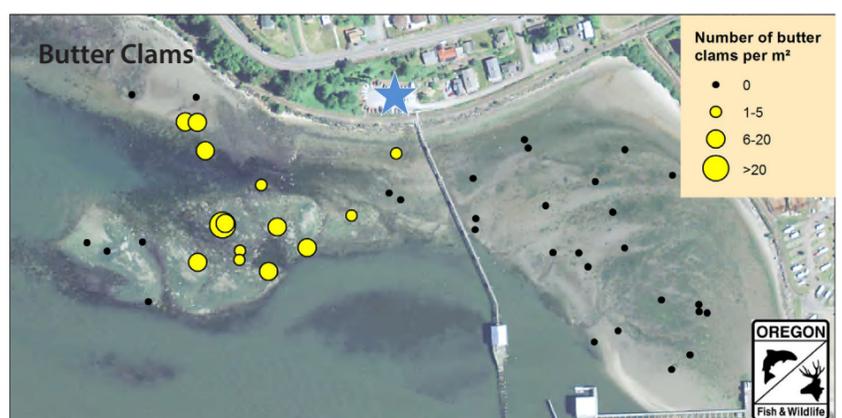
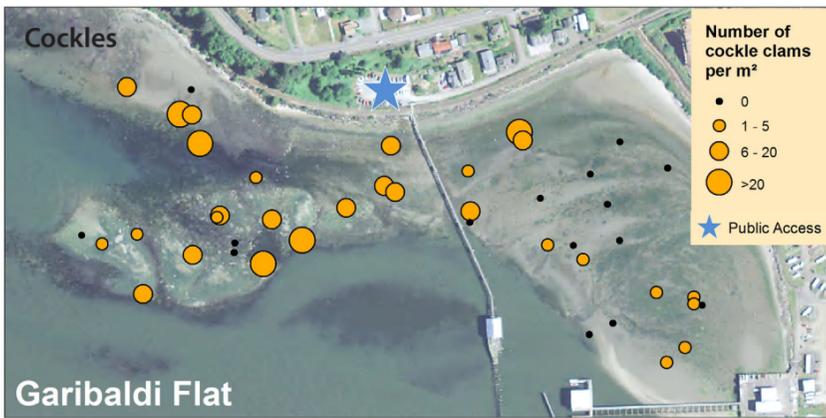


Bay Clam Densities in Tillamook Bay, 2010-2012

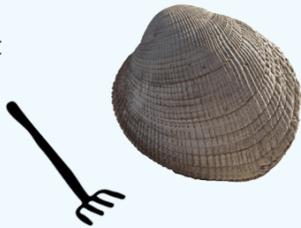


*Garibaldi Flat is easily accessible by foot

Native Littleneck Clams

(*Leukoma staminea*)

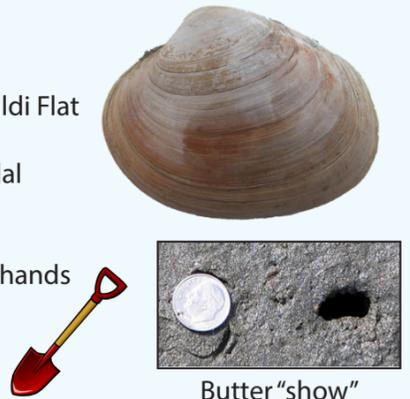
- Found in cobble areas of Garibaldi Flat
- Located surface to 0.8 feet deep
- Live in the mid and low intertidal
- Size 1.5-2.5 inches
- Harvest with a rake
- Tip: often found with other bay clams



