
Virginia Marine Resource Bulletin

Virginia Sea Grant

4-9-1970

Marine Resource Information Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 3

Virginia Sea Grant

Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wm.edu/vimsmrb>



Part of the [Aquaculture and Fisheries Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Virginia Sea Grant and Virginia Institute of Marine Science, "Marine Resource Information Bulletin Vol. 2, No. 3" (1970). *Virginia Marine Resource Bulletin*. 129.

<https://scholarworks.wm.edu/vimsmrb/129>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Virginia Sea Grant at W&M ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Virginia Marine Resource Bulletin by an authorized administrator of W&M ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@wm.edu.

MARINE RESOURCE INFORMATION

BRITISH VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE

Vol. 2 No. 3

April 9, 1970

OYSTER MEATS QUALITY INDEX
(From Public Rocks)
March 1970

By
Dexter Haven
Department of Applied Biology
Division of Applied Marine Science and Ocean Engineering

(Stations are listed by river, proceeding upstream)

	Dec. 1969	Feb. 1970	Mar. 1970
JAMES RIVER			
Nansemond Ridge	5.0	6.8	6.1
Brown Shoals	5.0	6.4	5.3
White Shoals	6.1	7.2	6.1
Gun Rock			7.1
Wreck Shoals			
shallow	7.4	8.1	7.6
deep	4.9	7.6	6.5
Point of Shoals	5.6	8.1	7.9
Horsehead	4.6	4.7	4.8
Deepwater Shoals	5.6	5.7	5.4

YORK RIVER

Green Rock	6.6	7.2	6.3
Pages Rock	6.4	7.3	5.8
Aberdeen Rock	7.0	7.1	5.5
Bells Rock			
deep	7.8	8.4	7.6
shallow		12.4	10.1

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER

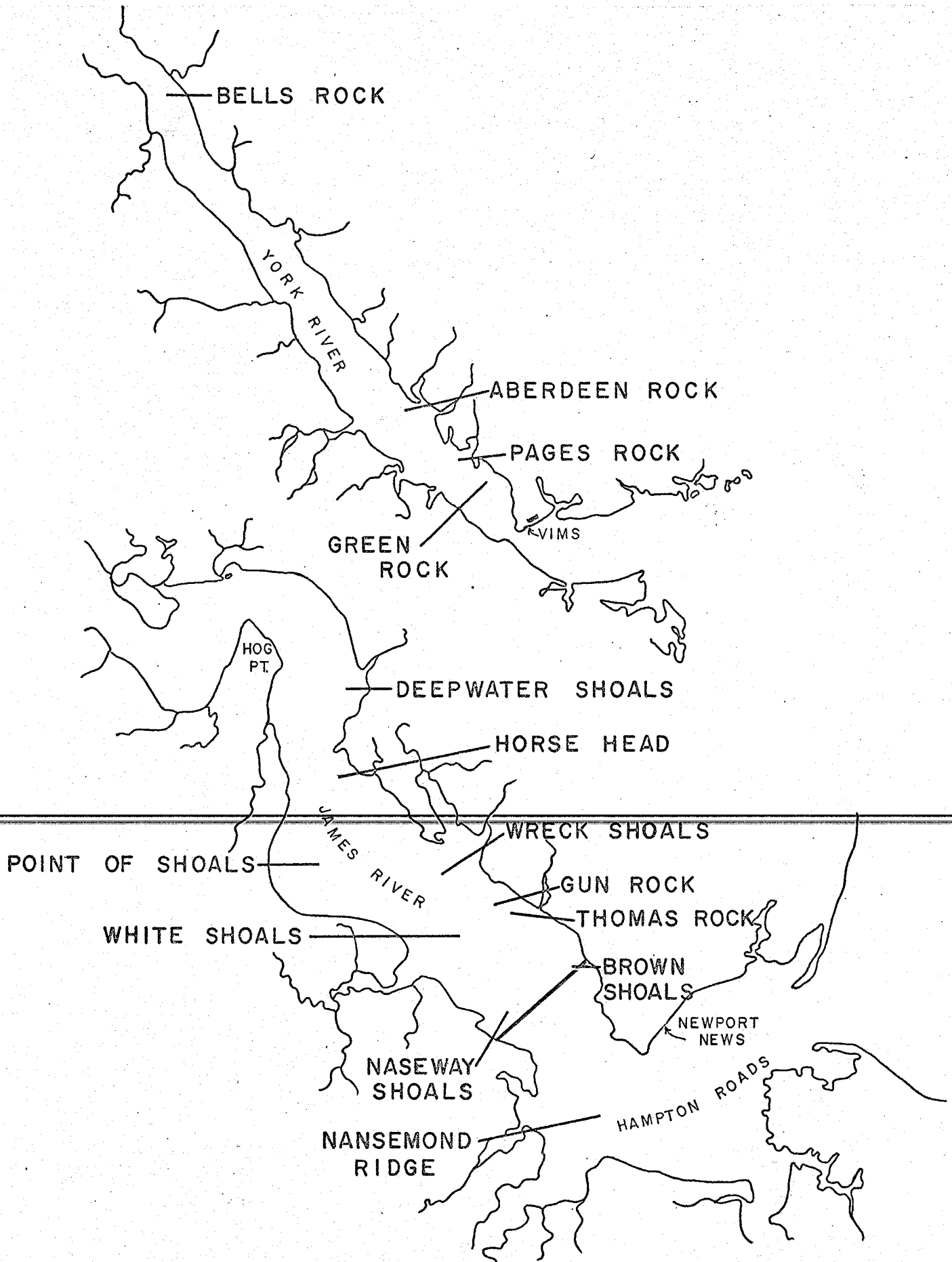
Drummond Ground	10.3		9.2
Urbanna	13.2	12.5	12.6
Smokey Point			
shallow	10.2	11.7	10.8
deep	8.6	8.9	9.0
Morattico Bar			
shallow	11.7	11.9	10.4
deep	11.1	11.2	9.3
Bowlers Rock			
shallow	13.8	12.2	11.7
deep	11.6	10.3	10.7
Ross Rock	10.8		

