

PRESENT - MEMBERS: Commissioners J. Clifford Hutt, Richard E. Lankford, Lawrence O. Hayden, Milton T. Hickman, William P. Hunt. (Absent Mr. Roy E. Julie, Jr.)

OFFICERS: Robert M. Norris, Jr., Executive Secretary;  
K. Thomas Everngam, Legal Officer.

VISITORS: Messrs. Charles R. Bagnell, Repletion Officer and E. Ralph Dameron, Supervisor, Marine REsources Commission of Virginia; Lt. Paul C. WEntzell, of Maryland Marine Police; Robert J. Rubleman, Gordon P. Hallock and Frank L. Hamons, of Fish and Wildlife Administration of Maryland; Miss Isobel Gough, Mrs. Jackie Shinn, Samuel Sullivan, Horton P. Bidrne and John Frye, Press Members; Sam Bailey, Sr., M. M. Cook, James V. Clements, William E. Newton, James E. Clements, Louis M. Thompson, Jr., Sam Bailey, Jr., John F. Brown, Jr., James T. Russell, Robert M. Rollins, James S. Lathroum, Billy Morris, George L. Beitzell, Bobby Pilkerton, Joseph A. Thompson, Sr., Herman W. Dixon, James W. Dutton, Joan L. Bowling, Joseph T. Russell.

Mr. Hutt, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. (EST). A motion was offered and seconded that the Minutes of the meeting held September 18, 1970, copies of which had been previously mailed to each Commissioner, be approved. Motion was approved.

After explaining reasons for such action, Mr. Hutt directed that approval by telephone poll of each Commissioner for an extension of time of two weeks from and including November 2nd through 4th, and 9th through 11th, for soft shell clamming in the area between Cuckolds Creek and Swan Point, be noted in these Minutes. Mr. Hutt reported that the harvest of clams from this area was 9065 bushels of clams, representing 398 boat days harvest effort, amounting to a dockside value of \$52,123.75 for the seven (three day) weeks the area was open. Lt. Wentzell said that the Maryland Marine Police inspectors, who were constantly in the clamming area when clamming operations were taking place, reported that no oysters were seen and that no violations of the PRFC Regulations occurred. Mr. Hutt said that one telephone report of heavy deposits of dead clams washing up on shore in the Cuckolds Creek area, following a heavy wind, had been received from Mr. Samuel Bowling, Secretary of the Charles County Watermen's Association, and that he, Lt. Wentzell, Robert M. Norris, Jr. and Virginia Inspector W. H. Webb had met on the shore the following morning and had personally checked out the report in the presence of Mr. Bowling and several other persons from Charles County, but could find only one bushel, or less, of either live or dead clams. He also noted that a letter of complaint about the clamming operation was received from Judge Roscoe Parker, in that the clamming boats had worked too close inshore, but that this was not supported by the logs of the Inspectors, who had constantly supervised the operation. However, he added that any future operations of this type should have the inshore line of the area more fully marked with buoys than was done near Cuckolds Creek. Mr. Hutt praised the clammers for their cooperation in observing the regulations and ground rules, and the Maryland Marine Police for their constant patrol in this area. Mr. Gordon Hallock, of the clam promotion department of Maryland, supported Mr. Hutt's remarks and also thanked the PRFC for their action in making this area available for harvesting this resource; he emphasized that new areas for clamming are needed.

Mr. Hickman complimented the Chairman, Legal Officer, Marine Police, and Executive Secretary for the prompt and successful action in investigating and responding to any complaints.

Mr. Norris reported that letters of warning of non-compliance with PRFC Regulations had been sent to owners of several stands of stake gill net poles reported at last meeting as remaining in the river beyond the maximum time allowed following discontinuing fishing, and that the owners had been requested to remove said poles. He said that several had complied with request and the remainder still had several days in which to remove the stakes according to the terms of the notices.

