Beach shell collecting at Cape Point (Cape Hatteras), North Carolina. Six *Mercenaria* shells below were all collected at this site. Numbers in yellow are D-alloisoleucine/L-isoleucine values. Shell in lower left is Holocene; all others are Pleistocene.
Shells collected at Cape Point, Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, January 1993

Cape Hatteras NC Beach Shells - D/L values and radiocarbon date; all but the shell at lower left have geological ages >100,000 years
Example of age mixing on North Carolina beaches. Three samples from South Core Banks, at the Davis Ferry landing. Clockwise from lower left: Pleistocene Mercenaria (distinctive grey color is usually diagnostic of pre-Holocene shells, at least for Mercenaria from NC beaches – Wehmiller et al., 1995); Pleistocene Mercenaria with Holocene attached corals; beachrock with cemented Tertiary sand dollar.