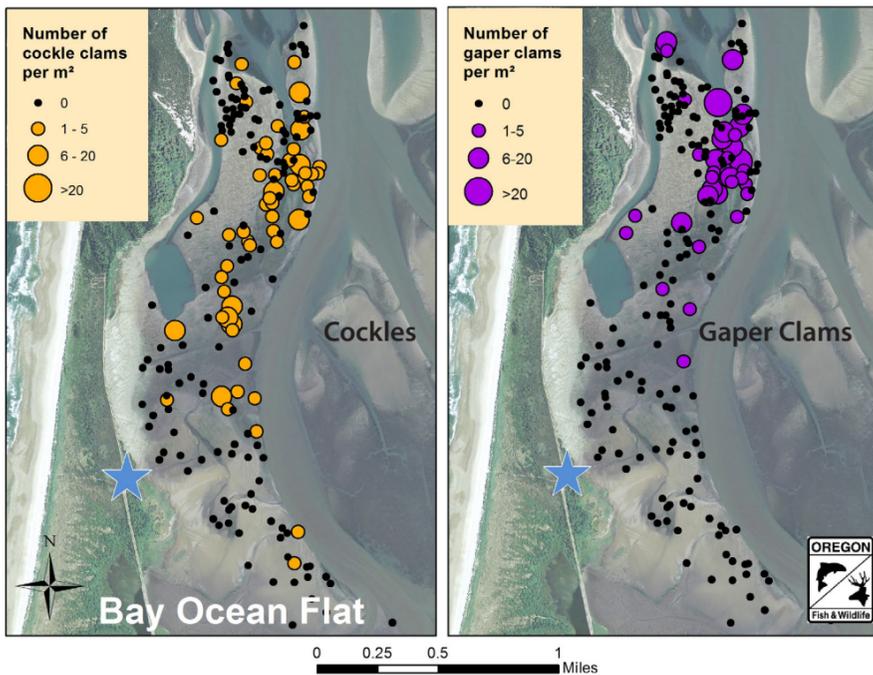
Butter Clams

(*Saxidomus gigantea*)

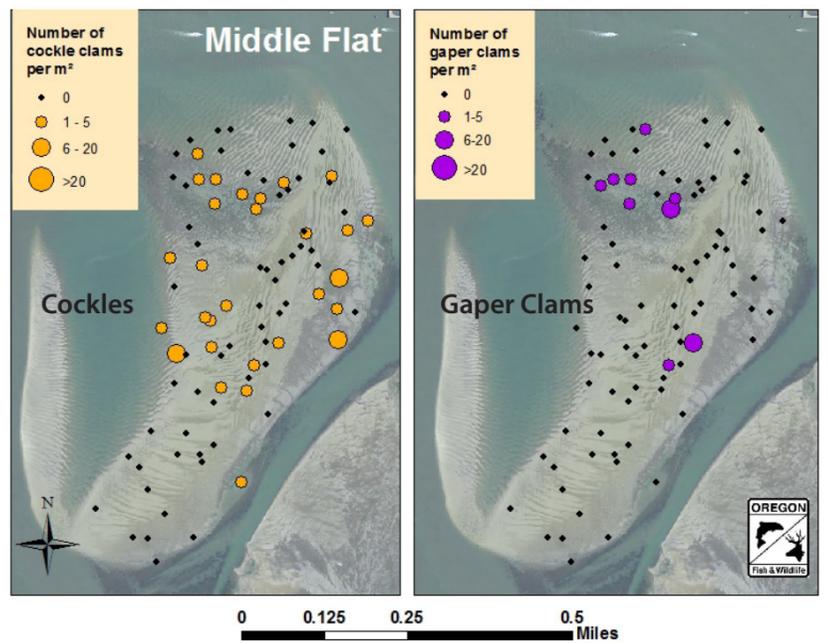
- Found in cobble areas of Garibaldi Flat
- Located 0.5 to 1.2 feet deep
- Live in the low and mid intertidal
- Size 2-4 inches
- Harvest with a shovel or rake;
- Tip: wear gloves to protect your hands when digging in the cobble



Butter "show"



* Bay Ocean Flat is accessible by boat or by a trail from parking lot on the west side



* Middle Flat is accessible by boat only

Cockles

(*Clinocardium nuttallii*)

- Common in Garibaldi Flat
- Located near the surface
- Live in the low to mid intertidal
- Size 1.5-3 inches
- Harvest with a rake; avoid eelgrass beds
- Tip: for big cockles, target Bay Ocean and Middle Flats



Cockle "show"

Gaper Clams

(*Tresus capax*)

- Most abundant on Bay Ocean Flat
- Located 1 to 3.3 feet deep
- Live in low intertidal
- Size 3-6 inches
- Harvest with a shovel or shrimp pump; avoid eelgrass beds
- Tip: mark the show with a stick then dig beside the stick to avoid damaging the clam



Gaper "show" - you will feel the neck retract if you stick your finger in the hole

Additional clamming maps and directions to access points can be found at:

www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/SEACOR

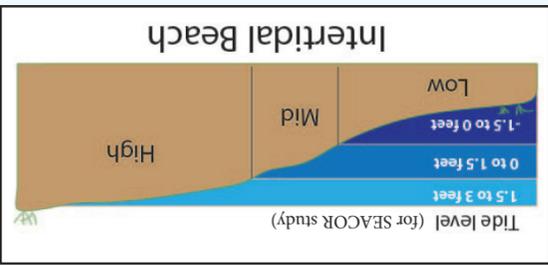




Clammers on Garibaldi Flat

1. Refill your holes: a pile of sand can harm clams you may want to dig another day.
2. Avoid digging in the eelgrass: eelgrass is an essential home for many animals living in the estuary. Once eelgrass is dug up, it no longer provides that necessary shelter. Dig in gaps between eelgrass patches.

