OYSTER SURVEY OF THE ST. JOSEPH SOUND AREA

By W. T. KING

	STATION	DATE	TIME	TIDE	MOON PHASE	WATER °C	WATER °/oo	DEPTH	BOTTOM	REMARKS
1.	N.Point Honeymoon Island	1-2-64	1018	S.L.	F.M.	11.7 11.5	33.5 33.7	6'	Sand	Non-productive area. No evidence of past production observed.
2.	Grassy Key	1-2-64	1135	S.L.	F.M.	11.8 11.8	33.1 33.2	4'	Sand	Small isolated clumps of stunted coon oysters were observed along the North and West Shore. Heavy mortality of approximately 90% was noted. No oysters of Commercial size and quality were observed. No evidence of past Commercial production noted.
3.	W.Causeway Bridge	1-2-64	1211	S.L.	F.M.	12.2 11.8	34.0 34.4	10'	Sand	A large dredge was observed pumping fill from submerged land on the Northeast side of the Bridge to the South end of Honeymoon Island. Piling and other objects placed in the water during construction of Bridge and Causeway within the past three years supported no oyster growth.
4.	Hurricane Pass	1-2-64	1248	S.L.	F.M.	11.8 11.5	32.0 32.0	4'	Sand	Non-productive area. No evidence of past production observed.
5.	E.Causeway Bridge	1-2-64	1300	F.	F.M.	12.0 11.7	29.9 30.4	17'	Sand	A limited number of stunted coon oysters was observed on rocks along both sides of the Causeway East of the Bridge. The Bridge piling supported no oyster growth.

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6. E. Center Side Caladesi Island	1-2-64	1434	F.	F.M.	12.5 12.5	34.8 34.8	3'	Mud Shell Sand	A physical examination was made of the exposed oyster growing area between the Intracoastal Waterway Channel and the East side of Caladesi Island during a low spring tide. This area is not exposed at normal tide cycles and is the only locality supporting Commercial production and has produced approximately 1,000 bushels of high quality cupped oysters 3 to 7 inches long during the 1963-64 season. Commercial harvesting in this area was discontinued due to depletion of limited production. Observations made during the months of July, August, September and October revealed no appreciable change in quality. According to Mr. George Saunders, owner and operator of the Dunedin Fish Company, this Area produced no oysters prior to 1959. Nothing is known about the spawning habits of these oysters. A series of experimental stations and a year-round study of Hydrographic conditions should be established in order that a more complete analysis of the potential production can be made. The Slipper Snail Crepidula fornicata was observed in large numbers on the South half of the growing area but none were found on the North side. The Conchs Thais haemostoma floridana and Melongena corona were numerous throughout the area. The Stone Crab Menippe mercenaria and Horseshoe Crab Limulus polyphemus were also observed. No other pests, including the Boring sponge Cliona sp. were noted. A heavy set of live oysters 1/4 to 2 inches on live and dead shell was observed, approximately 80% being attached to the lower side. Mortality of Commercial size oysters was approximately 90%. The waters of the south half of the growing area was closed for the taking of shellfish by the Pinellas County Health Department.

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7. Smith's Bayou	1-8-64	1210	S.L.	L.Q.	21.1 21.2	32.0 32.4	7'	Mud	A limited number of both Commercial size oysters 3 to 5 inches and coon oysters supported by boat shed and dock pilings were observed. Coon oysters were healthy. Commercial oysters were fat with new growth ½ to 2 inches. No pests were observed. Mortality: approximately 5%.
8. Sutherland's Bayou	1-8-64	1250	S.L.	L.Q.	21.0 21.0	27.5 27.5	2'	Sand Mud	No oysters of Commercial size and quality were observed. Several large coon bars consisted of stunted oysters. Numerous crown conchs Thais haemastoma floridana were noted throughout the Bayou. Mortality was approximately 25%. No evidence of area having been Commercially Productive.
9. Seaside Pt.	1-8-64	1311	S.L.	L.Q.	18.5 19.0	30.1 31.1	5'	Sand Mud	Non-productive area. No evidence of past production noted.
10. Boiling Springs	1-8-64	1326	S.L.	L.Q.	18.5 19.0	27.0 25.1	20'	Mud	Non-productive area. No evidence of past production noted.
11. Channel Marker #28	1-8-64	1343	S.L.	L.Q.	12.0 11.0	31.8 33.2	18'	Sand	Non-productive area. No evidence of past production observed.
12. Channel Marker #36	1-8-64	1401	S.L.	L.Q.	16.0 15.5	35.7 36.4	15'	Sand	Non-productive area. No evidence of past production noted.
13. McKay Creek, Bridge on Indian Rocks Rd	1-9-64	1314	S.L.	L.Q.	20.0 18.8	5.7 29.6	3'	Mud Sand	Non-productive are. No evidence of past production noted.

