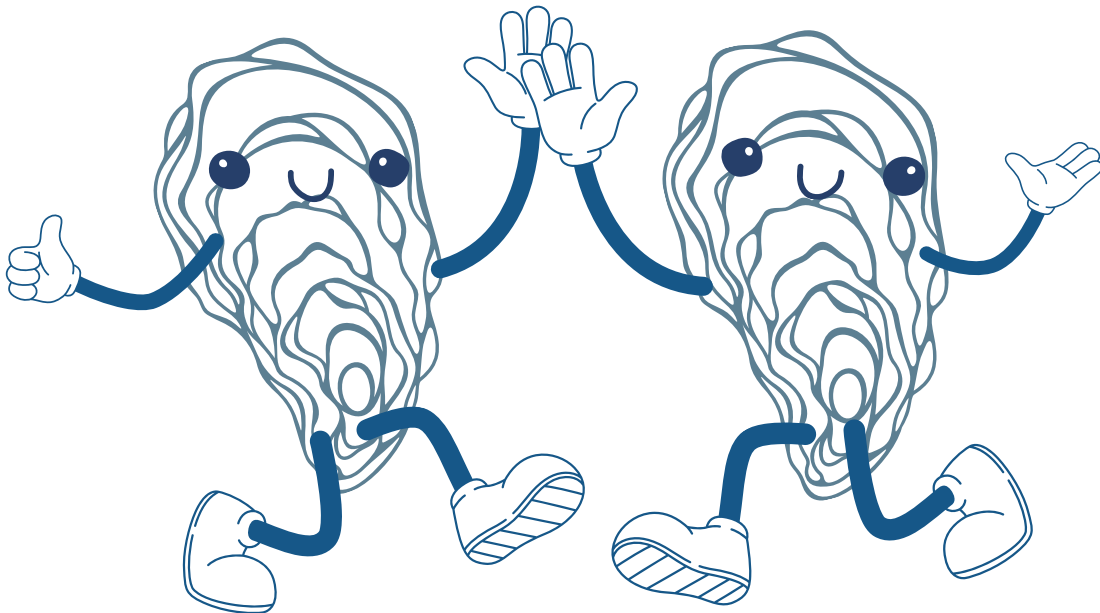




RECYCLE FOR REEFS

ACTIVITY BOOKLET



North Carolina
Coastal Federation
www.nccoast.org

Oysters 101: The 3 Fs

WHY ARE OYSTERS IMPORTANT?

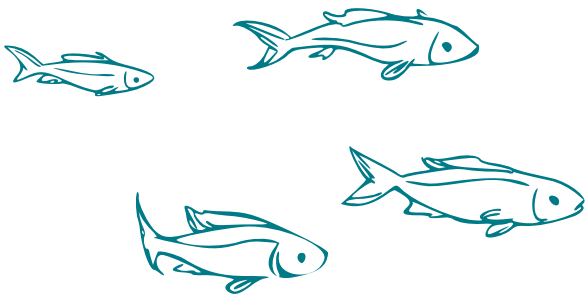
Food

Animals that eat oysters include: blue crabs, snails, fish, sea stars, and oyster catcher birds. **People love to eat oysters too!** They are part of the food web in the estuary (where fresh and salt water mix) and are economically, recreationally and commercially valuable.



