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New Jersey Aquaculture Growers Forum

Tools to Measure the Water Quality Benefits Provided by Oysters and Other Bivalves

Janine Barr

Unit Administrator/Specialist
Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
Rutgers University
janine.barr@rutgers.edu



When: Wednesday, November 29th, 6:30 pm

Where: Jacques Cousteau Coastal Education Center,
130 Great Bay Blvd, Tuckerton, NJ 08087

Abstract: Many bivalves (like oysters, clams, and mussels) are filter feeders that remove particulate matter from the water column as they feed. So, in addition to their market value, these critters provide water quality benefits to their local water column. The amount of particulate matter these filter feeders remove from the water column varies in response to a number of environmental conditions including the



temperature, turbidity, and salinity of the water. Therefore, a detailed understanding of bivalve feeding behavior under site-specific conditions is important to accurately estimate the water quality benefits they provide. From July 2021 through September 2022, Janine Barr (Rutgers, M.S.) conducted experiments at oyster farms in the New Jersey area to create a user-friendly Oyster Water Quality Benefits Calculator. The calculator estimates the seasonal and annual water quality benefits oyster farms in the Mid-Atlantic can provide.

During this presentation, Janine will provide an overview of (1) how the 2021/2022 oyster farm experiments were conducted as well as the results of those experiments and (2) tools that are available to growers that estimate the water quality benefits provided by various New Jersey shellfish. This will include a tour of the preliminary Oyster Water Quality Benefits Calculator. Janine welcomes any input participants may have on the Oyster Water Quality Benefits Calculator to ensure the tool meets growers' needs.

For more information, please contact: Michael.Acquafredda@rutgers.edu