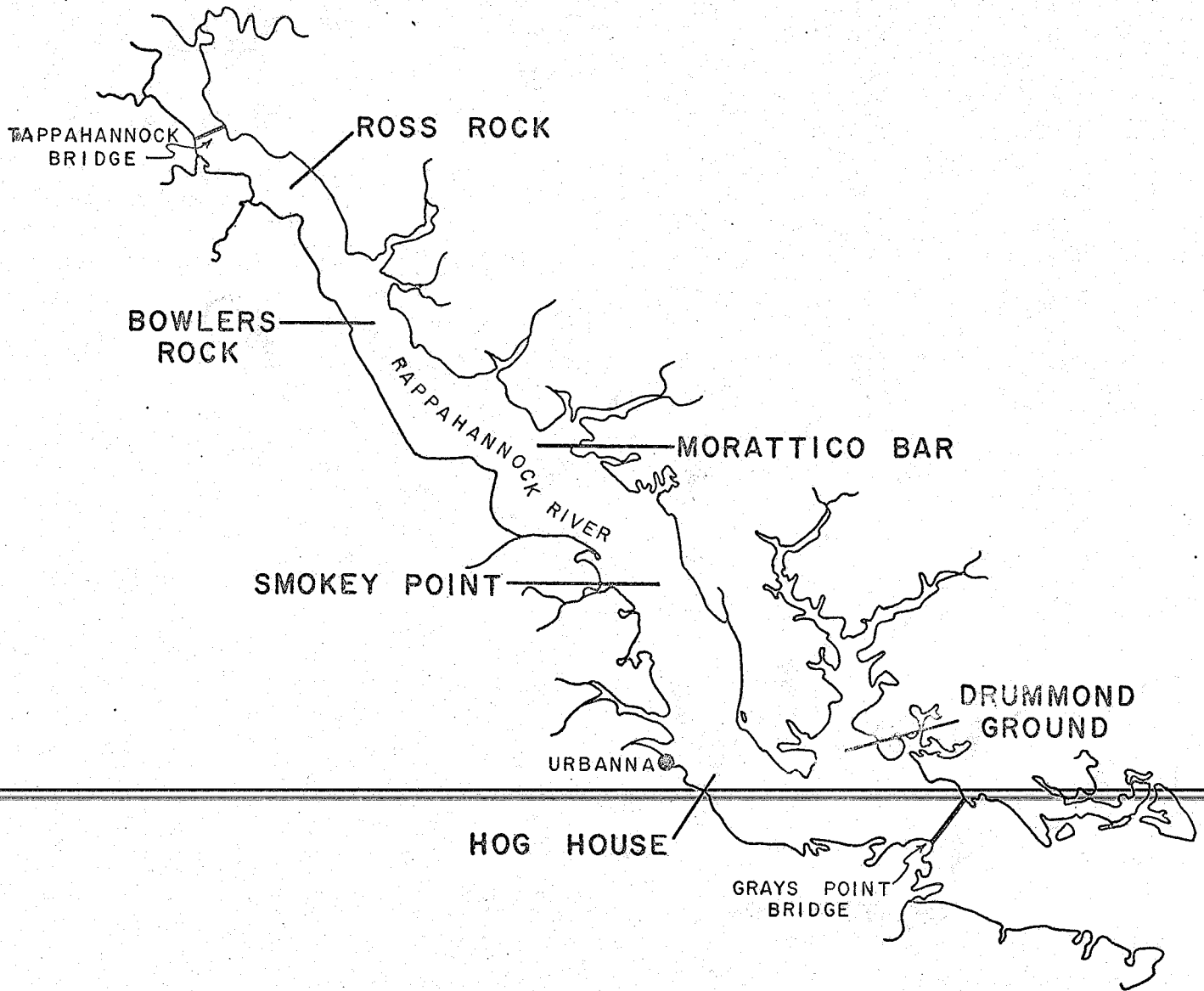
Key To Index Numbers

3.0 to 5.5 = POOR
5.6 to 7.5 = FAIR
7.6 and above = GOOD

Explanation

The Index number is obtained by comparing the actual size of oyster meats with the amount of space inside an oyster's shell cavity. For oysters with the same shell size (for example, three-inch shucking oysters) the Index indicates relative differences in meat size due to season, type of growing area, age, disease, nutrition, crowding and other natural factors. The Index does not reflect yield differences caused by the amount of clumping in a particular bushel or caused by processing methods. The higher the index number, the greater the amount and quality of meats that can be expected from a bushel of oysters. Whether an oyster is small or large has no effect on the index number because meats of small oysters can fill shell cavities as completely as meats of large oysters. Using the Index, one can compare the potential meat yield of oysters of the same size 1) from different growing areas and 2) from one season to the next. (A more detailed explanation of the Index is available upon request)





Survey of Oyster and Clam Work Boats
in Virginia and the Potomac

27 March 1970

by
Dexter Haven and Paul Kendall
Department of Applied Biology
Division of Applied Marine Science and Ocean Engineering

On 27 March an aerial survey of most of the oyster-producing areas of Virginia was conducted. The locations surveyed along with the results are contained on the attached sheets.

The results can be summarized by river system as follows:

River System	Total number
Potomac River	
Maryland waters	23
Virginia waters	5
