

Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Project



Summary: Since 2005, the Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Task Force has strategically planted almost 2 million bushels of clam and oyster shells onto historic reefs in Delaware Bay. It has done so to achieve two objectives: 1.) enhance survival by providing clean surfaces to which juvenile oysters can attach and grow, and 2.) maintain the ecology of the bay by sustaining oyster reefs. This program has been successful in stabilizing Delaware Bay's supply of shell, with 2007 being the first year since 1999 that the oyster-shell resource has been in equilibrium or increased. More importantly, there has been a substantial increase in the survival of juvenile oysters. The projected harvest quota for 2008 is now the third-highest since the mid-1980s, and the estimated impact of the FY07 program alone is \$90 million — equating to more than \$40 for every federal dollar invested.

Benefits to the Region:

- Improved water quality
- Expanded habitat for marine life
- Increased state revenue
- More jobs for fishermen
- Improved coordination among regional stakeholders
- Conservation of a widely revered cultural resource
- Local source of nutritious food



Delaware Supporters:

Senator Joe Biden
Senator Tom Carper
Congressman Mike Castle
Governor Ruth Ann Minner

New Jersey Supporters:

Senator Frank Lautenberg
Senator Robert Menendez
Congressman Frank LoBiondo
Governor Jon Corzine

Notable Recognition

Recipient of the 2008 Government Award given by the Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin

Partnering Organizations

Cumberland County Empowerment Zone

Delaware & New Jersey Shellfish Industry

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Delaware River and Bay Authority

Delaware River Basin Commission

Delaware State University's College of Agriculture and Related Sciences

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

Rutgers University's Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District

Shell-planting Sites in Delaware Bay



For further details, please visit www.DelawareEstuary.org or call Shaun Bailey at (800) 445-4935, extension 113.