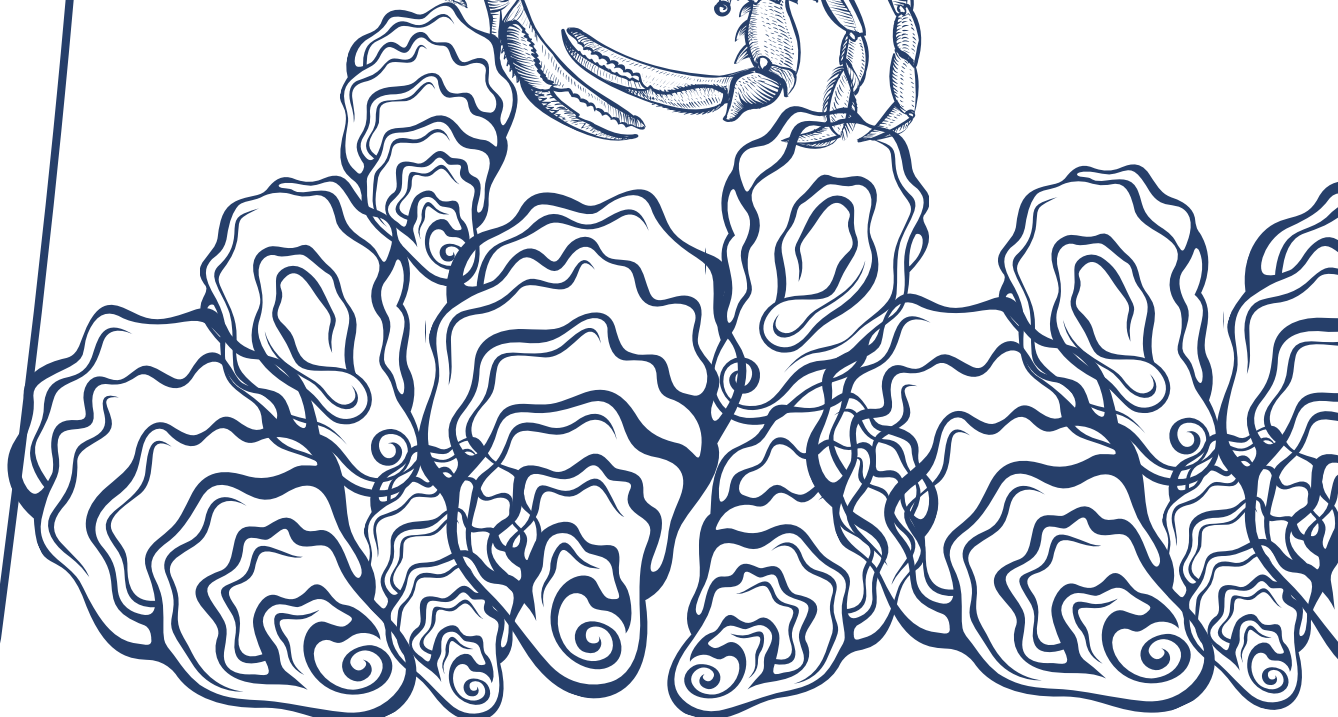
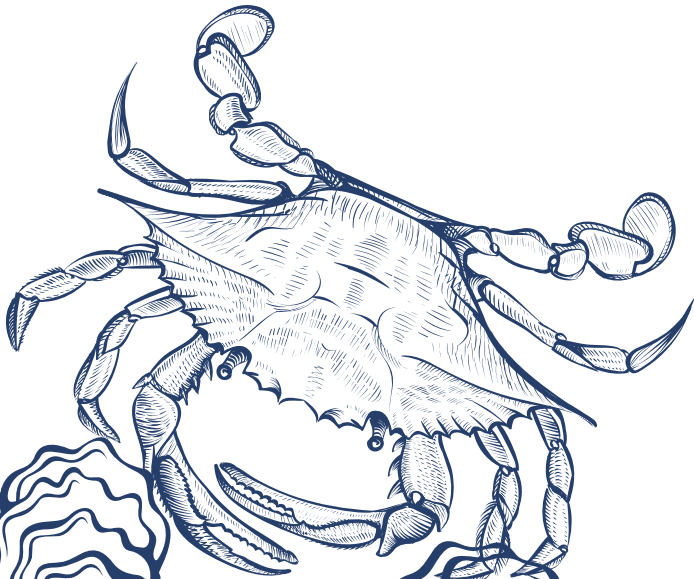
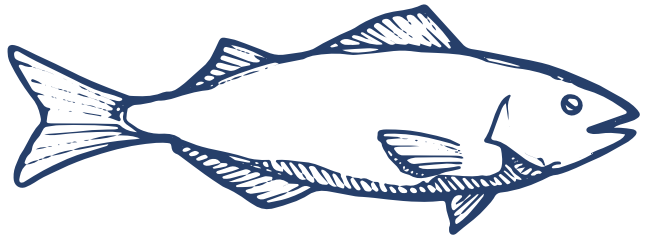
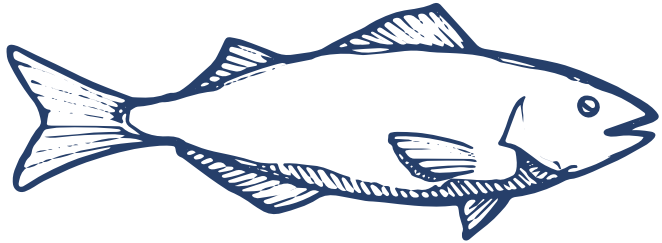
Filtration

One adult oyster can **filter (clean) up to 50 gallons of water a day**, so having healthy oysters is important for clean waters along our coast. Fifty gallons is the size of a bathtub full of water!



