

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Chairman—**DAVID A. WALLACE**, Director, Oyster Institute of North America, Annapolis, Md.

Winter Growth of the American Oyster *Crassostrea virginica* in Apalachicola Bay, Florida

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***Abstract**

It has previously been established that the American oyster grows only during the summer months in northern waters, and that growth in general is approximately an inch a year.

In Florida, growth is continuous throughout the year and, in optimum ecological circumstances, is greatly accelerated. For instance, this study revealed an average growth (under favorable circumstances) of 2.7 inches during the period of June 6, 1949 to February 21, 1950. In the period September 9, 1949 to March 3, 1950, largest oysters (average size: 3 inches) grew one inch, or to an average size of four inches.

Because of its rapid and continuous growth, the Florida oyster holds great potential for scientific cultivation and exploitation.

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