

MAJOR SHELLFISH CULTURE (EXCLUDING OYSTERS) IN KOREA

by

Kim, Kyun Hyun

Propagation Section, Fisheries Bureau,
Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry, Seoul, Korea

ABSTRACT

The paper lists the major species of commercial shellfish except oysters, briefly indicating governmental policy towards development and tabulate production 1958-1961.

1. Kinds of Major Shellfish Produced in Korea

There are approximately 520 kinds of shellfish produced along the Korean Coasts, such as pelecypods, gastropods, loricates and scaphopods. In this connection, however, the most important species are oyster, short-necked clam, hard clam, cockle and sea mussel, from the standpoint of commercial value.

2. Distribution of Major Shellfish

The tidal flats cover approximately 660,000 ha. on the west and south seashores. Shellfish are mostly distributed along the intertidal areas of the coasts, but to some extent, the distribution differs according to the kind of shellfish.

a. Short-necked clam (*Venerupis semidecussata*)

There are two kinds of short-necked clam, *Venerupis semidecussata* and *variegata*, and these shellfish are mainly produced in gravel bottoms or sandy mud bottoms. Some portion of this shellfish is also produced in the south seashore.

b. Cockle (*Anadara granosa bisinensis*)

This shellfish is produced in the warm sea, and is distributed in muddy areas where it is greatly affected by the coast rivers or the inland waters.

c. Sea Mussel (*Mytilus crassitesta*)

Sea Mussels are produced in the southwestern or southern coasts, and are distributed in clear gravel bottoms or rocky bottoms where there are 0-3 hours of exposure time and tide flows well.

d. Hard Clam (*Meretrix meretrix lusoria*)

This shellfish inhabits the shallow sandy bottoms of the west and south coasts, which are affected by the inland waters.

3. Method of Culture

According to the shellfish species, there are some differences in seasonal raising, but young shellfish are usually collected between April and June and scattered or transplanted in selected areas at full or low tide.

In order to propagate and protect these shellfish, the authorities concerned have established provisions governing prohibition periods for the taking of the various species.

4. Present Status of Shellfish Propagation According to the Production Increase Program

In order to increase shellfish production, the government, in 1958 established the five year program for tidal flats development and since then, the culture areas have been selected by the authorities concerned, who also provide subsidies to the fishermen to aid in the sound development of increased production projects through the transplantation of young shellfish.

As a result of these undertakings, the areas of shellfish culture as well as production have increased annually, as shown in the following table.

Major Shellfish Culture (excluding oysters) & Production

<u>Kinds</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>
Short-necked clam	6,078 (168)	5,451 (922)	7,196 (1,709)	8,696 (1,336)
Cockle	2,038 (805)	1,823 (613)	2,877 (555)	2,902 (387)
Sea mussel	742 (23)	296 (2)	1,703 (7)	2,266 (90)
Hard clam	1,712 (19)	1,337 (104)	3,617 (336)	1,385 (233)

1. Production shows weight with shell.
2. Figures by year indicate the total production including natural products; figures in parentheses show shellfish culture production.