



Shellfish RESTORATION CLAMOR

DECEMBER 2005

SHELLFISH RESTORATION NETWORK

Native shellfish play vital ecological roles in many estuaries, but are imperiled in many estuaries by habitat loss, over fishing, and pollution. Through a Shellfish Restoration Network, The Nature Conservancy and its partners are working to improve the design and implementation of restoration projects that help to illustrate the ecosystem services that shellfish provide. Through this network, we also hope to demonstrate the elements necessary to expand restoration and conservation to ecosystem scales.

GLOBAL MARINE INITIATIVE'S VISION

"The Nature Conservancy and partners working together in polar, temperate and tropical seas worldwide to conserve marine biodiversity effectively across seascapes and landscapes through transformative strategies and integrated planning and action."

TO JOIN THE NETWORK, CONTACT:

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For more information about The Nature Conservancy's Global Marine Initiative, visit: www.nature.org/marine

New Shellfish Restoration Projects Launched in 2005

Eight new shellfish restoration projects were funded through the TNC/NOAA Community-based Restoration Program in 2005. A hallmark of each of these projects is that they incorporate ecological monitoring to measure and document ecosystem services, a key objective of restoration projects funded through the TNC/NOAA partnership. Examples of ecological parameters being monitored as part of these projects include species diversity within spawner sanctuaries, shellfish size and biomass, vertical relief and physical reef structure, and water clarity and seston removal by shellfish. Another important aspect of these projects is that each represents a collaborative effort between The Nature Conservancy

and state, federal and academic partners that bring critical skills and resources to achieve the restoration goals.

- Oysters and blue mussel restoration, Great Bay, NH (Jay Odell; jodell@tnc.org)
- Hard clam restoration in Long Island estuaries, NY (Carl LoBue; clobue@tnc.org)
- Intertidal oyster reefs and eelgrass restoration, Virginia Coast Reserve (Barry Truitt; btruitt@tnc.org)
- Oyster reef restoration and population enhancement, Piankatank River, VA (Mark Bryer; mbryer@tnc.org)
- Intertidal oyster reefs in the Indian River Lagoon, FL (Anne Birch, abirch@tnc.org)
- Intertidal oyster reef restoration in Grand Bay NERRS, MS (Nicole Vickey; nvickey@tnc.org)

- Cultch veneer on breakwaters for shellfish restoration, Grand Isle, LA (Cindy Brown, cbrown@tnc.org)
- Olympia oyster restoration, Netarts Bay, OR (Dick Vander Schaaf; dvanderschaaf@tnc.org)

These projects add to the growing list of projects that TNC is pursuing with partners around the U.S., with a goal of returning and documenting ecosystem impacts.

looking ahead

New references worth reviewing

New Shellfish Restoration Fact Sheet from The Nature Conservancy. Available in pdf format at: www.nature.org/marine/ under "What's New?"

Upcoming Events

March 26 – 30, 2006:

National Shellfisheries Association annual conference, Monterey, California
<http://shellfish.org/> *Deadline for abstracts extended to December 15, 2005*

December 9-13, 2006:

Restore Americas Estuaries national conference, New Orleans, Louisiana
"Forging the national imperative"
<http://www.estuaries.org/conference>
Call for dedicated sessions: Proposals due February 15, 2006



Monitoring restoration projects enables TNC and partners to assess performance and to document ecosystem services. ©Rob Brumbaugh, TNC 2005.