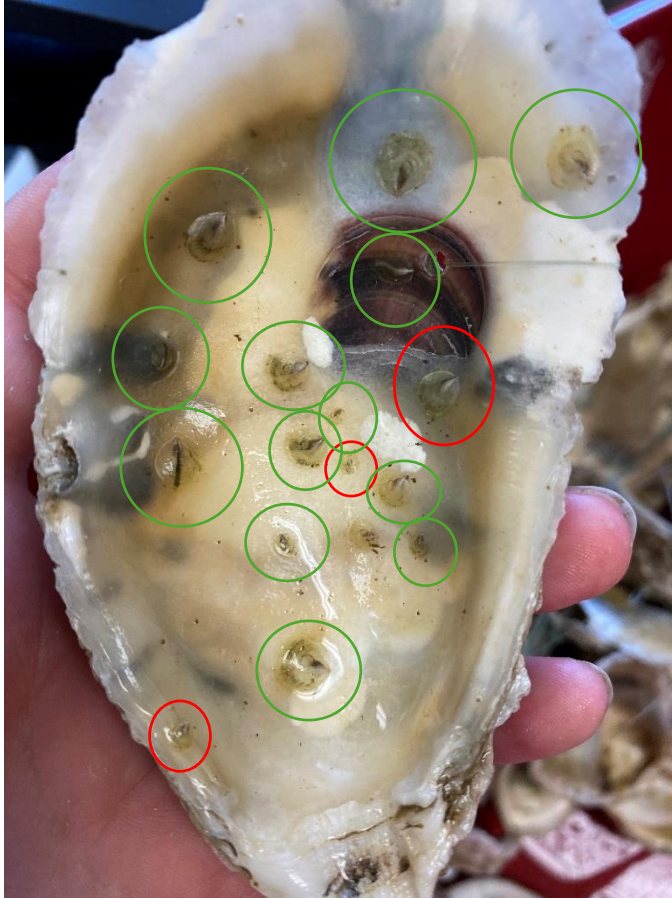


Counting Spat In Your Oyster Garden

It is important to know how many spat are alive and how many have died over the course of your gardening period. Mass mortalities in your garden can indicate the presence of a predator or an issue with water quality or disease. You can often tell when a spat is dead because the shell is clear, there is no gut (small black spot towards the middle of the oyster), if the shell of the spat is open, or it is just a spat scar (the whole spat died and fell off or was eaten off).



*Figure 1. An example of a **clean** shell with spat visible. The green circles indicate the spat that are alive. The red circles indicate dead spat.*



Figure 2. An example of an **uncleaned** shell with visible spat. The green circles are living spat. The red circles are dead spat. The orange circles are spat scars – where a spat once was but has since been predated or fell off.