Mr. Norris said that, through a telephone call, he had determined that in reply to a recent letter sent the U. S. Corps of Engineers that a public hearing would be announced for December 1970 on application of Potomac Sand and Gravel Company for a permit to dredge sand and gravel in the Potomac River between Sycamore and Hallowing Points. Our letter had requested the Corps, that if the permit is issued, that Potomac Sand and Gravel Company's dredging operations be prohibited during the months of April and May of each year to protect this spawning

area for shad and striped bass. The Commission requested that in case of such a hearing that our scientific advisors be asked to be present and represent the interests of the Commission in this matter.

The Executive Secretary reported that the renewal, as of 10-8-70, of our "Monies and Securities" policy (\$2500 inside or outside of premises) now includes a \$100 deductible clause and that the annual premium rate has been increased by \$25 to a total of \$116.00.

A report was distributed indicating the total harvest of oysters from 10-1-70 through 11-13-70 to be 101,933 bushels, a decrease of 87,875 bushels from same period last year. The report indicated little difference in number of tonging and buying licenses issued compared to last year; however, the statistics on number of boats and men working in the river for the above period indicates that many of the licensees are working in other areas of Maryland and Virginia due to increased populations of oysters in other areas.

A statement of funds on hand and in banks was read by Mr. Hutt showing a total of \$245,602.80, as of November 18, 1970. He said that the substantial part of these funds are budgeted for repletion efforts in spring of 1971 and are currently invested in interest bearing accounts.

A motion was offered and seconded approving itemized disbursements for month of September 1970 totaling \$4,648.80 and for October 1970 totaling \$5,452.15. Motion was approved.

Mr. Norris said that a small seed oyster planting operation was in progress and to date 3,548 bushels had been planted on a ten acre plot in the 1967 Hog Island shell planting. These 1970 seed struck on shells in 1/2 bushel wire bags and come from the Great Wicomico River in Virginia. An estimated 7000-8000 bushels will be the total purchased and planted.

The joint report of the Maryland-Virginia Auditors for the fiscal year July 1, 1969 through June 30, 1970 was presented, and it was noted that no criticisms were included. A motion was offered, seconded and approved acknowledging and accepting this report.

A proposal for opening a second soft shell clamming area opposite Cobb Island was presented by Mr. Frank L. Hamons, of the Maryland and Fish and Wildlife Administration. He said a recent survey shows an estimated harvestable population of clams of at least 100 bushels per acre on an area encompassing 327 acres, and that the area does not contain any harvestable population of oysters; that only in a few isolated spots do oysters occur, and the most anywhere in this area amount to 2.7 bushels per acre. A full discussion of this proposal ensued with visitors, as well as others, offering comments, suggestions, and recommendations with some for and some against opening this area.

At 11:18 a.m. the Commission recessed to convene in executive session. Mr. Hutt invited all persons to remain and return to the open session to follow. The executive session opened at 11:28 a.m. After discussion of proposed clamming area, a motion was offered and seconded as follows:

"That the proposed area be opened for soft shell clamming by hydraulic dredging for a period of five (5) weeks, four (4) days each week Monday through Thursday starting November 30, 1970 and ending Thursday, December 31, 1970 during the hours 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and that there be no extension of this time after or following 12-31-70; that a straight inshore line of area, as proposed by Mr. Hamons, be moved further offshore to be at least 900 feet from Cobb Island shore at all points; that the lower end be moved up river a distance of 600 feet above Mr. Hamons' suggested line, and that the inside line be well marked with buoys, and that the corners, end lines and outside line also be adequately marked with buoys; that the Maryland Marine Police officers monitor the area at all times that it is open for clamming; if circumstances dictate, and by telephone poll the Chairman determines that the Commission is agreeable, that Fridays within the above specified period may be added as working days for clamming." The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was offered, seconded and unanimously approved that a copy of Mr. Hamons' report and recommendation be made a part of these Minutes by being attached hereto.

At 12:15 p.m. the executive session was adjourned, the meeting was re-convened, and Press Members and visitors were invited to return to the meeting. Mr. Hutt outlined to the group in full detail the results and particulars of the decision.

The Commission set the next meeting for Friday, January 22, 1971 at 9:30 a.m. (EST) at Colonial Beach, Virginia.

