

Building knowledge and skills Project PORTS scientists and educators provide hands-on learning activities for partner school students, teaching important scientific concepts and highlighting the local significance of the oyster resource. Project PORTS curriculum activities address national curriculum content standards.



Building community and a stewardship ethic Project PORTS community-based restoration project puts students in direct contact with the Delaware Bay environment and extends lessons from the classroom to a real-world application. This connection lends a sense of ownership to the student's studies and inspires a personal commitment for the stewardship of the Bay.

Building Delaware Bay oyster reef habitat and sustainability Students and community volunteers assist Rutgers scientists in restoring oyster reef habitat. Participants construct and deploy shell bags that serve as a settlement surface for oyster larvae and the foundational structure of the oyster reef.



Discover Project PORTS

- Community-based oyster restoration
- School partnerships and enrichment programs
- Curriculum materials
- Workshops for educators
- Volunteer opportunities



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Project PORTS is conducted in partnership with the American Littoral Society and with assistance from the Cumberland County Empowerment Zone, Cape May and Cumberland County 4-H Programs, Rutgers Aquaculture Innovation Center, The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, The Nature Conservancy, and Project PORTS Partner Schools.

Learn how you can get involved, please contact:

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project PORTS

Promoting Oyster Restoration Through Schools

An outreach initiative of the Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey



Project PORTS is a community-based restoration and educational program focusing on the importance of oyster populations in the Delaware Bay ecosystem.

Crassostrea virginica

Project PORTS: Promoting Oyster Restoration

Through Schools is a unique community-based restoration program that gives K-12 students an opportunity to experience environmental stewardship first hand as they help restore critical Delaware Bay oyster habitat.

Developed and coordinated by the **Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, Rutgers University, Project PORTS** utilizes the oyster as a vehicle to acquaint students, educators and the broader community with the Bayshore and the methodologies and science of a real world oyster restoration project.

In-school education programs that teach students about estuarine ecology and the maritime history of the Delaware Bay are complemented by hands-on, real-world restoration work. The program is founded on the belief that stewardship grows from an underlying appreciation and understanding of the environment.



The Oyster is a keystone estuarine organism recognized for its ecological role in improving water quality, creating complex structural habitat, and enhancing fisheries production. The oyster has also served as a principal fishery, shaping the economy and culture of communities along the Delaware Bay shore and other coastal areas.

During the last century dramatic declines in oyster habitat have occurred. Oyster reefs are one of the most imperiled habitats on earth, making

their restoration an important conservation goal worldwide.

Since 2007, thousands of students and community volunteers have participated in **Project PORTS** oyster restoration efforts. The successful project has seeded more than 20 million oysters at targeted Delaware Bay fishery and conservation sites. More recently **Project PORTS** has expanded to support oyster restoration along New Jersey's Atlantic Coast.



Seeding the future: Inspiring youth to care for the environment