



OYSTER HABITAT ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Oyster habitats provide many benefits to humans. They clean water, stabilize the seabed and are home and shelter to many of other species. This word search provides examples of these jobs that oysters do for humans and for the environment. These benefits are termed “ecosystem services”. Can you find all the words?

T F B I O D I V E R S I T Y Z
A I N A E L C S A S F J T P E
T L D N G B Z U K T L P D S R
I T Y U P V J S M A K M I X Z
B R V R U J K T Z B M H H X X
A A G S R C S A F I N N J S M
H T M E I G L I C L B L O L J
Y I B R F R Y N C I F R E U D
X O B Y Y E R A I S F C E H P
R N V O N T E B G A R F I S H
G M C N O S T I K T Z V Q F B
L Z L I B Y L L K I F Q V X H
N A B E R O E I A O C R A B T
W L X J A H H T P N U Q J X T
R Q V E C A S Y V S T E U A H

BIODIVERSITY
CARBON
CLEAN
CRAB
FILTRATION
FISH
HABITAT
NURSERY
OYSTER
PURIFY
SHELTER
STABILISATION
SUSTAINABILITY

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Biodiversity: variability among all living organisms, including number of different species and their abundance, as well as the genetic variability they support.

Carbon: a chemical element that is one of the building blocks of life on earth. Oyster reefs may draw carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) down and trap it in their shells and sediment.

Ecosystem: complex of living organisms, their physical environment and all their interrelationships.



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Filtration: oysters pump water passing over them through hair like structures and trap small particles. By doing this, a single oyster clears up to 240 liters water per day (= 1 ½ bath tubs) of water of sediment and microscopic plants (phytoplankton).

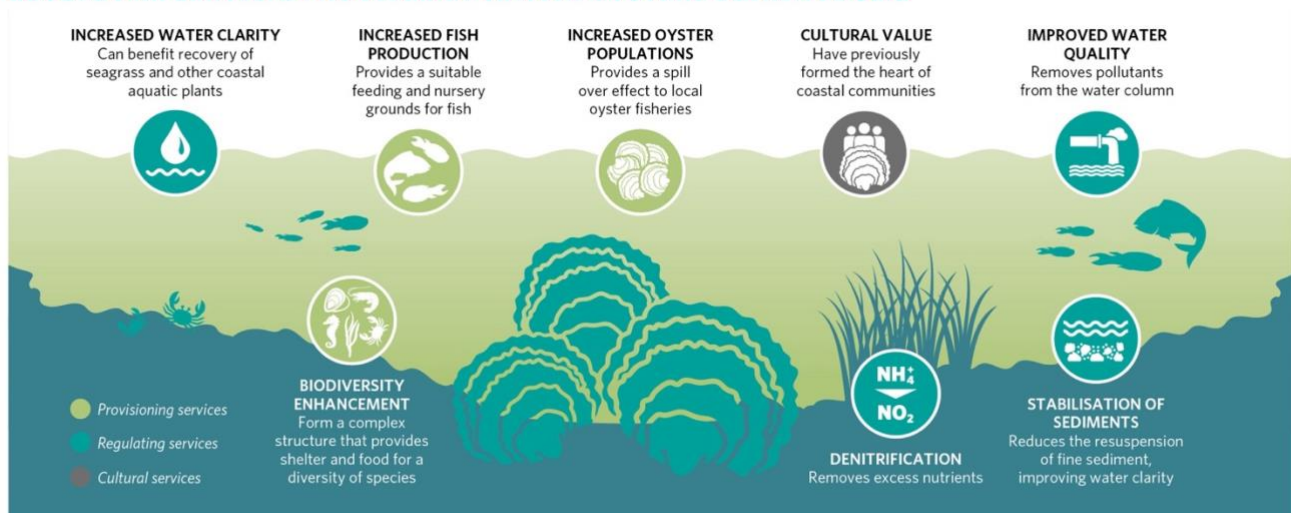
Habitat: a place where an animal or plant is living and growing. Oysters can form reefs and these reefs build a habitat for other living organisms.

Sustainability: the quality of not being harmful to nature and not depleting natural resources, thereby supporting long-lasting ecological balance and securing natural resources for following generations.

Stabilization: fixation of the soil in the marine environment, which means that the seabed consisting of sand and mud cannot be moved easily by waves, currents and tide flows.

For more information, the important ecosystem services provided by native oysters are illustrated below.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROVIDED BY NATIVE OYSTERS *OSTREA EDULIS*



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