

# OYSTERS BY THE POUND

## Objective

The student will be able to interpret data from a bar graph.

## Vocabulary

commercial  
culled

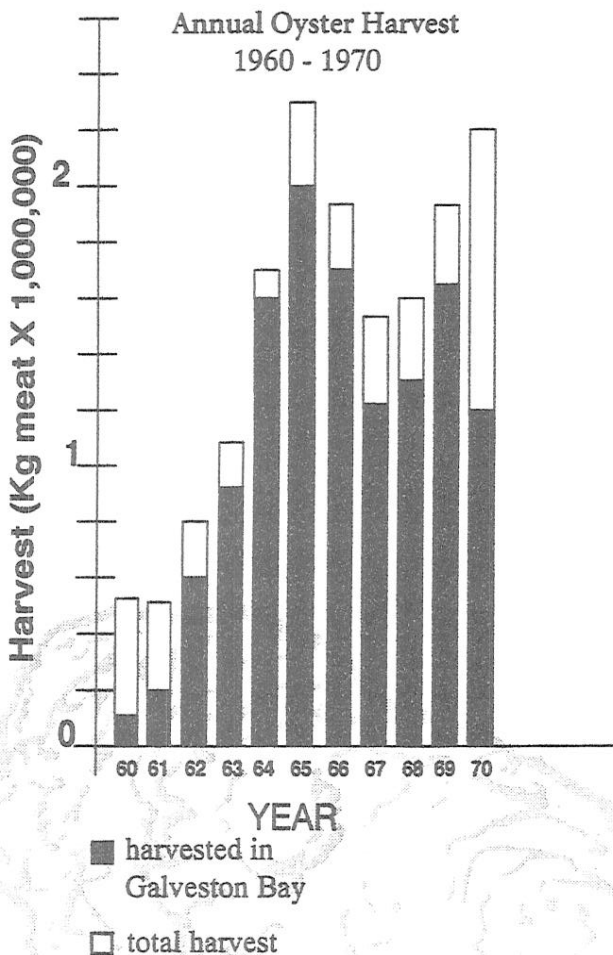
dredge  
harvest

## Background

The commercial oyster fishery contributes \$20 to \$30 million to the Texas economy each year. Some three to five million pounds of oyster meat are landed annually.

Oysters are found in nearly every bay in Texas, however, they are most abundant in those located north of Corpus Christi. Galveston Bay is the most productive, followed by San Antonio Bay. About 90 percent of the Texas harvest comes from these two bays.

The most common method for harvesting oysters is the oyster dredge. This is a basket attached to a toothed bar that is dragged over a reef by a boat. It scrapes oysters into the basket. The catch is then brought on the boat's deck to be culled.



## Exercises

Use the bar graph to answer the following.

- Is the portion of the harvest from Galveston Bay constant from one year to the next?
- Predict the 1971 harvest if the trend beginning in 1968 continued.
- If the 1960 and 1961 harvests were the end of a trend, predict the 1959 harvest.
- Determine the average annual oyster harvest for the 1960's.
- What was the annual oyster harvest in 1965?
- What was the annual oyster harvest in 1969?
- During which year was the oyster harvest the greatest?
- During which year was the oyster harvest the least?
- What conditions might contribute to a poor harvest?