

See what our volunteers have been up to...

Volunteers Connect to Oyster Restoration this Season, in Great Bay Estuary, NH

Shell Handling

Volunteers help bag surfclam shell used as oyster reef base material.



Volunteers "top off" and close shell bags.

Oyster Hatchery & Oyster Conservationists Program

Volunteers raise young oysters for restoration in Great Bay Estuary. They help monitor and grow oysters to improve the filtration and health of the estuary!



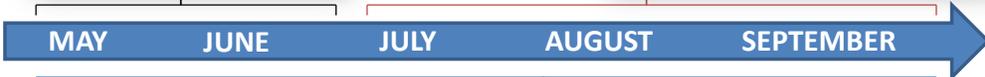
Oyster larvae look similar to other bivalves.



Oyster Conservationists measuring oyster spat.



Dr. Ray Grizzle and Krystin Ward at UNH's oyster nursery raft.



MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER

Oct-Nov:
Re-build oyster reef in Lamprey River



Shell recycled all year

Collect & Wash Recycled Shell

We work with the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) to acquire oyster shell from recycled sources. **Volunteers help wash recycled shell, used as hard surface for spat settlement.**

Shell washing at JEL, UNH.




Local residents interested in cleaning up NH's estuary are well-involved in the beginning of this season's oyster restoration process! Filter-feeding oysters remove excess nutrients and suspended solids from the water column, serving as a natural filtration system. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and University of New Hampshire (UNH) are taking the lead role to rebuild oyster populations in Great Bay Estuary. These leading organizations have reached out to the local community to educate residents about the importance of oysters in the bay and local volunteers have actively responded.

Shell handling, washing recycled shell, and the Oyster Conservationists Program are just some of the ways our volunteers lend a helping hand. A dedicated group of volunteers helped with handling 225 bags of surfclam shell, which is used as the foundation for the new two-acre reef. Other preparation work included washing recycled oyster shell used for spat settlement. Volunteers helped UNH and TNC staffs remove attached tissue from over five tons of oyster shell by hand! Our Oyster Conservationists Program works directly with home-owners with access to the water to raise young oysters (spat) into healthy juveniles used for restoration. Most volunteers are participating in more than one opportunity to help out. The dedication of our volunteers in the oyster restoration project shows how these local residents really care about improving NH's estuary. Thank you to volunteers for all your hard-work!

Our next steps include finishing constructing the new reef (at the mouth of the Lamprey River) and starting the Oyster Conservationists Program in mid July! We have a lot to look forward! It is a pleasure working with so many volunteers with genuine interest in protecting NH's Great Bay estuarine resource!