Fish Habitat

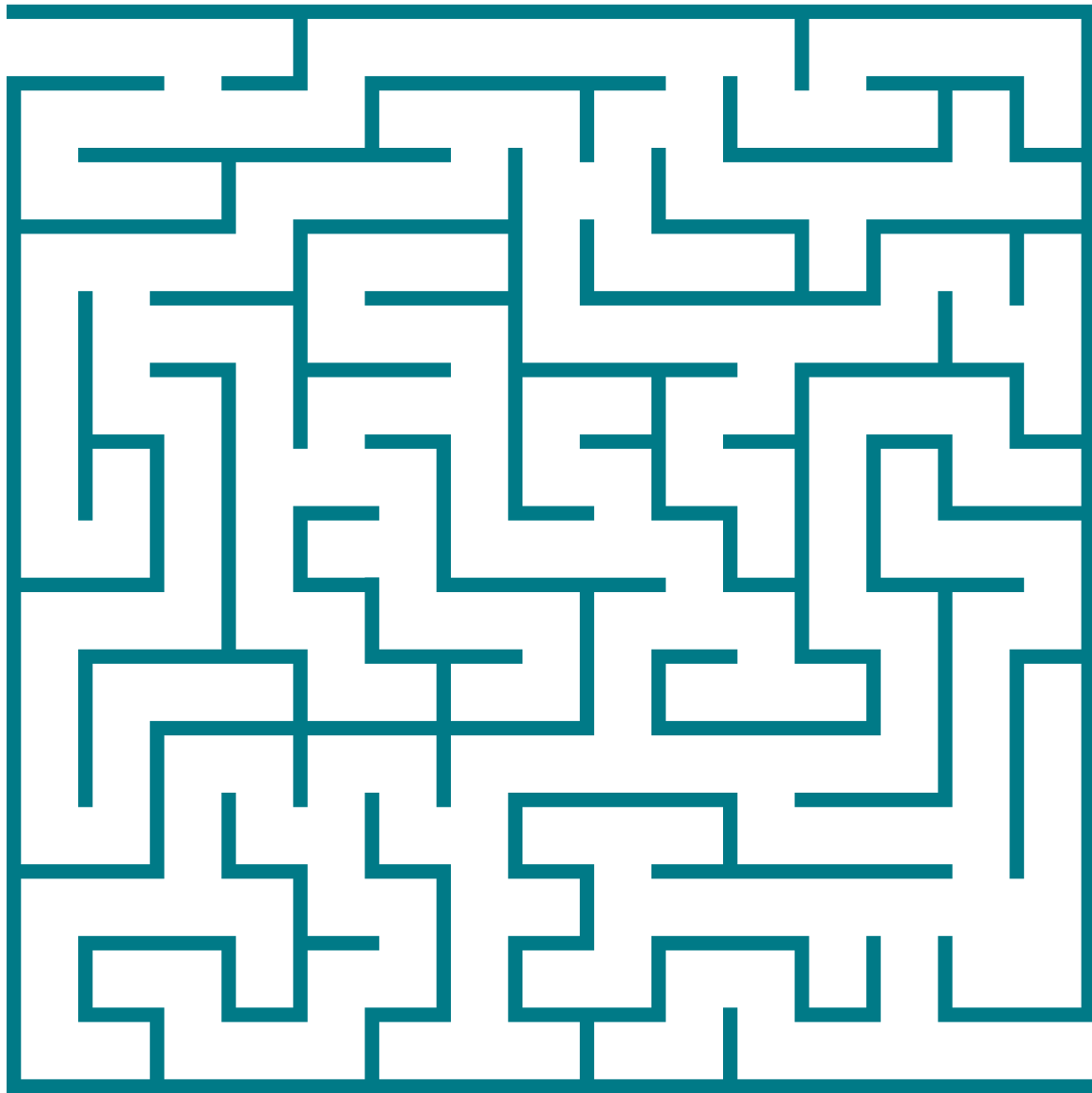
A healthy oyster reef can be **home to up to 300 different plants and animals** in the estuary. Fish, crabs, snails, barnacles and worms use the oyster reef as a home.