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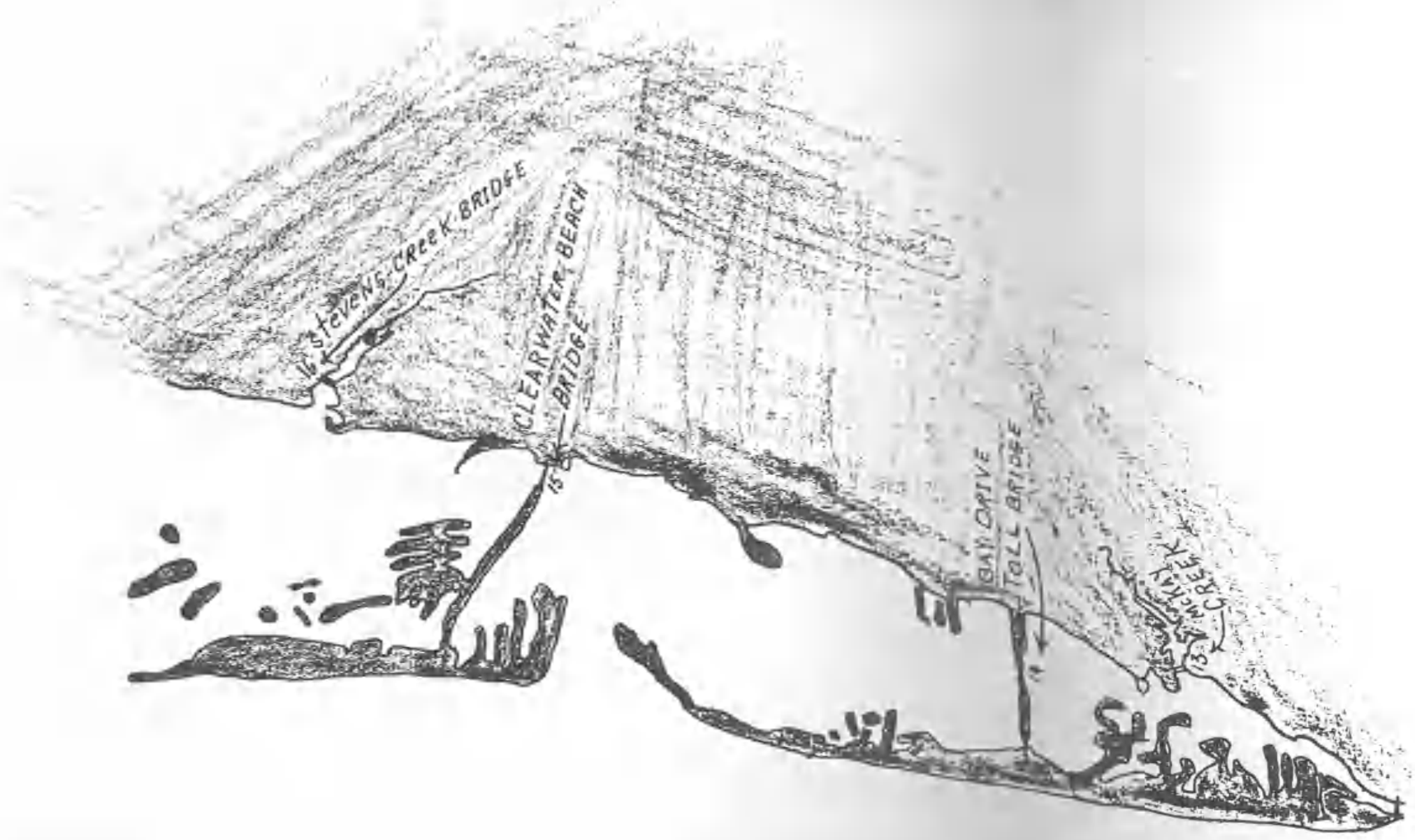
14. Bay Drive Toll Bridge	1-9-64	1350	F	L.Q.	18.5 19.0	28.3 28.7	5'	Sand	Small clusters of stunted coon oysters on two small bars and on rock and seawall were observed. No oysters of Commercial size and quality were noted. No evidence of past Commercial production observed.
15. Clearwater Beach Bridge	1-9-64	1425	F	L.Q.	17.0 17.0	31.3 31.3	6'	Mud Sand	Non-productive area. No evidence of past production noted.
16. Stevens Creek Bridge on Alt. 19.	1-9-64	1442	F	L.Q.	20.0 18.5	18.6 32.1	8'	Mud Sand	Non-productive area. No evidence of past production observed.
17. Curlew Creek Bridge	1-9-64	1515	F	L.Q.	20.0 19.7	17.2 29.5	4'	Mud	Non-productive area. No evidence of past production noted.

WALL SPRINGS
CRYSTAL BEACH
SUTHERLANDS BAYOU
PALM HARBOR
OZONA
SMITH'S BAYOU
CURLEW CREEK BRIDGE
BOWLING SPRINGS
E. CAUSEWAY BRIDGE
ST. JOSEPH SOUND
CHANNEL MARKER # 36
CHANNEL MARKER # 28
GRASSEY KEY
W. CAUSEWAY BRIDGE
NORTH POINT
HURRICANE PASS
CALADESI ISLAND
HONEY-MOON ISLAND
GULF OF MEXICO


STEVENS CREEK BRIDGE
CLEARWATER BEACH
BRIDGE
BAY DRIVE
TOLL BRIDGE
McMAY CREEK
GULF OF MEXICO