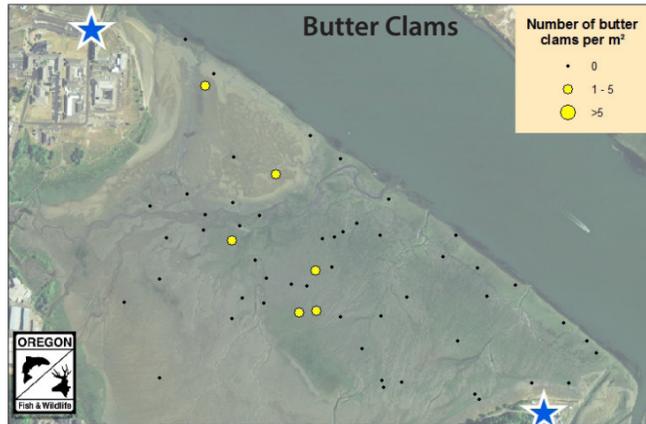
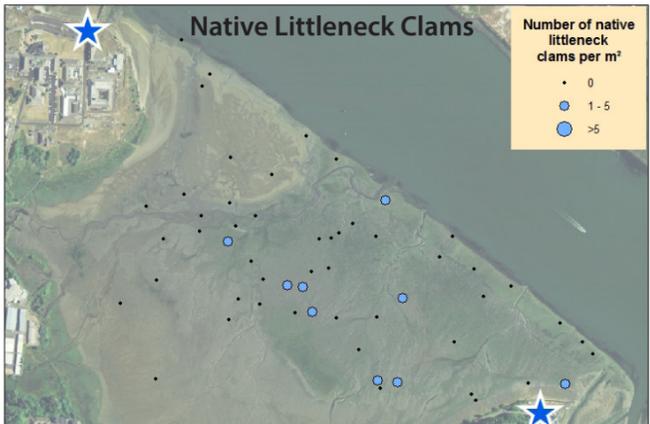
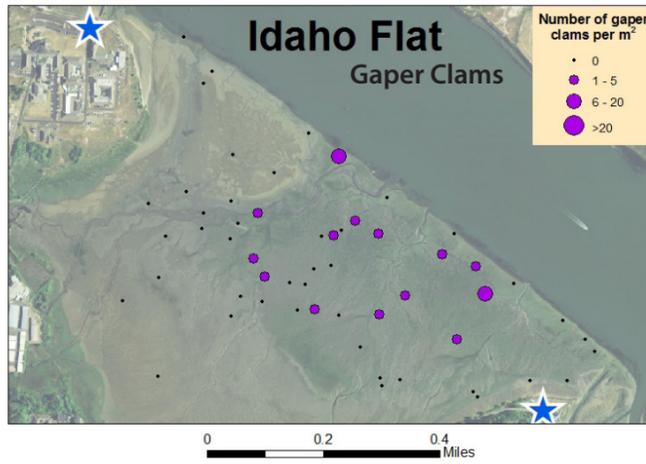
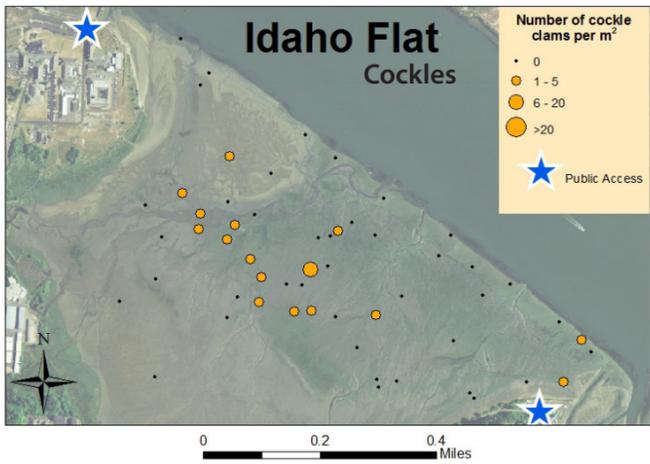
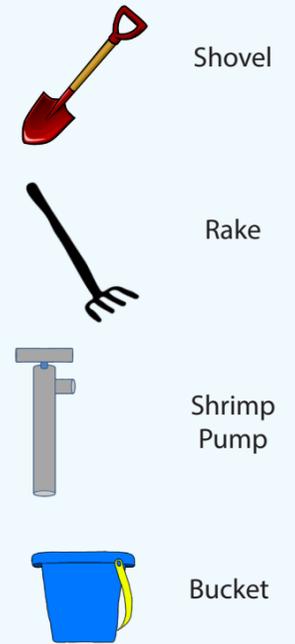