Rappahannock and Piankatank rivers and Milford Haven	45
York and Poquoson rivers and Mobjack Bay	28
James, Nansemond and Back rivers and Hampton Roads	109

The total number of boats working in the Virginia waters surveyed was 187.

Eight buy boats are included in the above figures.

The day was sunny and partly cloudy, and visibility was good; temperature in the morning was about 40°. Wind was out of the northwest and was enough to raise white caps in exposed places and to create swells in the Bay and at the mouths of the Potomac and the Rappahannock.

Report of Oyster and Clam Boat Count Made 3/27/70

Location	hand tongler	patent tongler	dredger	tongler or dredger (a)	
Chesapeake Bay, Fort Wool to Cape Henry					
East of Fort Wool	0	2	0	0	
off Ocean View Park	0	1	0	0	
Hampton Roads					
Hampton Flats	0	0	0	1	
Nansemond River					
Nansemond Ridge (above Town Pt bridge not observed)	2	0	0	0	
Pagen River below Battery Park (above Battery Park not observed)	0	0	0	0	
James River					
at center of bridge, south side	3	0	0	0	
Brown Shoal, at bridge	1	0	0	0	
below White Shoal	0	0	0	0	1 buy
White Shoal light	2	0	0	0	boat
Gun rock	3	0	0	0	
Blunt Pt rock	11	0	0	0	
above White Shoal	3	0	0	0	
Days Pt	9	0	0	0	
Wreck Shoal	15	0	0	0	
Pt of Shoal	14	0	0	0	
inshore of Pt of Shoal	1	0	0	0	
Long Shoal	8	0	0	0	
Marshy Island rock	8	0	0	0	
Horsehead	2	0	0	0	
opposite Horsehead	2	0	0	0	
Total for James River	92	0	0	0	1 buy boat
Back River					
inside Northend Pt	2	0	0	0	
Chesapeake Bay, between Old Pt Comfort & Guinea Marshes					
Drum Is. Flats, off Plumtree Pt	1	6	0	0	
Drum Is. Flats, off Drum Pt	1	0	0	0	

(a) Probably an oyster or clam boat; distance was too great to distinguish type.

