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## Spawning And Setting Of Oysters In Apalachicola Bay, Florida

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\*Abstract

OYSTERS SPAWN more or less continuously from the latter part of March until the last week in October in Apalachicola Bay. The peak of spawning is not observed until the water temperature has reached at least 26.5°C. and possibly 28.0°C. At any rate, the critical temperature for mass spawning is higher than 25.0°C., previously accepted as the highest critical temperature for this function in oysters.

Poor quality of oysters was not found to be detrimental to the production of spat.

In some areas spat-fall was so heavy that cultch planting operations would have to be synchronized to avoid the peaks rather than coincide with them as is the practice in northern waters.

"Coon oyster" bars, of presumably no value commercially (except as the source of seed), are capable of heavy spat-fall production. They should therefore be protected, even from the taking of too many seed oysters.

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