At 12:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

  
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J. Clifford Hutt, Chairman

  
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Richard E. Lankford, Secretary

NOTES: (1) Minus Sign (-) should be read as "less than" sample.  
(2) (X) through Bu/Acre columns indicates Blank Sample.  
(3) (---) through Bu/Acre columns indicates Incomplete Sample.

Charles County  
Potomac River, Cobb Island  
June - July

BLANK SHELL

Station No.	Depth	Date Taken	Clams		Oysters		Type of Bottom	Debris	Quantity	% Oyster		cinder	General Remarks
			(bu/Acre)	Market-Submarket-Total	(bu/Acre)	Market-submarket-total				Clam(Mya)	buried		

Sample Area  
Cobb Island,  
Cobb Island bar  
to H.O.B.

20	3.0'	6/4/70	0	-15	-15	0	0	0	Hard, Sand on clay	None	Few	5 95	(0) (M)	100	0	-----
19	3.5'	6/4/70	X	X	X	X	X	X	Hard, Sand on clay	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	-----
18	4.0'	6/4/70	73	-15	73+	0	0	0	Hard, Sand on clay	Stone, Gravel few	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	-----
17	4.0'	6/4/70	-15	-15	-15	0	0	0	Medium, Sand on clay	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	-----
16	3.5'	6/4/70	-15	-15	-15	0	0	0	Hard, Sand on clay	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	-----
15	3.5'	6/4/70	-15	-15	-15	0	0	0	Hard, Sand on clay	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	-----
14	3.5'	6/4/70	-15	-15	-15	0	0	0	Hard, Sand on clay	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	-----
13	3.5'	6/4/70	-15	-15	-15	0	0	0	Hard Clay	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	----- Very hard bottom
12	4.0'	6/4/70	-	-	-	-	-	-	Hard Clay	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	----- Dredge unable to penetrate bottom properly
11	4.5'	6/4/70	15	0	15	0	0	0	Hard Clay	Stone, Gravel few	Few	5 95	(0) (M)	100	0	-----
10	4.5'	6/4/70	152	-15	152+	0	0	0	Hard Clay	Stone, Gravel few	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	-----
9	4.5'	6/4/70	436	-15	436+	0	0	0	Hard Clay	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	----- Few Rangia
8	5.0'	6/4/70	276	15	281	0	0	0	Hard, Sand on clay	Stone, Gravel few	Few	10 90	(0) (M)	100	0	----- Very hard to dredge
7	5.0'	6/4/70	319	-15	319+	0	0	0	Hard Clay	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	----- Very hard to dredge with 45 P.S.I.
6	5.0'	6/4/70	138	-15	138+	0	0	0	Hard, Sand on clay	Gravel few	Few	50 50	(0) (M)	100	0	----- Few Rangia

BLANK SHELL

Sample Area	Station No.	Depth	Date Taken	Clams (bu/Acre)		Oysters (bu/Acre)		Type of Bottom	Debris	Quantity	% Oyster		buried	cinder	General Remarks		
				Market-Submarket-Total	Market-Submarket-Total	Market-Submarket-Total	Market-Submarket-Total				% Clam (Mya)	% Oyster (Mya)					
Sample Area ebb Island, ebb Island bar o N.O.B.	5	5.0'	6/4/70	160	29	189	0	0	0	Hard Sand	Stone, Gravel few	Few	50 50	(O) (M)	100	0	
	4	5.0'	6/4/70	44	-15	44+	0	0	0	Medium Sand	Gravel few	Moderate	60 40	(O) (M)	100	0	Few Rangia
	3	5.0'	6/4/70	-15	-15	-15	0	0	0	Hard Sand	Gravel few	Abundant	95 5	(O) (M)	70	0	Few Rangia
	2	5.5'	6/4/70	203	37	240	0	0	0	Hard Sand	Gravel few	Moderate	80 20	(O) (M)	90	0	Missed 50% Mya in heavy shell
	1	8.0'	6/4/70	-15	0	-15	0	0	0	Medium, Sand on clay	Gravel few	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	Few Rangia
	44	3.0'	6/11/70	36	0	36	0	0	0	Hard Sand	Gravel few	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	
	43	3.5'	6/11/70	58	-15	58+	0	0	0	Hard Sand	Gravel few	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	
	42	4.0'	6/11/70	73	0	73	0	0	0	Hard Sand	Stone, Gravel few	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	
	41	4.0'	6/11/70	29	-15	29+	0	0	0	Hard Sand	Stone, Gravel few	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	
	40	4.0'	6/11/70	22	-15	22+	0	0	0	Hard Sand	None	Few-Mod.	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	
	39	5.0'	6/11/70	-15	0	-15	0	0	0	Hard Sand	Gravel few	Few	5 95	(O) (M)	100	0	
	38	7.5'	6/11/70	-15	0	-15	0	0	0	Medium, Sand	Stone, Gravel few	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	
	37	7.0'	6/11/70	537	174	711	-15	0	-15	Hard Sand on clay	Stone, Gravel few	Few	2 98	(O) (M)	100	0	Missed 40% Mya
	36	7.0'	6/11/70	247	29	276	0	0	0	Hard Sand on clay	Stone, few	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	Missed unknown quantity Mya
	35	7.0'	6/11/70	174	-15	174+	0	0	0	Hard Clay	Stone, Gravel few	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	Missed unknown quantity Mya
	34	7.0'	6/11/70	407	-15	407+	0	0	0	Hard Sand on clay	Stone, Gravel few	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	Missed unknown quantity Mya