Location	hand tongler	patent tongler	dredger	tongler or dredger (a)	
Off York Pt	0	4	0	0	
Off Tue Pt	0	3	0	0	
below Guinea Marshes	0	2	0	0	
Total between Old Pt Comfort & Guinea Marshes	2	15	0	0	
York River					
just below Coleman Bridge	0	2	0	0	
just above Coleman Bridge	1	6	0	0	
Pages rock light	0	0	0	1	
Allmonds Wharf	0	0	1	0	
opposite Allmonds Wharf	0	0	0	1	
in Poropotank Bay	0	0	1	0	
opposite Poropotank Bay	0	0	1	2	
Bell rock light	0	0	0	2	
Total for York River	1	8	3	6	
Mobjack Bay					
East River					
off Tabbs Cr	0	0	1	0	
(above Weston Cr not observed)					
North River					
below Lone Pt	0	0	0	0	
(above Lone Pt not observed)					
Ware River					
below Schley	0	0	0	0	
(above Schley not observed)					
Severn River					
below Stump Pt	0	0	0	0	
(above Stump Pt not observed)					
Total for Mobjack Bay area	0	0	1	0	
Milford Haven					
inside Sandy Pt	3	0	0	0	
Piankatank River					
Godfrey Bay	2	0	0	0	
(above Iron Pt not observed)					
Rappahannock River					
below Mosquito Pt	1	0	0	0	
off Sturgeon Cr	1	0	0	0	
above Parrot Island	1	0	0	0	
opposite mouth of Corrotoman	0	0	0	0	1 buy
Hog House	6	0	0	0	boat
above Hog House	0	0	0	0	1 buy
off Weeks Cr	3	0	0	0	boat

Location	hand tongler	patent tongler	dredger	tongler or dredger (a)	
Smoky Pt	2	0	0	0	
off Waterview	4	0	0	0	
above The Punchbowl	3	0	0	0	
opposite Morattico	2	0	0	0	1 buy
at mouth of Morattico & Lancaster Creeks	0	0	4	0	boat (planting)
below Farnham Cr	1	0	0	0	
opposite Farnham Cr	0	0	1	0	
Sharps	0	0	1	0	
Suggets Pt	0	0	2	0	
opposite Suggetts Pt	0	0	3	0	
Neals Pt	0	0	1	0	
above Totusky Cr	0	0	1	0	
Total for Rappahannock River	24	0	13	0	3 buy boats
Corrotoman River below Ball Pt (above Ball Pt not observed)	0	0	0	0	
Great Wicomico River, below Sandy Pt (above Sandy Pt not observed)	0	0	0	0	
Little Wicomico River, below Ferry (above Ferry not observed)	0	0	0	0	
Potomac River					
mouth of River (b)	0	0	0	0	1 buy
above Piney Pt (b)	0	0	0	1	boat
Dukeharts Chan (b)	0	0	0	4	
St Catherine Sound (b)	0	0	0	4	
mouth of Wicomico River (b)	0	0	0	10	
off Ragged Pt (b)	0	0	0	0	3 buy
Total for Potomac River					boats
Virginia waters	0	0	0	0	
Maryland waters	0	0	0	19	4 buy boats
Lower Machodoc Cr					
Coles Pt (above Glebe Pt not observed)	0	0	0	1	
Yeocomico River					
in mouth (above Horn Pt not observed)	1	0	0	0	

(b) Maryland waters.

Location	hand tonger	patent tonger	dredger	tonger or dredger (a)
Coan River Walnut Pt (above Walnut Pt not observed)	3	0	0	0
Eastern Shore, Bay Side below Occohannock Cr (above Occohannock Cr not observed)	0	0	0	0
(Eastern Shore, Sea Side not observed)				

MARINE RESOURCE INFORMATION BULLETINS are prepared and distributed by the Information and Education Department, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point, Virginia 23062, as part of a Sea Grant Advisory Services, Project under P.L. 89-688. Bulletins are mailed to persons in the seafood industry as well as to others using or managing the sea for profit or service. Purpose is to inform on matters relating to use, development, and replenishment of marine resources, including scientific studies, technological advances, legislation and problems. Copies of Bulletins are available free of charge. Anyone wishing to receive Bulletins regularly should write in care of the Institute. References to trade names of commercial products do not imply endorsement by VIMS.

Dr. William J. Hargis, Jr., VIMS Director. Robert S. Bailey, Head, Information and Education Department. Editorial staff: Lawrence W. Mason, Managing Editor. Jane Davis and Kay B. Stubblefield, Illustrators. Rose Marie Horsley and Becky Ashe, Typists.

