

LYONS

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE

BATON ROUGE · LOUISIANA · 70803

School of Geology

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

August 26, 1969

Dr. William G. Lyons
Marine Research Laboratory
P.O. Drawer F.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33731

Dear Dr. Lyons:

In response to your letter of 21, August, 1969, I shall be glad to examine the oyster specimens you mentioned in your letter. However, I must point out that I have a full load of work and, therefore, may or may not be able to attend to this task promptly. Also, I may wish to retain specimens that, for one reason or another, I deem important to my own work.

Your identification is probably correct; Crassostrea rhizophorae (Guilding) not rhizophora does occur in Colombia. I am pleased to hear of Dr. J.P.E. Morrison's high opinion of my qualifications in this matter. Oyster species are very difficult to separate one from the other, and I am inclined to considerable lumping of named so-called species. Although C. rhizophorae and C. virginica are readily distinguished by their morphological features, are they really two separate species or are they ecomorphs in the same genetic pool?

Sincerely yours,

H.B. Stenzel,
Consulting Professor

HBS/po

CC: Dr. J.P.E. Morrison
U.S. National Museum
Washington, D.C. 20560