

# **A PARTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF OYSTER CULTCH MATERIALS AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**

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## **A Partial Bibliography of Oyster Cultch Materials and Resource Management Projects**

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**RON DUGAS\*, RICK LEARD\*\* AND MARK BERRIGAN\*\*\***

Since the early 1960s, the oyster industry in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico has relied heavily on the dredging of clam shell, Rangia cuneata, to provide replacement cultch for oyster reefs. These shells were used primarily because they were cheaper than other materials and available in larger quantities. Rangia shells were primarily dredged from Mobile Bay, Alabama, and Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana. Environmental and ecological concerns caused the closure of Mobile Bay to such dredging in 1982, and operations were halted in Lake Pontchartrain in 1990, thus ending the production of Rangia shells in quantities suitable for cultch replacement projects.

Without Rangia shells, the states and the oyster industry are facing a severe problem, namely the lack of a low-cost source of cultch material that is effective at catching and retaining oyster spat. This problem is compounded by reductions in funding for resource management programs of the states and habitat losses that have resulted in the recent decline in productivity on many reefs in the north central gulf.

The states and the oyster industry are now faced with the challenge of finding an alternative source of cultch in order to maintain production. To assist in this effort, the authors have developed the following partial bibliography of past research efforts. This bibliography primarily focuses on research and management projects dealing with the use of various cultch materials and planting methods. It also includes citations of past management projects. Although some works have probably been overlooked, it is hoped that this listing will provide assistance to states, the oyster industry and to other researchers that attempt to solve this problem by identifying previous work, thus avoiding duplication of efforts. We do hope this will be a beneficial effort, and the following is our up-to-date bibliography.

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