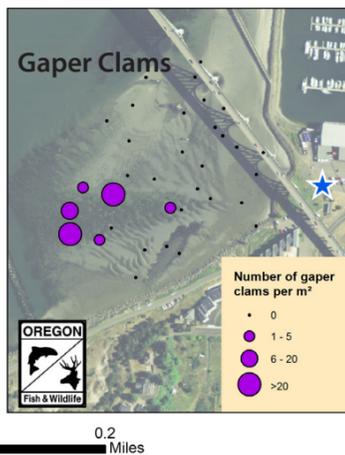
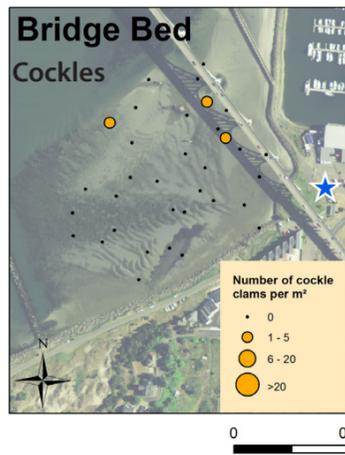
Bay Clam Densities in Yaquina Bay, 2012



Tools of the Trade



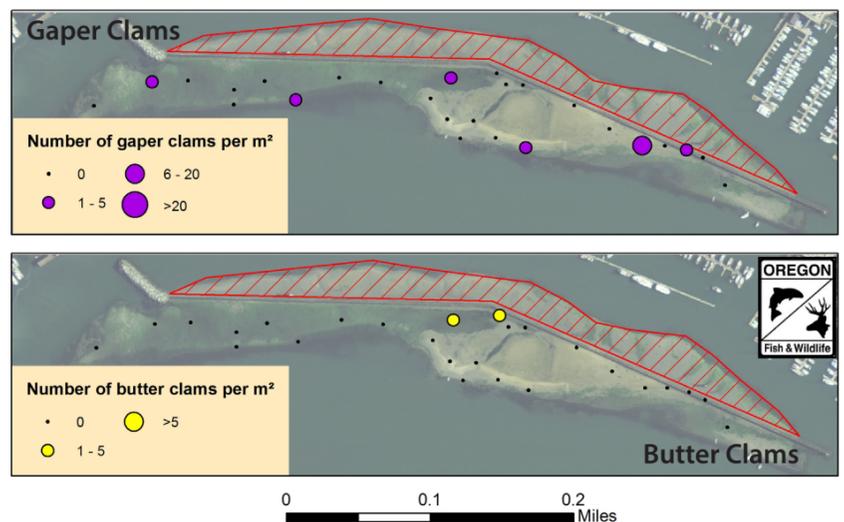
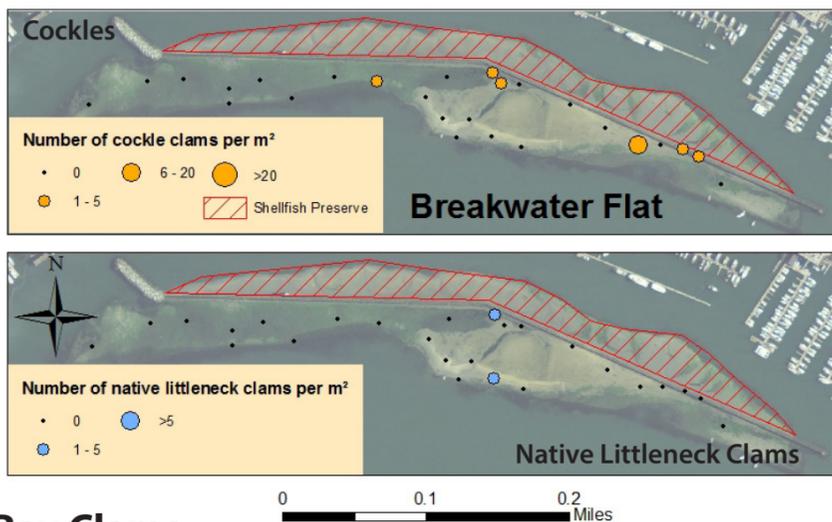
Additional clamming maps and directions to access points can be found at:
www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/SEACOR



★ The blue stars indicate easy walk-on access points.

