OYSTER DENSITY METHODS

Virginia (P.G. Ross et al)

All reef material in a 25 cm x 25 cm frame was excavated to a depth of 10 cm. All live oysters and the articulated shells of dead oysters (henceforth referred to as "boxes") were counted and eventually area standardized.

Related References


South Carolina (L. Coen et al.)

Collect an excavated sample from reef and count all live oysters using quadrats or cores. Report as number per unit area (preferably per m²). Samples can be placed in either cooler or freezer for subsequent measurements and counts. Using calipers, each live oyster (including small recruits 'spat') should be measured using shell height (defined from the umbo to the outermost edge) to the nearest millimeter. All oysters should be examined to eliminate dead individuals. Oysters can also be taken from trays or cylinders filled with substrate. Probably best done in fall after recruitment has ended for the year. Some suggested before spawning, others sample in spring. Count all oysters in ‘sample’ and express as needed as means, etc. Additional density methods include videography or calibrated dredge samples. Number of live oysters of all sizes per unit area. Many subtidal studies also use # of dead oysters—"boxes" (recent dead and older).

Related References
