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Note on a Fattening Experiment with Portuguese Oysters

in the Wadden Sea Near Wyk Island

by

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In June 1961, 25 metric tons of Portuguese oysters (*Gryphia angulata*) from Portugal were placed into the Wadden Sea NE of Wyk Island, in order to study the growth rate and especially the increase of meat content during the period extending over the summer months until autumn. Unfortunately, because of transport difficulties during the long voyage, the oysters reached Germany so much weakened that only about 10% of them survived.

In order to determine the rate of growth of the oysters during their stay on the German mussel banks, two samples of 200 respectively 225 specimens taken on the 10th of June 1961 and on the 29th of September 1961, were examined as to size composition, total weight and meat weight at the Institut für Küsten- und Binnenfischerei. The results obtained (Table 1) show that during this experiment the oysters had increased their meat content on an average by 240.0% within a period of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ months. The experiment thus proves that the mussel banks on the German coast of Nordfriesland can be considered as excellent for the fattening of Portuguese oysters.

Table 1. Fattening experiments with Portuguese oysters

	Sample taken on 10.June 61	Sample taken on 29.Sept. 61	Rate of increase	
			in absolute fig.	in %
Average length of oysters (largest diameter)	7.8 cm	8.0 cm	0.2 cm	2.6
Average total weight	58.9 g	72.3 g	13.4 g	22.8
Average weight of meat	3.5 g	11.9 g	8.4 g	240.0