

# Oyster Shell Recycling Project Report





## Town of Fairfield Shellfish Commission

## The Importance of Oyster Shell Recycling

- Oyster shells are the main building blocks for rehabilitating and creating new oyster reefs.
- In 2010, over 22 million\* oysters were harvested from Connecticut waters.
   We need to get those shells back into the water to help maintain healthy marine environments.
- Recycling oyster shell helps to reduce waste in landfills.
- There are many successful Oyster Shell Recycling Programs across the US:

Sink Your Shucks - Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Texas <a href="http://oysterrecycling.org/">http://oysterrecycling.org/</a>

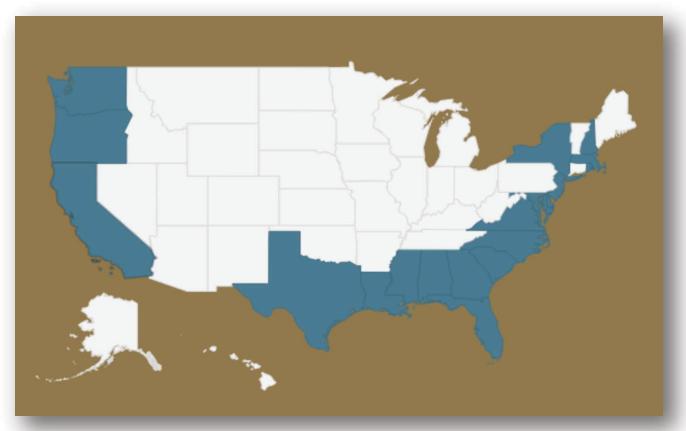
S.C.O.R.E – South Carolina Oyster Restoration and Enhancement <a href="http://score.dnr.sc.gov/">http://score.dnr.sc.gov/</a>

S.R.A - The Shell Recycling Alliance Program - Maryland / DC / Virginia <a href="http://oysterrecovery.org/sra/">http://oysterrecovery.org/sra/</a>

\*CT Dept. of Agriculture.

## States With Oyster Shell Recycling Programs

 Connecticut is one of a few coastal states without an organized oyster shell recycling program.



### **How To Get Started**

 Town Shellfish Commissions can and should take the lead in spearheading/organizing oyster shell recycling programs.

#### <u>Identify and partner up with local restaurants</u>

Fairfield's Oyster Shell Recycling Program includes 5 restaurants:
 Black Rock Oyster Bar, BYRAC, Martel, The Whelk, and Heirloom

#### **Storage/Collection Area**

- Identify a suitable collection area, preferably town property.
- Areas should be away from residential areas (odor can be strong).
- Fairfield's collection area is behind the town Conservation Dept. building.
- A hard or paved surface is needed to lay out the shell.
- Collection area should be divided into sections (Fairfield has a 3 bay system)
- Shells needs to cure/dry out for 6 months before going into the water.

### **Collections**

- 5 gallon buckets are needed (Fairfield Shellfish Commission got Home Depot to donate 50 buckets).
- Create labels for buckets to identify the recycling program.
- Restaurants can store buckets outside behind restaurant.
- Need volunteer to do pick ups once a week & transport to collection area.
- Shells can also be collected off area beaches, organize public shell collection events.
- Local Shellfish Commissioners could enlist help from:
  - Town Conservation and Public Works departments
  - Local Colleges / Universities
  - High School Science Programs
  - Boy and Girl Scouts
- Log and track amount of shells collected. (In four months Fairfield has collected over 4000 pounds of shell).





0	A	В	С	D	E	F	G	Н	1	J	K	L	M
2	Location	Martel		BYRAC		BROB		Whelk		Heirloom		Beach	
3		Buckets	Date	Buckets	Date	Buckets	Date	Buckets	Date	Buckets	Date	Buckets	Date
4		1.5	9/13/15	0.5	9/13/15	1.5	9/17/15	1	9/17/15	2	12/4/15	16	9/13/15
5		1	9/17/15	1	9/17/15	1	9/18/15	1	9/18/15			1	11/15/15
6		0.25	9/20/15	0.25	9/20/15	2	9/20/15	3.5	9/20/15			1	12/20/15
7		1	9/24/15	1	9/24/15	1	9/24/15	1	9/24/15				
8		1	9/27/15	0.5	9/27/15	1	9/27/15	3.5	9/27/15				-
9		1	10/1/15	0.5	10/1/15	0.5	10/2/15	1.5	10/2/15				
10		0.5	10/4/15	0.5	10/4/15	1.5	10/4/15	2	10/4/15				-
11		0.5	10/9/15	0.5	10/9/15	1.00	10/9/15	1.5	10/9/15			0	1
12		0.5	10/12/19	0.5	10/12/15	1.5	10/13/15	2	10/13/15				
13		1	10/18/15	1	10/18/15	2	10/16/15	1	10/16/15				1
14						1.5	10/23/15	1.5	10/23/15				-
15		0.5	10/26/15	0.5	10/26/15	2	10/26/15	2	10/26/15				1
16							10/30/15	1.5	10/30/15				
17		1	11/2/15	0.5	11/2/15	3	11/2/15	2	11/2/15	•			<del>*************************************</del>
18		1	11/8/15	0.5	1/8/15	2	11/8/15	2.5	11/8/15				†
19		1	11/15/15	0.5	11/15/15	2	11/15/15	3	11/15/15	•			†····
20		1	11/22/15	0	11/22/15	2.5	11/22/15	2.5	11/22/15			,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
21		1	11/29/15	0	11/29/15	3	11/29/15	3	11/29/15				
22		1	12/6/15	0	12/6/15	2.5	12/6/15	2.5	12/6/15				
23		1	12/13/15	0.5	12/13/15	2	12/13/15	2.5	12/13/15				
24		1	12/20/15	1	12/20/15	2	12/20/15	3	12/20/15				
25		0.5	12/27/16	0.5	12/27/15	1	12/27/15	2	12/27/15		i		
26		1	1/3/16	1	1/3/16	4	1/3/16	3	1/3/16				
27									1				
28													
29	Total Per Location	18.25	21	11.25	21	40.5	23	49	23	2	1	18	3
30	Total From Rest.	121											
31	Total Pick Ups	66											
32	Total Collected	139											
33	Pounds Collected	4170											

## What To Do With The Shell

- Create new oyster reefs.
- Rehabilitate dying or over harvested oyster reefs.
- Collect Spat.
- Partner with commercial shellfisherman to use shell for their existing beds.

#### Fairfield Shellfish Commission Oyster Reef Project.

- Bag shell and collect spat\* (June through August) \*Spat collection could require special permissions and permits.
- Deposit shells near existing recreational oyster reef to cultivate recruitment and development of new oyster reefs



## Future Goals

- Create a state-wide organized oyster shell recycling program.
- Obtain funding from state and/or grants.
- Create partnerships with University Marine Science Programs and other State Organizations to help with organizing oyster shell recycling programs and oyster reef restoration projects.





