

INVESTIGATION OF PROPOSED DIKE CONSTRUCTION
IN COOS BAY AT EASTSIDE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON
Special Report # 11
August 3, 1949

Public notice was posted July 14, 1949 by the Army Engineers of application by the Evan's Products Co., Coos Bay, Oregon, for a permit to dredge and construct a dike in Coos Bay at Eastside, Coos County, Oregon. Notices for investigation by this laboratory was subsequently received and the examination of said area for any shellfish populations present took place July 22, 1949 on a -0.2 foot tide.

The accompanying map shows the proposed work area (shaded). Observations of the area showed that the log boom, some 100 yards wide and 1000 yards long, had torn up the ground beneath it destroying any clam population that might have been present previously.

Just south of the log boom, extending further inland and bordered by bunch grass and occasional clam (eastern soft-shell, Mya arenaria) was found in small mud pockets, but all were small and digging hazardous due to the knee deep mud.

On the east side of this "semi-peninsula" (see map) runs the South Coos River Channel and Catching Slough, the former, according to available data and talk with local residents, has "large" eastern clam beds on the easternmost islands and east shore line.

Southwest of the log boom area on east side of Isthmus Slough (see map) a small population of eastern clams was found. Three counts made on this bed showed the clams to be averaging 38.5 mm in length and 6.2 clams per 100 square feet. Both of these figures are extremely low even when compared to only a fair bed of eastern clams (Yaquina Bay near Toledo - 100 mm in length, 30 clams per 100 square feet). The bed was approximately 1200 feet by 100 feet, mostly very soft mud, and little dug. Beneath the layer of mud (6") a layer of sand-mud-wood shavings-chips was found.

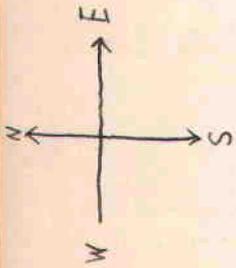
Conclusion:

The only clam present in numbers in this part of the bay is the eastern soft-shell clam.

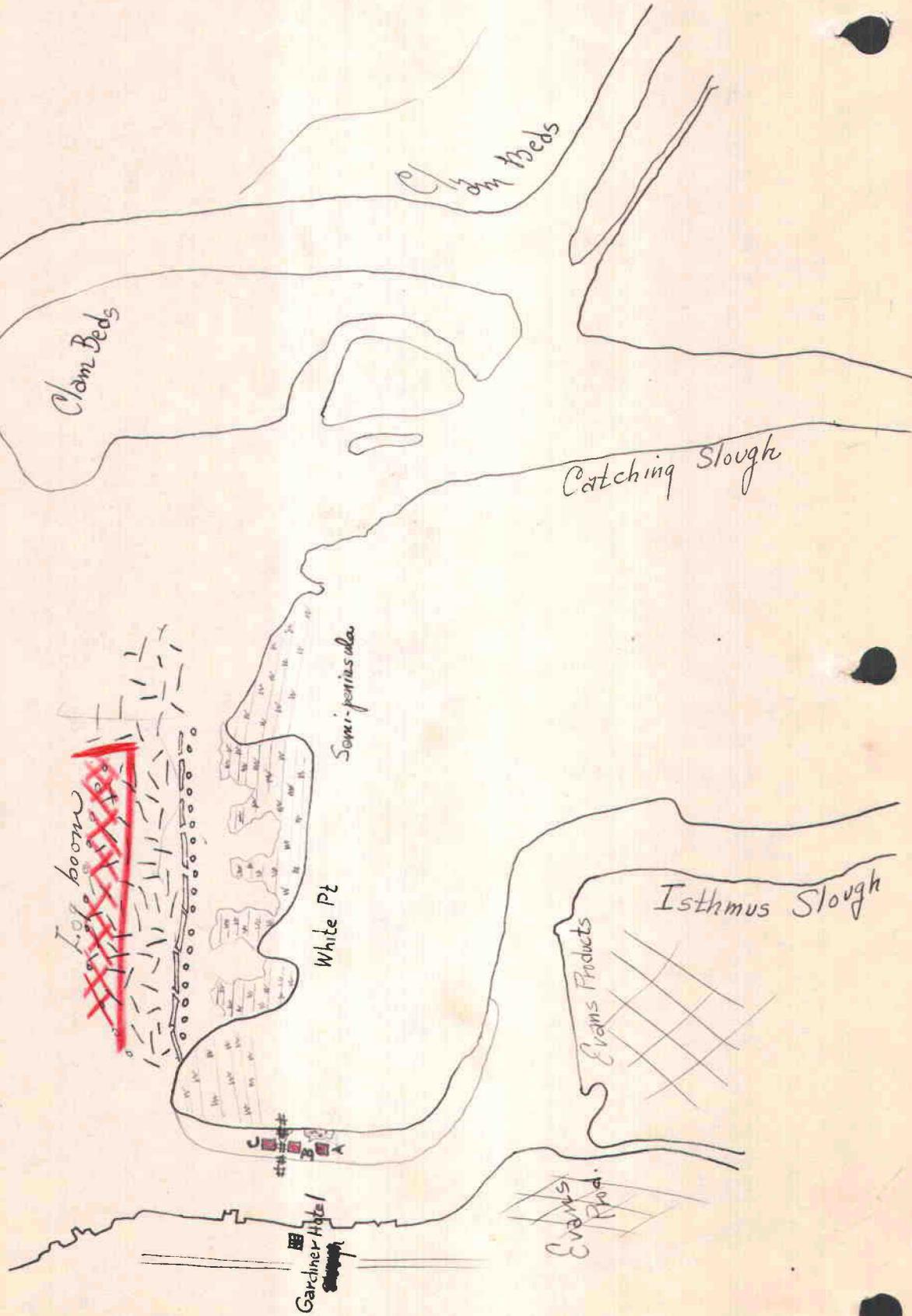
If any clam beds were present in this area they have been destroyed previous to this investigation.

