860	7,451	1,013	530	120	8,322	12,501	60	87,842
1992	4,597	35,935	879	7,067	1,398	0	6,095	5,986	87	62,044