

July 27, 1962

Dr. Gordon Gunter
Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Dear Dr. Gunter:

Perhaps this letter will encourage you to work on those deep-sea oysters from off the coast of South America. If you still have good material, the following questions need checking or answering:

- (1) Does the rectum go through the pericardium and ventricle of the heart? It is suppose to do that and that is different in common oysters.
- (2) Is there a promyal chamber? There is supposed to be one.
- (3) How large are the eggs, if any ripe ones are present. Or, how large are the ostia on the gills. These sizes are larger in the incubatory oysters than in the nonincubatory ones. It would be good to find out whether or not they incubate.

You could make a nice contribution to oyster biology by describing good serial microscopic sections of this oyster.

Enclosed is a little squib on oysters. My work is going fine these days. Perhaps, you might be willing to do me a favor and measure how wide a live oyster opens its shell. I would appreciate it.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:cd

Enclosure

Shell Development Company
Exploration & Production Research Division