

*Restoring our shellfish helps
improve water quality.*

Shellfish Restoration



Where have all the shellfish gone?

Shellfish act like the filter in an aquarium – they help keep water clean. When shellfish aren't there to filter the water, the quality can suffer.

During the 1970s, hard clams filtered *40 percent* of the entire volume of Great South Bay each day. Today, there are only enough hard clams to filter *one percent* of this vast body of water each day.



Photo: Carl LeBe

The Nature Conservancy is helping make Long Island's waters thrive once again and works to:

- restore shellfish populations by creating spawner sanctuaries and shellfish nurseries where clams and scallops can grow, reproduce and live safely
- monitor the role shellfish play in improving water quality, controlling harmful algal blooms and enhancing habitat for other marine life
- engage partners to restore Great South Bay using our 13,000 underwater acres