

October 22, 1963

AIR MAIL

Dr. Gilberto Rodriguez
Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones
Cientificas (IVIC)
Caracas, Venezuela

Dear Dr. Rodriguez:

Your recent article on "The Intertidal Communities of Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela" is very interesting. I am particularly interested in the references to Crassostrea virginica. I had been under the impression that these oysters are Crassostrea rhizophorae Guilding rather than C. virginica. Do you have any specimens from Lake Maracaibo that you could send me so that I could become convinced of your identification? Perhaps, you consider C. rhizophorae as a mere ecomorph of C. virginica. Any information on this question will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:tm

SHELL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
Exploration and Production Research Division