

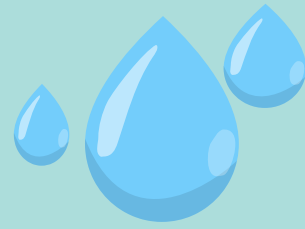
THE IMPORTANCE OF OYSTERS



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Native Oyster Restoration Alliance

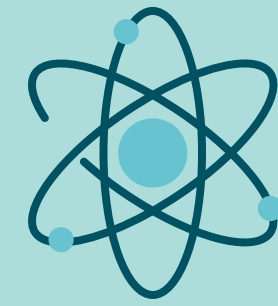


Native oysters provide us with a range of ecosystem services and are economically and environmentally important



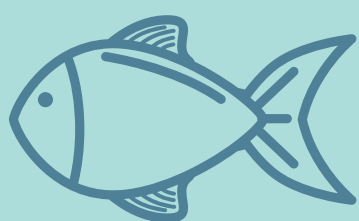
WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Oysters filter algae and organic matter from the water column, which can significantly improve surrounding water quality by decreasing turbidity (a measure of the amount of suspended material in the water).



INCREASED BIODIVERSITY

The unique 3-dimensional habitats created by native oysters support a higher biodiversity of species than the surrounding sediment/seabed.



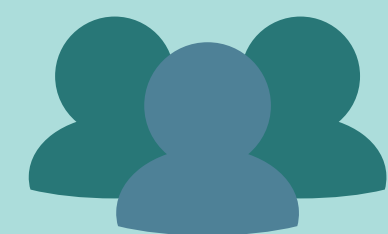
NURSERY HABITAT

Oyster reefs can increase fish abundance and biodiversity by providing a protective nursery ground for juvenile fish, refuge from predation and a source of food resulting from the associated biodiversity.



REDUCE NITROGEN

Oysters have the ability to remove excess nutrients from the water, particularly nitrogen, which at high levels can be detrimental to the environment by promoting harmful algal blooms, depleting oxygen and fish death.



CULTURAL VALUE

Native oyster fishing and cultivation have formed the heart of coastal communities in the UK and can be traced back to Roman-times.

As a result of human predation, pollution and disease, globally, an estimated 85% of native oyster beds have disappeared