

GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION



DAVE DONALDSON

69th Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
Annual Meeting

Portland, OR

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GULF OF MEXICO OYSTER FISHERY

It is not clear when the commercial fishery for oysters in the Gulf began but directed management efforts are recorded back to the late 19th century

The Gulf oyster fishery utilize tongs or dredges to harvest oysters from both public and private grounds



GULF OF MEXICO OYSTER FISHERY

The Atlantic coast provided the majority of the country's oysters until the mid-1950s

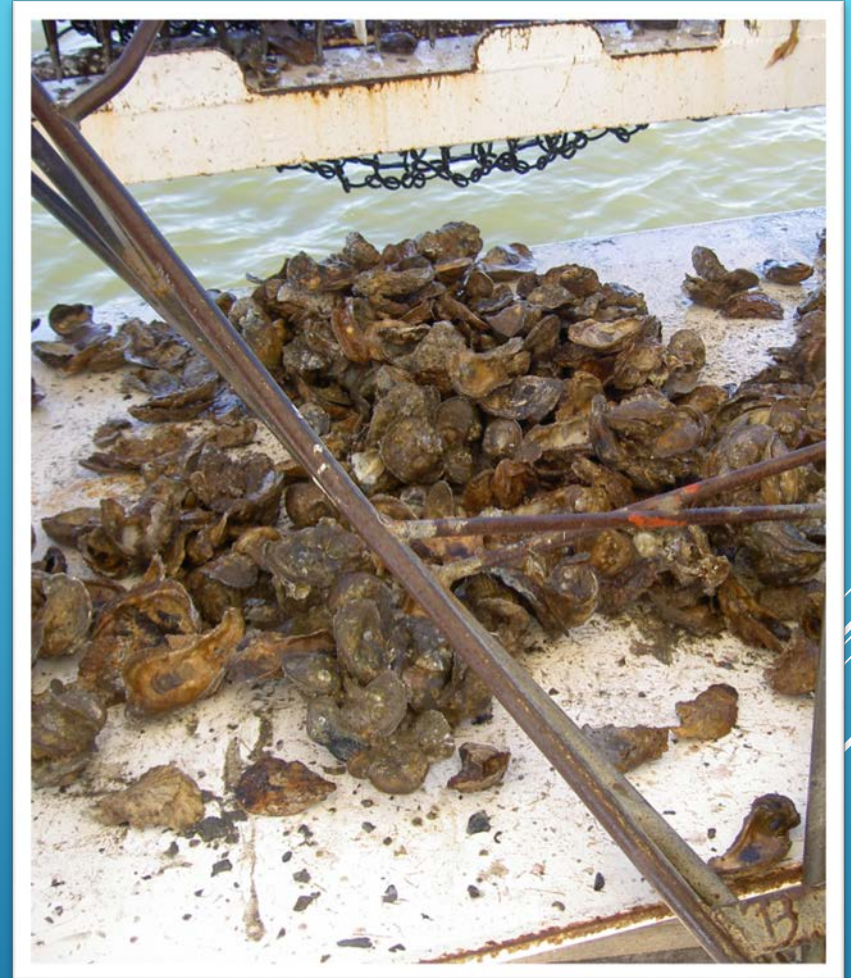
Gulf share of U.S. oyster production averaged about 40% until 1980

The Gulf contribution increased to 60% through the mid-1990s and represented 80-90% of the total U.S. production until the hurricanes of 2004 and 2005

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Since 2013, Gulf oyster production has been down in nearly every state with a total U.S. contribution declining to around 70%

Due to excessive freshwater and flooding and periodic drought



OYSTER AQUACULTURE

Due to recent decline in oyster industry – looking at alternative approaches

Gulf State Directors came out West coast to talk with industry leaders

Meeting with the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association





OYSTER AQUACULTURE

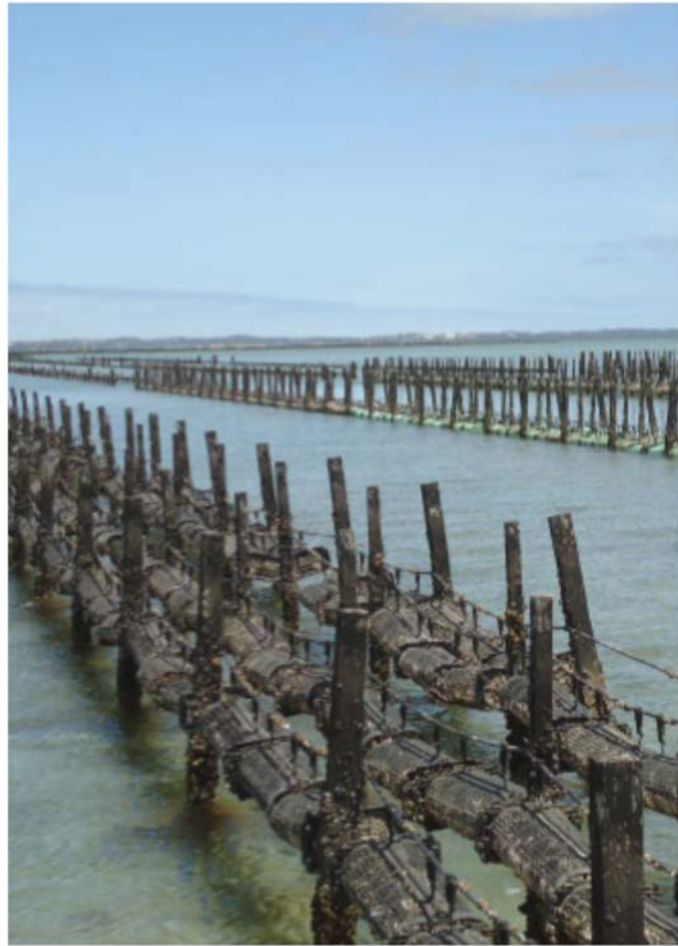
As well as visiting several sites

Chelsea Farms

Taylor Shellfish

Hama Hama Oyster

KK Chew Restoration Center



OYSTER AQUACULTURE

To learn about process and determine its applicability to the Gulf of Mexico

This approach has been successful in other areas and we are hopeful it can be successful in the Gulf

QUESTIONS

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