

THE HISTORY OF THE YAQUINA BAY OYSTER
According to Proffessor Dimick O S U
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The first recorded use of the native oyster would be from mounts of oyster shells found from the mouth of the river to Boones' Point. These, of course, showed that indians made use of the oysters.

The native oysters were first discovered by White men by Captain Collins sometime between January 28 and March 1852. His boat was the schooner, Juliet. James J. Winant was the founder of the commercial oyster industry at Yaquina Bay. From 1862 to the early 1890's Captain Winant operated several sail schooners from Yaquina to San Francisco. Names of the schooners were: Anna Doyle in early '60's, Sarah Louise 1864, Anna Eliger 1868, Louisa Sumpson 1872, Mischief 1890.

The settlement on Yaquina Bay apparently resulted from oystering. However, sixteen years after the beginning of commercial oystering, native oysters began to decline. In 1878 Captain Winant introduced eastern oysters in this bay. Some seemed to reproduce. He put two barrels at the mouth of Pooles Slough.

Apparently a period of non-oystering just previous to 1882 did not result in a sustained annual crop of native oysters. In an article printed in 1895, "a heavy freshet in Yaquina Bay some years ago nearly exterminated the oyster beds". Since that time the 18 men in the business had small returns for their labors.

In 1923 Oregon Oyster Company purchased the oystering rights on the private bed and leased the natural grounds.

Browns Flats			Lyman's Eddy		
J. C. Huntsucker	\$200	Rachel King	\$665	Carl Knulson	\$570
V. D. Boone	\$400	L. D. Emerson	\$150	Geo. Lewis	\$200
Joe J. Shermer	\$750	S. J. Shermer	\$750	D. C. Miller	\$285
M. G. Shermer	\$750	Burl King	\$237	V. D. Boone	\$400
Henry Shermer	\$750				

Record of early oyster production

1888 - 4,125 Bushels	1895 - 1,480 Bushels
1889 - 1,666 Bushels	1897 - 1,406 Sacks
1890 - 1,470 Bushels	1900 - 568 Sacks