What is Good Clamming Etiquette?



Find tide tables at: www.tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov

Bay clams are often harvested in the intertidal – the part of the beach between high tide and low tide. Many clams live in the low intertidal, only accessible during a minus tide.

When Should I Dig?

What is SEACOR?

The Shellfish and Estuarine Habitat Assessment of Coastal Oregon (SEACOR) is part of ODFW's Shellfish program. SEACOR staff conduct counts of bay clams in Oregon estuaries. The primary goals include:

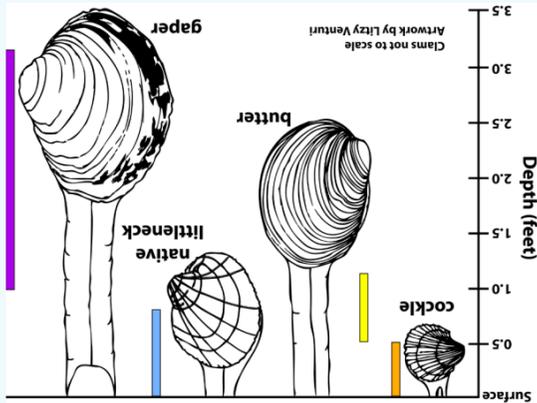
- Document** where recreationally important bay clams are found
- Count** the abundance and biomass of each species
- Describe** the type of habitats where each species is found

This research targets recreationally harvested bay clams: cockles, butters, gapers, and native littlenecks.

Information obtained by SEACOR informs resource managers and provides a baseline for monitoring future changes in Oregon estuaries.



A SEACOR biologist collects data on a cockle found on Bay Ocean Flat
*Front cover photo: Garibaldi Flat



- Gaper clams (purple bar): 1 to 3.3 feet to 0.8 feet
- Native littleneck clams (blue bar): surface to 0.5 feet
- Butter clams (yellow bar): 0.5 to 1.2 feet
- Cockles (orange bar): surface to 0.5 feet

Different bay clam species live at different depths in the sediment.

How Deep Should I Dig?



For more on shellfish regulations visit: www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/regulations

The daily catch limit is 20 bay clams (cockle, butter, native littleneck and gaper clams) per person, of which only 12 may be gaper clams.

How Many Clams Can I Harvest?



A SEACOR biologist using sampling gear to collect clams in Tillamook Bay

For More Information

Website

www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/SEACOR

Email

ODFW.SEACOR@state.or.us

Shellfish Regulations

www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/regulations

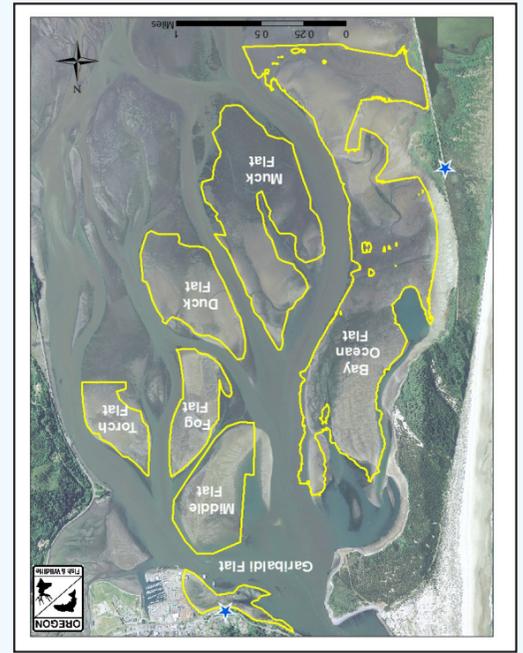
Shellfish Harvest Hotline

1-800-448-2474

Recreational shellfish license fees provided funding for this study. Clam diggers and crabbers contribute directly to research on resources they use.



Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Resources Program
2040 SE Marine Science Dr.
Newport, OR 97365
541-867-4741



Tillamook Bay Clamming Flats

Oregon has a rich tradition of looking to its coastal waters for recreation, livelihood, and nourishment. Harvesting bay clams is part of that tradition. Tillamook Bay supports one of the most popular recreational clamming areas in Oregon. In addition, over two-thirds of the state's commercial bay clam harvest comes from Tillamook Bay. In 2010-2012, the SEACOR research team studied clam populations and estuarine habitats in Tillamook Bay. This information will assist Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in making management decisions regarding bay clam populations and estuaries.

Tillamook Bay

