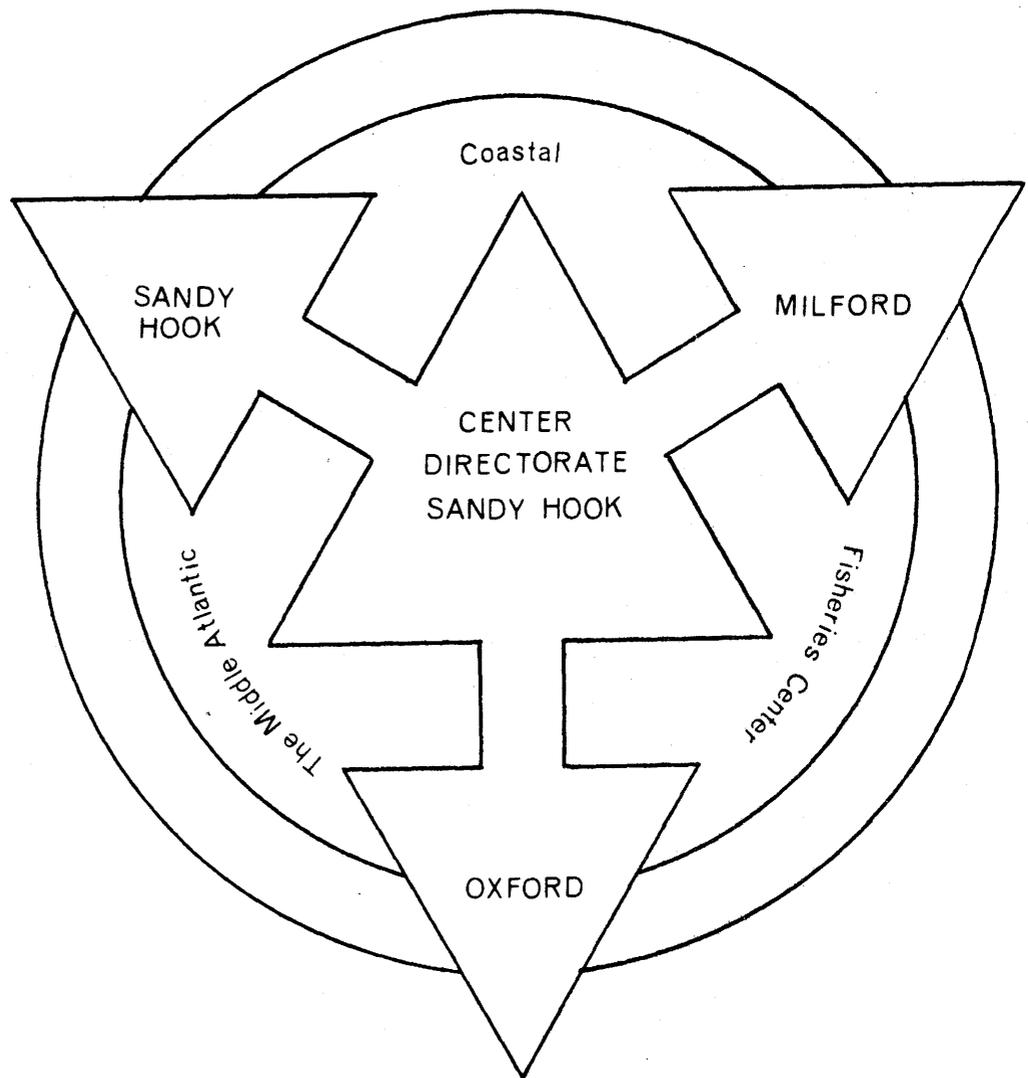


Pre-proposal -- Problems Associated with the Presence of  
Nematodes in Surf Clams and Calico Scallops



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Northeast Region

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COASTAL FISHERIES CENTER



Informal Report No. 99

March, 1976

Problems Associated with the Presence of  
Nematodes in Surf Clams and Calico Scallops

Objective:

The surf clam industry is confronted with a major potential problem related to F.D.A. and consumer acceptance of worm-infested clams. Determine prevalence and geographical distribution of nematodes and other parasites in surf clams. Utilize new data to assist seafood industry in modifying processing methods for clam meats to assume product acceptability.

Plan of Action:

Quantitative determinations on numbers of parasites per clam must be made with regard to geographic distribution. Parasites must be identified by specialists in order to assure that none are potentially harmful to humans. Parasites recovered from clams must be used in laboratory animals infection experiments. Finally, economically feasible technology must be developed to free clam meats from biotic contaminants and reduce foreign particles to levels accepted by the Food & Drug Administration. Vessel acquisition and capture gear would be helpful but not critical - charters could substitute.

End Product:

A beforehand knowledge of harvestable areas of the sea which yield clams with minimal or maximal parasite burdens.

Benefit:

Clam producers should be able to estimate the amount of processing that is required in order to produce acceptable products. Areas of low parasite loads would require less additional quality control than areas of high parasite load. Animal tests would measure the public health hazard of clam parasites, or the lack of a hazard.

Schedule:

Three years. Map parasite distribution from north to south, and from near-shore to offshore (2 years). Analyze seasonal differences in parasite burdens (2 years). Make specific parasite identifications and complete animals tests (3 years).

Nematodes in Surf Clams

	<u>1st Year</u>	<u>2nd Year</u>	<u>3rd Year</u>	<u>4th Year</u>	<u>5th Year</u>
Personal Service	20	21	22	23	-
Contracts	25	25	30	30	-
Supplies	30	10	12	12	-
Equipment	30	15	15	15	-
Other (vessel charter ADP, overtime)	21	22	23	24	-
Travel	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	-
	131	99	108	111	

1st Year	2 People	\$131.0K
2nd Year	2 People	\$ 99.0K
3rd Year	2 People	\$108.0K
4th Year	2 People	\$111.0K
5th Year	-	-

Vessel Construction - \$250.0K