

# Oysters In Peril

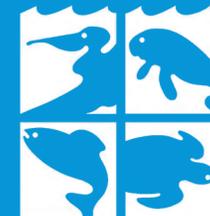
Support our Mission  
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# FL.O.O.R. FLorida Oceanographic Oyster Restoration

Over the last 60+ years, the St. Lucie River has lost over 80% of its oyster reef habitat. The healthy functioning of the St. Lucie River is integrally tied to the health of her oyster reefs.



Florida Oceanographic's mission is to inspire environmental stewardship along Florida's coastal ecosystem through education and research. Please join us in our mission today.

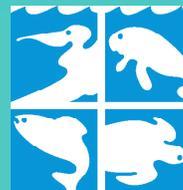


**Florida  
Oceanographic  
Society**



Historic oyster reef habitats from 1940-1996  
credit: SWFMD IRL SWIM Plan 2002

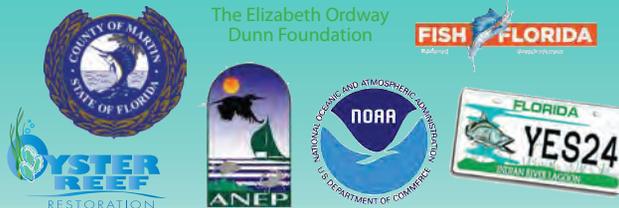
For additional information on participating in these programs, please contact Vincent Encomio, PhD at (772) 225-0505 ext. 112.



You may also visit our website at [www.floridaocean.org](http://www.floridaocean.org) for more details  
890 NE Ocean Blvd, Stuart, FL 34996  
(772) 225-0505



Funding for these projects has been provided by:



# Why Oysters Are Important

When healthy, oysters will:

- Filter and clean the water
- Provide food and habitat for a wide diversity of animals, including gamefish
- Stabilize and protect shorelines



To aid in the effort to restore oysters to the St. Lucie River, Florida Oceanographic Society has initiated projects to incorporate more community involvement and knowledge.

## Commercial Importance

- Oysters are the most important commercial bivalve worldwide

## Ecological Importance

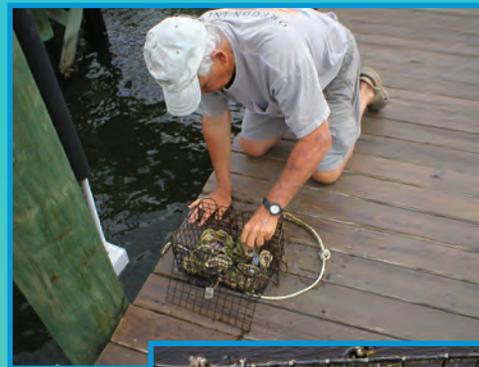
- Filtration
- Habitat
- Dominant reef building organism in temperate waters



# Oyster Gardening



Local citizens in Martin County have volunteered to grow oysters off their docks. These oysters have then been planted at historic reef sites in the St. Lucie. To date, approximately 800,000 oysters have been restored to the St. Lucie through this program.



# Oyster Reef Restoration

Florida Oceanographic is planning to build several artificial reefs in the St. Lucie to provide much needed substrate for oysters to settle on and grow.



Many hands make little work.

## Shell Recycling

The reefs are made from recycled oyster shell acquired from local restaurants.

