



# Shellfish RESTORATION CLAMOR

OCTOBER 2006

## 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](http://www.nature.org/marine)

*The Nature Conservancy*   
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

# Advancing Oyster Restoration in Puget Sound



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The Nature Conservancy, working with the Puget Sound Restoration Fund, recently implemented Phase II of a three-phase effort to restore habitat for the native Olympia oyster in Woodard Bay, an embayment within Puget Sound. Phase I involved surveys to establish baseline conditions and experiments to quantify local oyster recruitment and survival rates. These results were used to identify specific locations with high larval supply and the appropriate habitat characteristics for successful restoration.

Phase II, a pilot-scale habitat enhancement, involved placement of bagged oyster shell culch in 21 plots at 4 locations varying in tidal elevation from -1' to -7' MLLW. Plots were 1 square meter in size and shell depth in bags was approximately 6". Weekly monitoring was conducted through summer 2006 to quantify recruit-

ment and survival, and will continue at less frequent intervals through Spring 2007. The monitoring of post-settlement survival by location and elevation will help guide decisions about locations/elevations for expanded restoration.

Phase III, planned for 2007, includes expand habitat restoration over approximately 5 acres and will be informed by all the monitoring data collected to date. This phased "build it and they will come" strategy in Puget Sound will focus restoration in areas with a known larval supply and help to protect and enhance remnant populations of oysters.

Funding for the project was provided through the TNC-NOAA Community-based Restoration Program.

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## looking ahead

### November 15-19, 2006

The 9th International Conference on Shellfish Restoration.  
DoubleTree Guest Suites, Charleston, SC  
*Deadline for Abstracts - July 31*  
<http://www.scseagrant.org/icsr.htm>

### December 9-13, 2006

3rd National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration.  
Hilton Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, LA  
Hosted by Restore America's Estuaries  
<http://www.estuaries.org/conference>

### February 26-March 2, 2007

99th Annual National Shellfisheries Association meeting, in conjunction with World Aquaculture and American Fisheries Society.  
San Antonio, TX  
<http://www.shellfish.org/meetings.htm>

## TNC's Marine Ecoregional Assessments available on-line:

The Nature Conservancy's Marine Ecoregional Assessments, spatially explicit tools for planning conservation action, are available at Conserve Online, a publicly-accessible clearinghouse for conservation documents, tools and other products:  
<http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/MECA>