Assuming the construction and dredging stays within the boundaries defined in the public notice there will be no damage to the shellfish population of this area. The construction and dredging is therefore unopposed by this laboratory.

July 22, 1949



Proposed
Red = Dredge Area



DRD

Survey Report on the Site of the proposed Dike Construction for the Evans Products Company, Coes Bay.

The survey was made between 8 A.M. and 11:30 A.M. on a 6:30, minus 0.2 tide the morning of July 22, 1949.

Observations of the area showed that the log boom, some 100 yds. wide and perhaps $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile long, had completely torn up the ground beneath it, and though, at one time there may have been a clam population (Easterns) here, present conditions would completely eliminate the possibilities of there being one now.

Just above the log boom in some small mud pockets, extending further inland and bordered by bunch grass, an occasional clam was found but all were small and digging was hazardous, as often a boot went so deep as to prefer the mud rather ^{than} the leg.

On the East side of the semi-peninsula off of which the log boom lies, runs the South Coes River Channel and Catchings Slough, the former of which, according to available data here and talk with local residents, has large Eastern beds on the easternmost islands and east shore side. See map enclosed.

On the west side of the semi peninsula runs Isthmus Slough, and it is here, almost directly east of, but on the boom side of the channel from, the Gardiner Hotel, that I found and took counts on a small population of Eastern clams. The area is continuously exposed to pollutants such as weed wastes (chips, bark, etc) algal scums which thrive in the stale muck environment, plus a miscellaneous assortment of legs, cans, bottles etc. Chemical pollutants can only be assumed. The substratum consisted of soft mud for app. 6", followed by a dense layer of sand and mud, predominated by weed shavings and bark chips.

All clams taken were small, averaging 39.50mm, the smallest being 28mm and the largest 72mm. The range was 44mm. All were dug at a depth of app. 6". The following counts were made-----

	Size	Area	E. Clams.
Plot A Designated on Map -----	20X20	400sq. ft.	43 10.8
Plot B " -----	"	"	13 3.3
Plot C " -----	"	"	18 4.5
			18.6

All counts were actual dig-outs.

The area counted was app. 400 yds long and 100 ft. wide. Very little of it was accessible due to softness of the mud and undoubtedly it is never dug.

After consulting the Engineer of the Evans Products Company it was pointed out to me that the dredging would occur within their log boom, and the dike would be constructed along the inside edge of the boom with the dredge material. Therefore it must be concluded that this project, as outlined to me, will not be detrimental to shell fish of the area if confined to the grounds within or immediately adjacent to the log boom as it now rests.