OYSTER SHELL RECYCLING



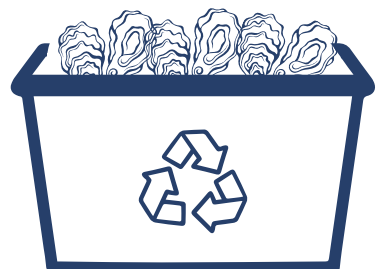
Can you help this oyster shell find
the oyster recycling bin?



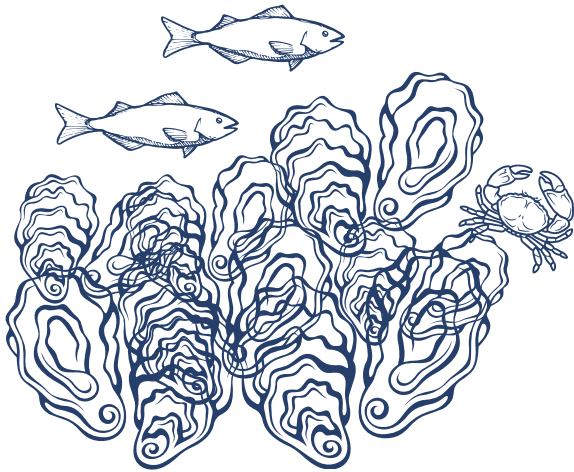
end

Why Recycle Oyster Shells?

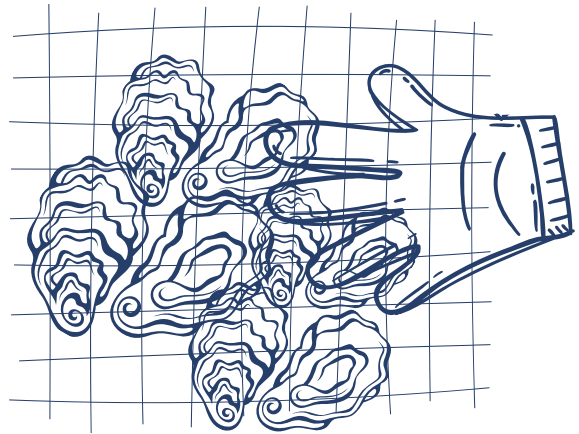
- Shells are used to build or restore oyster reefs.
- Oyster reefs are big groups of living oysters.
- Baby oysters attach to the recycled shells and grow a new living reef.



Oyster Reef



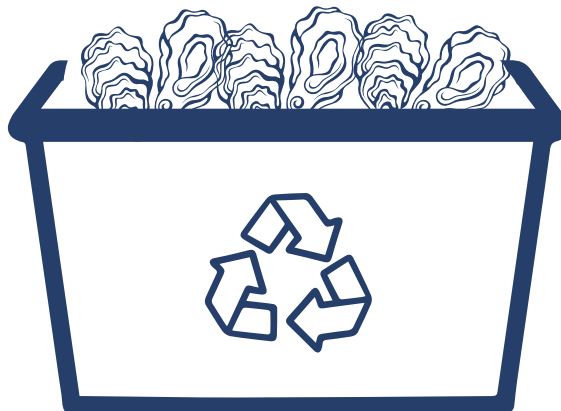
Harvested



Back to the Water!



Restaurant



Recycle Shells



The Oyster Song

Sing-A-Long!



Oyster, oyster special to me, they live in the estuary!

Fish habitat, filtration and food, oysters stay where they are glued.

Oyster, oyster special to me, they live in the estuary!

Cleaning water while they eat, some think they're a tasty treat!

Oyster, oyster special to me, they live in the estuary!

You can find them in the mudflat, and we call their babies spat.

Oyster, oyster special to me, they live in the estuary!

They turn things that make them moody, into pearls which are a beauty!

Oyster, oyster special to me, they live in the estuary!

Even though they sometimes smell, let's remember to recycle their shells.

Oyster, oyster special to me, they live in the estuary!

The shells are home for baby spat, to settle and be habitat.

Oyster, oyster special to me, they live in the estuary!

An **estuary** is
where rivers
meet the sea!

ACTIVITY TIME!

