

INSHORE AND SHELL FISHERIES SESSION

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Diseases Of Oysters And Their Relation To The Gulf Coast Oyster Industry

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*Abstract

STUDIES OF DISEASE OF OYSTERS caused by *Dermocystidium marinum* Mackin, Owen, and Collier, have shown it to be lethal to oysters, and incidence of infection in Marataria Bay, Louisiana, and environs is sufficiently high to rank the disease as a major agency in destruction of oysters in that region. In areas where it occurs *Thais floridana* probably influences oyster populations to a greater extent than does *D. marinum*. A phase of the studies, that of analysis of pathogenesis, shows widespread destruction of tissues of all major organ systems by lytic action of the fungus cells. Since other relatively little studied diseases of oysters exist on the Gulf coast, it is suggested that further research on disease may be highly profitable.

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