Station No.	Depth	Date Taken	Clams (bu/Acre)		Oysters (bu/Acre)		Type of Bottom	Debris	% Oyster		General Remarks					
			Market-Submarket-Total	Market-submarket-total	Quantity	% Clam (Lysa)			buried	cinder						
Sample Area																
23	7.0'	6/11/70	334	-15	334+	0	0	0	Hard Sand on clay	Stone few	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	Missed 20% Lysa
32	7.0'	6/11/70	116	15	131	0	-15	-15	Hard Sand on clay	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	Bottom very difficult to dig in. 60% effluence;
31	8.0'	6/11/70	29	-15	29+	0	0	0	Hard Sand on clay	Stone, Gravel moderate	Few	5 95	(0) (M)	100	-	-
30	7.0'	6/4/70	145	-15	145+	0	0	0	Hard Sand on clay	None	Mod-Abundant	95 5	(0) (M)	100	-	Missed 20% Lysa in shell
29	7.0'	6/4/70	145	-15	145+	0	0	0	Hard Sand on clay	Stone, Gravel few	Mod-Abundant	75 25	(0) (M)	100	-	Missed 30% Lysa in shell
28	7.0'	6/4/70	73	109	182	0	0	0	Hard Sand on clay	Stone, Gravel few	Abundant	99 1	(0) (M)	90	-	Missed unknown quantity Lysa in shell
27	8.0'	6/4/70	87	131	218	0	0	0	Hard Sand on clay	Stone, Gravel few	Abundant	99 1	(0) (M)	95	-	Missed 60% Lysa in shell
26	8.0'	6/4/70	102	152	254	0	0	0	Hard Sand on clay	Stone, Gravel few	Abundant	98 2	(0) (M)	100	-	Missed 50% Lysa in shell
25	9.0'	6/4/70	73	145	218	0	0	0	Hard Sand on clay	Stone, Gravel few	Abundant	98 2	(0) (M)	100	-	Missed 50-60% Lysa in heavy shell
24	10.0'	6/4/70	-15	-15	-15	0	0	0	Hard Sand	None	Few	5 95	(0) (M)	100	-	-
23	10.0'	6/4/70	X	X	X	X	X	X	Hard Sand	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	-
22	10.0'	6/4/70	X	X	X	X	X	X	Hard Sand	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	-
21	10.0'	6/4/70	0	-15	-15	0	0	0	Hard Sand on clay	None	Few	5 95	(0) (M)	100	-	-
53	6.0'	7/1/70	73	-15	73+	0	0	0	Hard Sand	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	-
54	6.0'	7/1/70	44	-15	44+	0	0	0	Hard Sand	None	Few	0 100	(0) (M)	-	-	-
55	8.5'	7/1/70	15	-15	15+	0	0	0	Hard Sand	None	Moderate	5 95	(0) (M)	100	-	-

NOTE: (1) Minus sign (-) should be read as "Less Than"  
(2) (X) through Bu/Acre columns indicates Blank Sample.  
(3) (---) through Bu/Acre columns indicates Incomplete Sample.

