

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

EASTERN OYSTER CONSIDERED UNDER ESA

The dramatic decline of the eastern oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*, throughout much of its historic range (Nova Scotia to the Gulf of Mexico) has prompted calls for its listing as either threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. In response to a petition submitted by a private company in Maryland, the NOAA Fisheries Service announced on May 18, 2005, that it will appoint a team of experts to review the status of the eastern oyster. This review is expected to be completed by January 2006, and is the first step in determining whether such status is warranted under the ESA.

In addition to its economic value in coastal communities, the eastern oyster

Looking Ahead

Name the Update!

We're seeking a creative and compelling name for our newly formatted electronic update. Please send your suggestions by August 1 to Candace Hindle at chindle@tnc.org. A Nature Conservancy Global Marine Initiative sweatshirt is the prize for the winning submission. Look for the new name on our next edition!

Upcoming Events

October 2 – 5, 2005:

8th International Conference on Shellfish Restoration (ICSR), Brest, Brittany, France.
<http://www.cibnor.mx/novedad/ICSR05-Announcement.pdf>
Conference theme – *enhancement and sustainability of shellfish resources*

October 16 – 20, 2005:

Biennial Conference of the Estuarine Research Federation, Norfolk, Virginia www.erf.org
Conference theme – *Estuarine Interactions: Biological-Physical Feedbacks and Interactions*

provides many ecosystem services such as water filtration, shoreline protection and complex reef habitat for many other

species. Because of these ecosystem services, the eastern oyster is a primary conservation target identified in TNC's Ecoregional Plan for the Northern Gulf of Mexico (<http://conserveonline.org/2001/02/b/en/gulf.pdf>). TNC and its partners have initiated restoration projects for the eastern oyster in New Hampshire, Virginia, North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. These projects are intended to help return the eastern oyster to greater abundance throughout a large portion of its range and to illustrate the valuable ecosystem services provided by this species in estuaries.



Eastern oysters are a TNC restoration target from New England to the Gulf of Mexico. ©Rob Brumbaugh/TNC