- *Idaho Flat and Bridge Bed accessible by foot
- *Breakwater Flat (near the commercial boat basin) accessible by boat only

Shellfish Preserves are areas closed to all clam harvest.



Bay Clams

Cockles (*Clinocardium nuttallii*)



- Located near the surface
- Live in the low to mid intertidal
- Size 1.5-3 inches
- Harvest with a rake; avoid eelgrass beds
- Tip: try wading into the small channels and using a rake to uncover cockles. Sometimes found laying on the surface

Gaper Clams (*Tresus capax*)



- Located 1 to 3.3 feet deep
- Live in low to mid 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

Butter Clams (*Saxidomus gigantea*)



- Located 0.5 to 1.2 feet deep
- Live in the mid and high intertidal
- Size 2-4 inches
- Harvest with a shovel or rake
- Tip: dig beside the show to avoid damaging the clam

Native Littleneck Clams (*Leukoma staminea*)



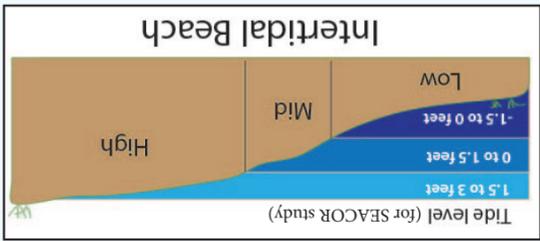
- Located surface to 0.8 feet deep
- Live in the mid and high intertidal
- Size 1.5-2.5 inches
- Harvest with a rake; avoid eelgrass beds
- Tip: sometimes found laying on the surface

Raking for cockles under the bridge



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:

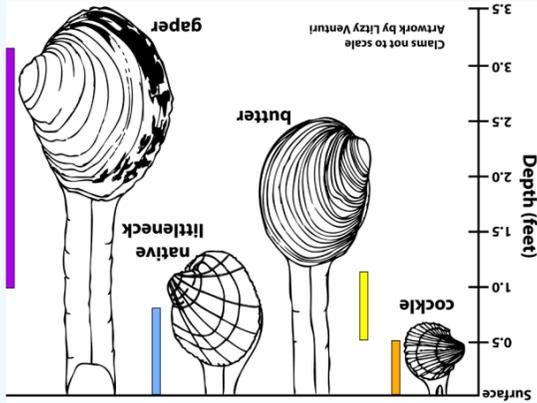
- Document** where recreationally important bay clams are found
- Count** the abundance and biomass of each species
- Describe** the type of habitats where each species is found

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.



SEACOR biologists gather data on gaper clams in Yaquina Bay
* Front cover photo: Bridge Bed



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

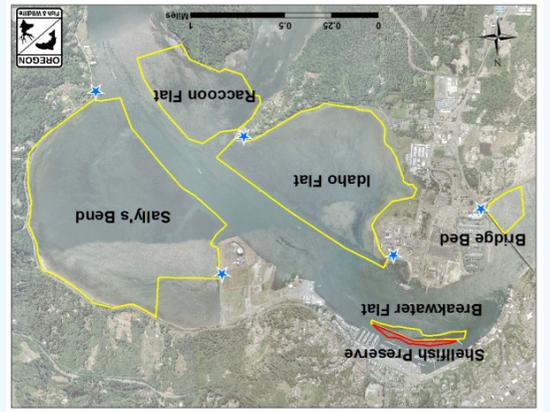
Shellfish Harvest Hotline

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



Yaquina Bay Clamming Flats

In 2012, the SEACOR research team studied clam populations and estuarine habitats in Yaquina Bay. This information will assist Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in making management decisions to conserve bay clam populations and estuaries for future generations to enjoy.

Oregon has a rich tradition of looking to its coastal waters for recreation, livelihood, and nourishment. Harvesting bay clams is part of that tradition. The lower Yaquina Bay estuary is a drowned river mouth system with salt marshes, sloughs, and several large mud flats. The bay supports a mosaic of commercial and recreational uses including many popular recreational clamming areas.

Yaquina Bay

Where to Harvest Bay Clams