Charles County  
Potomac River, Cobb Island  
June - July

BLANK SHELL

Sample Area	Station No.	Depth	Date Taken	(bu/Acre)		(bu/Acre)		Type of Bottom	Debris	Quantity	% Oyster % Clam(Mya)		buried	cinder	General Remarks			
				Market-Submarket-Total	Market-Submarket-Total	Market-Submarket-Total	Market-Submarket-Total											
Sample Area Cobb Island Cobb Island bar to H.O.B.	56	8.0'	7/1/70	102	-15	102+	0	0	0	Soft Sand	None	Few	98 2	(O) (M)	100	-	0	-----
	57	8.0'	7/1/70	15	102	117	0	0	0	Hard Sand	None	Mod.	100 0	(O) (M)	95	-	0	Area sanded in, missed 75% Mya in shell
	58	9.0'	7/1/70	87	58	145	-15	0	-15	Medium Sand	None	Mod.	98 2	(O) (M)	95	-	0	Missed 75% Mya in heavy shell
	59	10.0'	7/1/70	145	73	218	0	0	0	Medium Sand	None	Mod.	90 10	(O) (M)	98	-	0	-----
	45	10.0'	6/11/70	X	X	X	X	X	X	Medium Clay	None	Few	5 95	(O) (M)	100	-	0	Some very small Mya falling through dredge
	46	11.0'	6/11/70	X	X	X	X	X	X	Soft Sand on clay	None	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	-	Very small Mya falling through dredge
	47	5.0'	6/11/70	51	-15	51+	0	0	0	Medium Sand	None	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	-	-----
	48	4.5'	6/11/70	102	-15	102+	0	0	0	Medium Sand	None	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	-	-----
	49	5.0'	6/11/70	87	-15	87+	0	0	0	Medium Sand on clay	None	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	-	-----
	52	6.0'	7/1/70	36	-15	36+	0	0	0	Medium Sand	None	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	-	Few Rangia
51	6.5'	7/1/70	65	-15	65+	0	0	0	Medium Sand	None	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	-	Few Rangia, Tegulus	
50	8.5'	7/1/70	73	-15	73+	0	0	0	Medium Sand	None	Few	0 100	(O) (M)	-	-	-	Few Rangia, Tegulus	

Charles County Survey  
Potomac River, Cobb Island  
August - 1970

Given out by  
Frank Hammons  
at public hearing  
mon. Aug 17<sup>th</sup>

Lick # 1 - Started at Heale Sound Light  
10'

1300' drag using 22" dredge

15% - Market oysters

2% - Small oysters

2% - Blank Shell

Total sample 19% bu.

2.75 bu/acre market oysters

.32 bu/acre small oysters

Lick # 2

12'

1500' drag using 22" dredge

3% - Market oysters

0% - Small oysters

1% - Blank Shell

Total sample 4% bu.

0.48 bu/acre market oysters

Lick # 3

12'

1500' drag using 22" dredge

5.5% - Market oysters

0% - Smalls

2% - Blank Shell

Total sample 7.5% bu.

0.87 bu/acre market oysters

Lick # 4

19'

900' drag using 22" dredge

35% - Market oysters

0% - Small oysters

25% - Blank Shell

Total sample 60% bu.

Dredge filled up quickly in 19' of water.

9.25 bu/acre, inaccurate as dredge filled  
early. This is oyster bottom.



Lick # 5

14'

500' drag using 22" dredge

23 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' - Market oysters

0 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' - Small oysters

6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' - Blank Shell

Total sample 29 $\frac{1}{2}$  bu.

10.95 bu/acre

Lick # 6

10-14'

1250' drag using 22" dredge

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' - Market oysters

0 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' - Small oysters

0 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' - Blank Shell

Total sample 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  bu.

