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CALIFORNIA SHELLFISH IMPORTATION AND PLANTING REPORT
1973-1974 SEASON

Walter A. Dahlstrom
Marine Resources Region

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1973-1974 SEASON 1/

by

Walter A. Dahlstrom 2/

ABSTRACT

The amount of shellfish imported and planted in State waters is enumerated by species and compared with the previous season. Arrangements were made with the Washington State Department of Fisheries to inspect the bulk of the seed oysters originating in Washington State. One shipment of 1,330 cases of Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, seed was imported from Japan. Adult Eastern oysters, *Crassostrea virginica*, were inspected upon arrival in San Francisco. Experimental studies with seed from mortality resistant parents indicate good survival and growth.

1/ Marine Resources Administrative Report No. 75-1,
January 1975

2/ Marine Resources Region, Menlo Park

CALIFORNIA SHELLFISH IMPORTATION AND PLANTING REPORT
1973-1974 SEASON

Shellfish importations for planting in California waters during the period July 1, 1973 through June 30, 1974 included Pacific oyster, *Crassostrea gigas*, seed shipments equivalent to 6,823 and 1,705 standard cases from Quilcene and Poulsbo, Washington, respectively; 1,330 standard cases of Pacific oyster seed from Japan and 235 bushel sacks of adult Eastern oysters, *Crassostrea virginica*, from New York State.

WASHINGTON STATE SEED

Arrangements to inspect Pacific oyster seed from Washington State were again made with the Washington Department of Fisheries. Their biologists inspected 24 truckloads of seed totaling 40,940 six-foot strings and 2,820 meshed bags of seed. The seed was packed and shipped during the period February 13 to June 21. In addition, California Department of Fish and Game marine biologists inspected one truckload of 480 meshed bags of seed. The 40,940 six-foot strings of seed were equivalent to 6,823 standard cases and were set in Dabob Bay and Hood Canal, Washington. The seed in meshed bags, equivalent to 1,705 standard cases, was produced at the Sea Farms, Inc., hatchery at Poulsbo, Washington. Quality of the seed from all sources was good and the supply appeared to be adequate.

The total shipment of seed equivalent to 8,528 standard cases is approximately 1,000 cases less than the previous year when 9,520 standard cases were shipped from Washington State.

JAPANESE OYSTER SEED

A total of 1,330 standard cases of Pacific oyster seed from Japan was imported into California this season. These were packed by two different exporters. The first lot of 830 cases was produced by Takahashi at Watanoha. The second lot of 500 cases was produced at Hojima in Matsushima Bay by the Urato Association. Inspection in Japan was performed by Washington Department of Fisheries biologist Herb Tegelberg. The seed was shipped to Washington State and then trucked to California for planting in Drakes Estero.

NEW YORK STATE OYSTERS

Five shipments totaling 235 bushel sacks of adult Eastern oysters were inspected at San Francisco. These oysters were part of weekly shipments of shellfish from Greenport, New York. Planting certificates were issued and the oysters put into the waters of Tomales Bay.

MISCELLANEOUS SHELLFISH

Small shipments of shellfish from New York State included 51,800 northern quahog, *Mercenaria mercenaria*, seed; 200 quahog adults; 200 bay scallops, *Aequipecten irradians*; and 200 adult Eastern oysters.

From Washington State, shipments included 10,000 single Pacific oyster seed and 1,700 juvenile Japanese littleneck clams, *Ruditapes semidecussata*.

A total of 5,000 European flat oyster, *Ostrea edulis*, seed and 300 adults were imported from Carnac, France.

A shipment from Japan included 100 adult European flat oysters; 1,000 scallop, *Chlamys farreri nipponensis*, seed and 50 adult scallops; 100 scallop, *Patinoplectin yessoensis*, seed and 50 adult scallops; and 1,000 abalone, *Haliotis discus hannai*, seed and 50 adult abalone.

A shipment of 1,000 Pacific oyster seed on oyster and scallop shell was also sent to California from Newport, Oregon.

All the above shellfish were inspected for pests, and microscopic examinations for disease organisms were made on shellfish from new origins. No pests or disease organisms were found.

EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES

Additional plantings of Pacific oyster seed from the California Department of Fish and Game Marine Culture Laboratory near Monterey were made in Humboldt Bay during 1974. Observations of survival and growth are being made of the first and second generation stock from mortality resistant parents in relation to nearby commercial stock. Preliminary observations are encouraging.

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