



Ocean Trust, 11921 Freedom Drive, Suite 550-PMB 5580, Reston, VA 20190
Tel (703) 450-9852 Fax (703) 450-9853 Email: tjlassen@oceantrust.org

Be Different. Take a positive approach to conservation! Join Ocean Trust

Our goal is to improve the quality of the marine environment with a positive partnership approach that brings fishing and conservation communities together to enhance natural resources and habitats important for healthy marine ecosystems. Here's what's going on around the coast.

Eastern Point Wetlands Restoration: Gloucester, Massachusetts



Steve Parkes from Pigeon Cove Whole Foods Market and William Stride from Good Harbor Fillet Company joined Rollie Schmitt Chief of the NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation, Gloucester officials and NGO groups Ocean Trust and MA Audubon to commemorate the seafood industry, conservation, government partnership in restoring Massachusetts wetlands.

Cape Cod Quahog Resource Restoration: Wellfleet, Massachusetts

Quahaugs, hard clams (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) have been an important coastal fishery on Cape Cod for several hundred years. Wellfleet, on the outer arm of Cape Cod, has been one of the most productive quahog habitats in the region, but currently have depressed standing stocks. In 2001, less than 4,000 bushels of quahaugs were harvested by commercial shellfishermen down from 100,000 bushels just ten years ago. This project will cultivate quahog seeds on a scale that will have a meaningful effect on the commercial fishery (e.g., 2-3 million seed) and use modern upwelling technology to enhance survival, planting success and growth to support the commercial fishery.

Oyster River Shellfish Resource Restoration: Oyster River, Connecticut



Billy Joel once said he could remember when there were oysters in Oyster Bay (Long Island). Our Oyster River, project will reestablish an ecologically and commercially important oyster bed. About 50,000 half-dollar size oysters were seeded at four sites along the river. The project will provide a harvestable crop in 2-3 years, ecological benefits from oyster water filtration, and a spawning zone to produce new oyster larvae to repopulate the river.

Scallop Restoration/Blackfish Habitat Study: Hallocks Bay/Hay Harbor, New York

This partnership was established to restore the bay scallop to two formerly highly productive sites and mainstay of the fishery in Hallocks Bay, Orient and Hay Harbor, and Fishers Island in Southold, New York by establishing spawning sanctuaries with the introduction and growth of 150,000 scallops. The project will also document the use of shellfish gear as an effective nursery for blackfish (*Tautoga onitis*) regionally important for commercial fisheries, and provide education and training for the local community.



Clam & Eastern Oyster Restoration: Chincoteague Bay, Maryland



Historically, the coastal bays of Maryland have provided significant quantities of naturally occurring hard clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) and Eastern Oyster (*Crassostrea Virginica*). The harvest of these species has dwindled substantially and the Eastern Oyster affected by MSX and Dermo. This project will explore the potential to reestablish shellfish beds in the natural environment to

provide a commercial yield and brood stock to naturally reseed the areas each year. Use of a MSX/Dermo resistant cross bred oyster will also be evaluated for potential restoration purposes.

Paradise Creek Wetlands Restoration: Elizabeth River, Virginia

The Elizabeth River is considered the most toxic tributary to the Chesapeake Bay. The broad strategy to restore the ecological health of the river will be based on demonstration restoration models conducted one of its tributaries, Paradise Creek. This project will restore two acres of urban forest and tidal wetlands as a buffer against urban watershed drainage and storm water runoff into Paradise Creek and the Elizabeth River.



Oyster Spawner Reef Restoration: Bon Secour Bay, Alabama

Bon Secour Bay was a site of oyster culture activity as recently as the 1960's, but traditional oyster culture has become too silty and unstable to support a spawner habitat for natural oyster reproduction. This project will reconstruct a bottom spawner site and add adult oysters to the bay system to serve as an additional source of annual larvae production and contribute to the biological filtration capacity of the Bon Secour Bay.

Bahia Grande Restoration & Plant Nursery: Brownsville, Texas



On a windy day, great clouds of salty dust blow across a huge barren flat that runs along Highway 48 between Brownsville and Port Isabel, Texas. This is the Bahia Grande, a shallow dried out bay of over 6,000 acres that was cut off from the Laguna Madre with the construction of the Brownsville Ship Channel in the 1930's. It was once a productive ecosystem. We are working now to reflood and revegetate the area with native plants from a nursery making it the largest single estuary restoration project in the United States.

Smith Point Wetlands Restoration: Anahuac, Texas

More than 10,000 hectares of vegetated marsh areas have been converted to open water and shallow flats throughout Galveston Bay in the last 70 years. Subsidence rates have stopped at Smith Point due to decreases in groundwater pumping and subsurface oil and gas extraction making this project to restore historic marsh conditions possible. Together with local seafood interests, two acres of tidal marsh habitat will be restored through sediment re-elevation and reintroduction of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*).

Puget Sound Shellfish Restoration: Henderson Inlet, Washington



Henderson Inlet has been a prime shellfish growing area for generations yielding at one \$1 million a year in shellfish sales, but today a large portion is closed to harvest due to poor water quality. This project is designed to restore water quality and reopen closed and conditional shellfish areas by establishing a Community Shellfish Farm to engage and educate people in the restoration process and protection of the watershed. The community effort to reseed and manage shellfish farm plots at three sites in Henderson Inlet will serve as a focal point in building support to address local water quality issues with the Shellfish Protection District and stormwater management officials.

Copper River Razor Clam Bed Restoration: Cordova, Alaska

Historic commercial clam harvests of as much as 3 million pounds from the Copper River Delta of Alaska made Cordova the razor clam capital of the world. The decline of razor clams posed problems not only for the commercial fishery, but for the coastal ecosystem as they are an important prey resource for many species of fish and crab. This project will identify viable donor sites for razor clams, re-introduce adult clams into concentrated seed bank areas, and develop a conservation and enhancement plan for razor clams.