0.19 bu/acre

Lick # 7

13'

1350' drag using 22" dredge

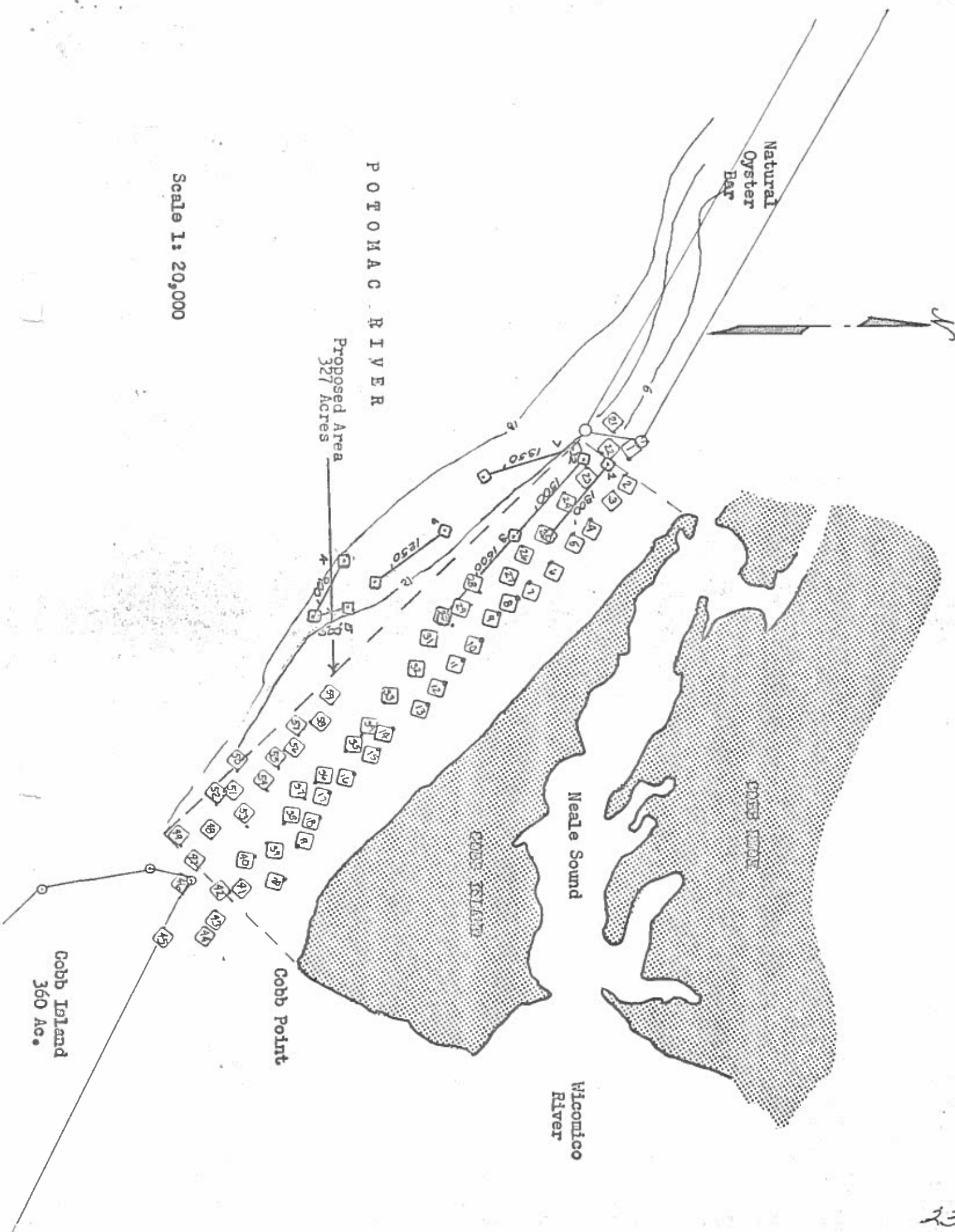
4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' - Market oysters

0 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' - Small oysters

0 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' - Blank Shell

Total sample 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  bu.

0.71 bu/acre



POTOMAC RIVER

Proposed Area  
327 Acres

Natural  
Oyster  
Bar

Neale Sound

Wilcomico  
River

Cobb Point

Cobb Island  
360 Ac.

Scale 1: 20,000