

July 8, 1968

Dr. R. W. Menzel
Florida State University
Department of Oceanography
Tallahassee, Florida 32306

Dear Dr. Menzel:

Your letter of June 26 and the package of oysters announced in it are safely in my hands. Thank you for both. It is always rewarding to receive oyster specimens. The rewards are sometimes very large and then again it is satisfying merely to reidentify well-known species.

Actually I am not well equipped to identify all the species that might turn up. The L.S.U. library has unfortunately some very large gaps. For instance, we lack the 20 volumes of Sowerby in Reeve Conchologia Iconica where most of the recent oysters are well figured. Also while I am still occupied with the article on "Oysters" for the Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology I must refrain from getting lost in the many problems of species identification. There is just not enough time around. At present I am chiefly occupied with designing, outlining, assembling, and criticizing illustrations for the article.

The one species, which is labelled Crassostraea iredalei, is correctly labelled. However, the other species, which is greenish-yellow in spots, seems to be a species of Ostrea, which I am unable to run down successfully without spending much time. You might check its anatomy to see whether it lacks a promyal passage and is incubatory as Ostrea always is.

I hope you continue receiving oyster specimens from the Philippines. There are some very interesting genera there that have not yet been studied much, but these are mostly non-commercial.

With many thanks and best regards.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel
Visiting Professor of Geology