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CALIFORNIA SHELLFISH IMPORTATION
AND PLANTING REPORT
1971-1972 SEASON

by

W. A. Dahlstrom

Marine Resources Region
Administrative Report 72-8

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CALIFORNIA SHELLFISH IMPORTATION

and
PLANTING REPORT 1/

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Shellfish importations for planting in California waters during the season July 1, 1971 through June 30, 1972 included 76,092 six foot strings (equivalent to 13,252 standard cases) of Pacific oyster seed and 528 bushels of adult Pacific oysters from Washington State; 350 standard cases of Pacific oyster seed and 100 standard cases of Kumamoto oyster seed from Japan; 1445 bushels of adult Eastern oysters from New York State; 10,000 pounds of chione clams from Mexico; and miscellaneous species of abalone, scallops and oysters totaling 2,828 individuals from Japan.

The Pacific oyster seed shipments from Washington State, equivalent to 13,252 standard cases, represented the largest total of seed ever shipped from Washington State or British Columbia. The previous high was last season when shipments equivalent to 5,808 standard cases were received (Table 1).

Pacific oyster seed and Kumamoto oyster seed from Japan totaling 450 standard cases represents the lowest number of cases imported over the past 20 years.

Eastern oyster shipments from Greenport, New York totaled 1,445 bushels. This was 390 bushels more than the total for the 1970-71 season.

WASHINGTON STATE SEED

Arrangements to inspect most of the Pacific oyster seed, Crassostrea gigas from Washington State were made with the Washington Department of Fisheries. Their biologists inspected 32 truckloads of seed totaling

1/ Prepared at Marine Resources Laboratory, Marine Resources Region,
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TABLE 1. Importation of Oysters for Planting in California Waters, 1952 to 1972

Species	Pacific Oyster Seed (Standard cases)		Pacific Oysters (Bushels)	Eastern Oysters (Bushels)				
	Japan	Wash.State Br.Columbia		New York State	Conn.	Del.	Md.	Va.
Origin								
Season								
1952-53	2,625			3,399				
1953-54	2,234			2,303				
1954-55	9,986			2,151				
1955-56	26,575			1,200	1,297			
1956-57	11,915	5,634		1,620		50		
1957-58	13,139	1,617		1,620		283		
1958-59	12,460	400		1,755		622		450
1959-60	7,987			1,179		100		
1960-61	9,155			893	882		417	
1961-62	8,650				914			
1962-63	11,024			500				
1963-64	10,625	25		1,090	1,010			
1964-65	7,627			1,598				
1965-66	1,180	3,024						
1966-67	9,328	1,735			2,067			
1967-68	10,330	2,601			2,028			
1968-69	11,119	2,164		1,004				
1969-70	3,184		979	1,204				
1970-71	4,851	5,088		2,654				
1971-72	450	13,252	528	1,055				
				1,445				

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63,922 six foot strings. This seed was packed and shipped during the period of February 9 to May 31. In addition, California Department of Fish and Game marine biologists inspected six truckloads totaling 12,170 six foot strings of seed and 528 bushels of adult oysters that were not inspected in Washington State. The seed was shipped from Hoods Canal and Purdy, Washington. The seed was originally caught in Dabob Bay, Washington. Quality of the seed was excellent and the supply was adequate.

JAPANESE OYSTER SEED

Inspection of the 350 and 100 standard cases of Pacific and Kumamoto seed oysters respectively was conducted by Washington Department of Fisheries biologist, Ron Westley. Arrangements were made with Mr. Westley to conduct the inspections in Japan. Mr. Westley inspected 4.7 percent of the Pacific seed oyster cases and 12.0 percent of Kumamoto cases. He found no pests. Packing and inspection took place at the Takahashi and Sawada sides at Watanoha.

Due to the excellent quality and abundance of seed produced in Washington State in recent years, the demand for Japanese seed by California and Washington buyers has decreased tremendously. The increased cost of Japanese seed appears to be another main factor for use of American seed. There has also been a heavy demand for Japanese seed by the French who are willing to pay the higher prices.

In addition to Pacific oyster seed, shipments from the Mohne Laboratory near Kessenuma, Japan totaled 1,515 adult and juvenile abalone, Haliotis discus hannai and H. gigantea, 1,253 scallops, Chlamys nipponensis, and 50 European flat oysters, Ostrea edulis. These shellfish were inspected for pests and disease at the Menlo Park Marine Resources Laboratory; no pests or diseases were found.

NEW YORK STATE OYSTERS

Three truckloads of adult Eastern oysters, Crassostrea virginica, totaling 1,445 bushels were trucked from New York State and put into the waters of Tomales Bay.

The first truckload of 500 bushels was inspected at the oyster company at Greenport, New York from October 26 to 28 by California Fish and Game biologist Nancy Nelson. Harvesting took place at Gardner's Bay, Bed #301. The truck arrived on November 2nd at Tomales Bay. Unloading and planting occurred during the same day.

Second and third truckload shipments of 480 and 465 bushels respectively were inspected by our biologist, Pat Collier at Greenport during the period from March 20 to 22. These oysters were from the East Marion #3 bed in Gardiner's Bay. The trucks arrived at Tomales Bay on March 25 and 28. Planting took place on March 27 and 28.

MEXICAN CLAMS

A shipment of 10,000 pounds of smooth chione clams, Chione fluctifraga, from Mexico was inspected by biologist, Jack Carlisle at Carlsbad Lagoon on December 20, 1971. These clams originated from El Golfo de Santa Clara near Sonora, Mexico.

EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES

Plantings of Pacific oyster seed from parents that have survived summer mortality in Humboldt Bay for the past 7 years or more, have been made in Humboldt and Tomales Bays and also Drakes Estero. This seed was produced at the California Department of Fish and Game Marine Culture Laboratory at Granite Canyon near Monterey. Data will be obtained in regard to survival and growth. Initial observations are very encouraging.

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