

Human Influences on Oyster Populations in the Chesapeake Bay

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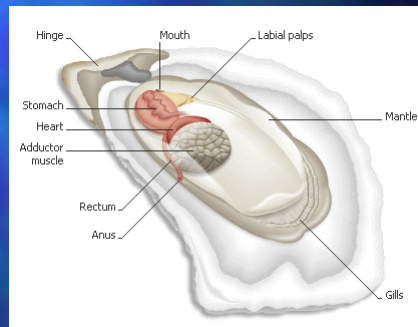
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American Oyster *Crassostrea virginica*

- Bivalve
- Form reefs
- Filter feeder



The Importance of Oysters to the Chesapeake Bay

- Filter the Chesapeake Bay
- Provide habitat
- Provide food
- Economic value



Declining Populations

- Over harvesting
- Poor water quality
- MSX and Dermo
- Natural predators
- Loss of habitat

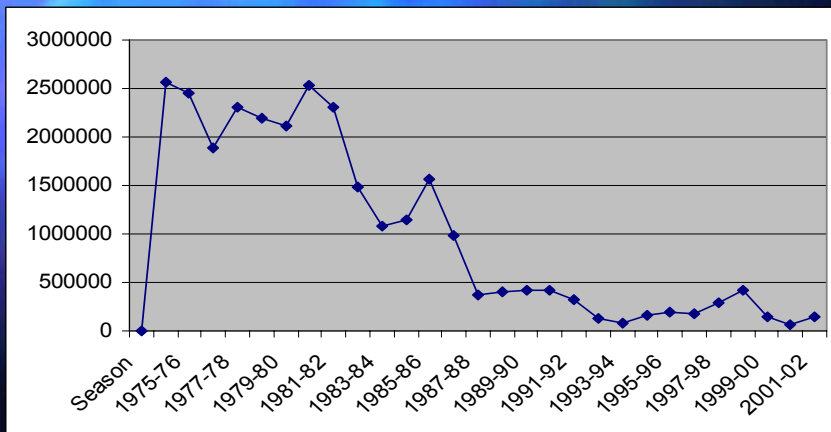


Human Influences On Oyster Population

- Pollution
 - Sedimentation
 - Algae blooms
- Soil Erosion
- Over harvesting



Harvest in Bushels (1975-1998)



Human Influences On Oyster Population

- Marine Diseases affecting oysters
 - MSX-Multinucleated Sphere X
 - Dermo- Parasitic, *Perkinsus marinus*

The Future of the Oyster in the Chesapeake Bay

- Research
 - Horn Point Laboratory
 - Introduction of New Species
- Reef Restoration
- Legislation

What We Are Doing

- Aquarium on Wheels
 - Education
 - Plays and Labs
 - Classroom programs



What We Are Doing

- Participation
 - Clean-ups at Fort McHenry
 - Planting wetland grasses

