



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# Value of Oyster Habitat

Oysters live on all U.S. coasts, provide habitat, and filter the water. Their numbers have declined due to disease, over-harvesting, and other challenges. NOAA and partners are working to rebuild the oyster population.

## Oysters Working for You

An adult oyster can filter **50 gallons** of water every day.



On average, one acre of oyster reef habitat can provide shoreline stabilization benefits valued at **\$2,125** per year.

**1**

acre of oyster reef provides **\$6,500** in denitrification services, helping improve water quality.



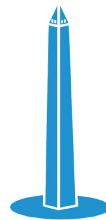
Oyster restoration in one Chesapeake Bay river system is expected to bring a **150%** increase in blue crab harvest, an additional **\$10 million** in annual fishing revenues.

## Habitat at Risk

Over the past 130 years, oyster reef habitat has decreased globally by roughly **85%**. That means a lot less habitat for fish, crabs, and other critters



## Our Work



In one Chesapeake Bay tributary alone, NOAA and partners have restored more than **350 acres** of oyster reef habitat—that's larger than the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

**88**

jobs and \$2.8 million in income resulted directly from the construction of 3.6 miles of oyster reef in Mobile Bay, Alabama.

