

State of California
THE RESOURCES AGENCY
Department of Fish and Game

CALIFORNIA SHELLFISH IMPORTATION AND PLANTING REPORT
1972-1973 SEASON

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Marine Resources Region

MARINE RESOURCES

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CALIFORNIA SHELLFISH IMPORTATION AND PLANTING REPORT
1972-1973 SEASON 1/

by

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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. Only 121 standard cases of Pacific oyster seed were imported from Japan. Adult Eastern oysters were inspected upon arrival in San Francisco. Two shipments of chione clams from Mexico were inspected at Carlsbad Lagoon. Experimental studies with seed from mortality resistant parents indicate good survival and growth.

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- 1/ Marine Resources Administrative Report No. 74-2
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- 2/ Marine Resources Region, Menlo Park

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Shellfish importations for planting in California waters during the season July 1, 1972 through June 30, 1973 included 55,993 six-foot strings (equivalent to 9,520 standard cases) of Pacific oyster seed from Washington State; 121 standard cases of Kumamoto oyster seed from Japan; 130 bushels of adult Eastern oysters from New York State; and 26,000 pounds of chione clams from Mexico.

The Pacific oyster seed shipments from Washington State, equivalent to 9,520 standard cases, represented the second highest total of seed ever shipped from Washington State or British Columbia. Last season seed equivalent to 13,252 standard cases was a record high.

No Pacific seed oysters originating from Miyagi Prefecture were imported from Japan. The only seed oysters from Japan were 121 standard cases of Kumamoto seed. Eastern oyster shipments from Greenport, New York totaled 130 bushels. Last season 1,445 bushels were imported.

WASHINGTON STATE SEED

Arrangements to inspect the Pacific oyster seed, *Crassostrea gigas*, from Washington State were again made with the Washington Department of Fisheries. Their biologists inspected 19 truckloads of seed totaling 44,990 six-foot strings. The seed was packed and shipped during the period of February 27 to April 21. In addition, California Department of Fish and Game marine biologists inspected eight truckloads totaling 11,003 six-foot strings of seed. The seed, set in Dabob Bay, was shipped from Hood Canal and Purdy, Washington. Quality of the seed was good and the supply appeared to be adequate.

JAPANESE OYSTER SEED

Only 121 standard cases of seed oysters from Japan were imported into California this season. These were Kumamoto seed oysters inspected in Japan by Washington Department of Fisheries biologist Herb Tegelberg. The seed was shipped to Washington State and then sent by truck to California for planting in Humboldt Bay.

NEW YORK STATE OYSTERS

Inspection of 130 bushels of adult Eastern oysters from three separate shipments took place at San Francisco. These oysters were part of weekly shipments of shellfish from Greenport, New York. No pests were found in the shipments. Planting certificates were issued and the oysters were put in the waters of Tomales Bay.

MEXICAN CLAMS

Two shipments totaling 26,000 pounds of smooth chione clams, *Chione fluctifraga*, from Mexico were inspected by biologist Malcolm Oliphant at Carlsbad Lagoon during July 1973. These clams originated from the Colorado River Delta area in the Gulf of California.

EXPERIMENTAL STUDIES

Additional plantings of Pacific oyster seed from the California Department of Fish and Game Marine Culture Laboratory near Monterey were made during October 1973. This seed, designated as F₂ stock from the first generation (F₁) of mortality resistant parents, was planted in Drakes Estero. Observation of previous plantings of seed (F₁) from mortality resistant spawning stock indicates good growth and survival. This seed which was produced in March, April and September 1972 was

planted in Drakes Estero, Tomales Bay and Humboldt Bay. Most of the oysters from these plantings have now reached harvestable size and are less than two years old.

Production of additional seed for planting in Humboldt Bay is planned for January.

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