EGG CARTON OYSTER

For a video of how to do the craft use the QR code :



Supplies: Scissors, Tape, Pink felt, Egg carton, Pom-pom, Googly eyes

Directions:



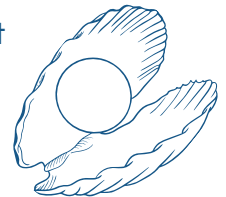
- Cut out two sections of an egg carton.
- Set one egg carton cup on top of the other.
- Place a piece of tape on the back edge of the egg carton cups to hold them together.
- Tape a small, circular piece of pink felt to the inside of the oyster
- Place a small white pom-pom or bead on top of the pink felt. This is your pearl.

- Tape or glue two googly eyes to the outside of the oyster.
- Name your oyster! _____

DID YOU KNOW?

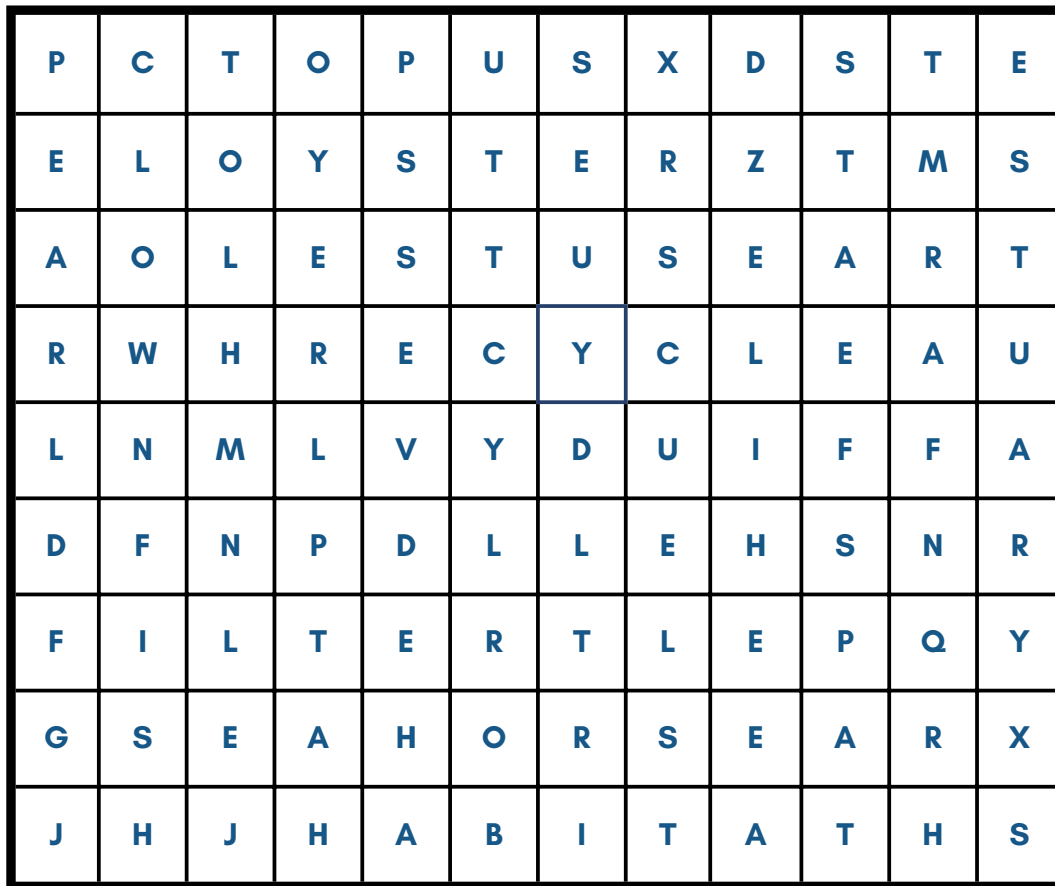
Oysters make **pearls** when a grain of sand or particle gets stuck inside their shells. This is irritating (like when you get sand stuck in your shoe!), so they cover it with a smooth substance called **nacre**. They spit nacre over it many times. After several layers the sand grain eventually becomes a pearl!

Have you ever taken something irritating or bad in your life and turned it into something for good? Similar to how oysters make beautiful pearls from something that was bothering them. Share your story below:



Healthy Oysters = Clean Waters

Recycle for Reefs Word Search



Find These Words!

- OYSTER
- RECYCLE
- SPAT
- SHELL
- PEARL
- HABITAT
- FILTER
- REEF
- ESTUARY

Want to learn more?
Check out our Distance
Learning Lab to explore
the Oyster page and more!



BOSCH

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NO SEAFOOD®**



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North Carolina
Coastal Federation
Working Together for a Healthy Coast