

OYSTER GARDENING

Over 5,900 oysters raised
and planted in
Choctawhatchee Bay from
2017 to 2019!
Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance

What is Oyster Gardening?



Volunteers are given a cage with oyster shells to provide a habitat for **spat**, or free-floating oyster larvae, to attach to. They attach these cages to their dock and monitor over next the year.

Volunteers work to maintain their oysters by removing fouling organisms, sediment, and predators, taking data along the way!



During CBA's Move Your Mollusk Event, volunteers move and plant their oyster spat to some of our restoration site oyster reefs in Choctawhatchee Bay.

BIGGEST SPAT

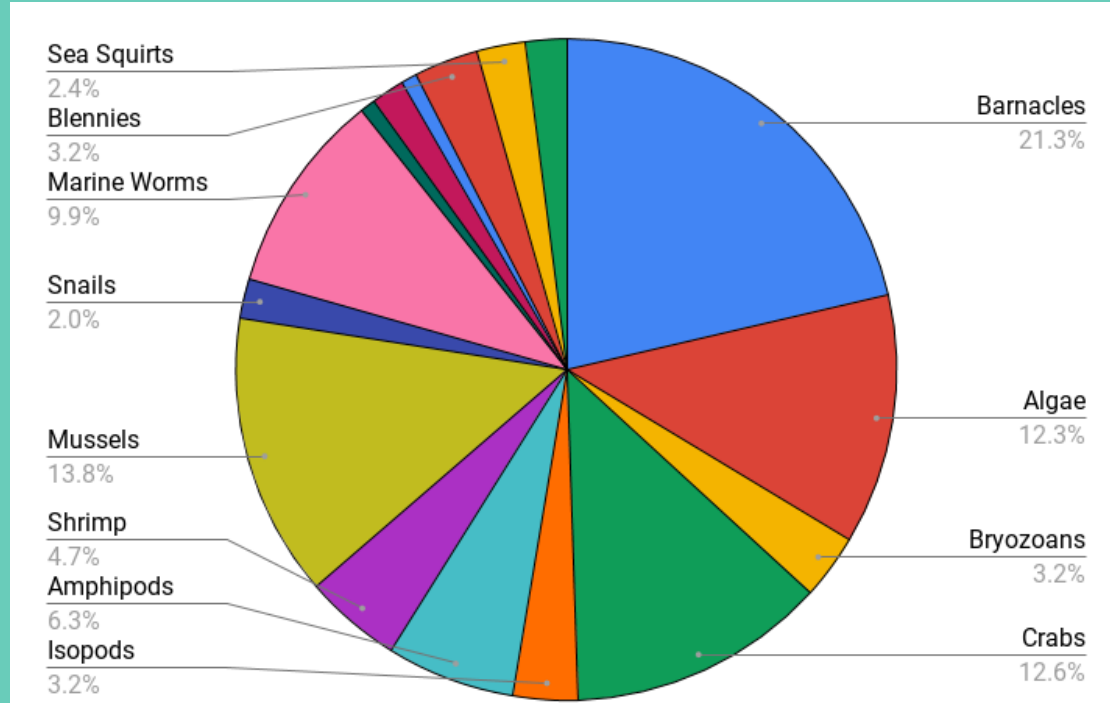
9.7 cm

VS

SMALLEST SPAT

0.1 cm

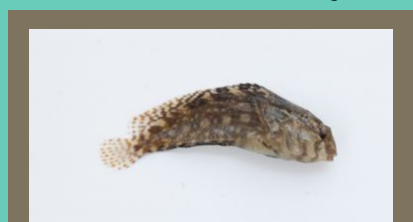
PREDATORS on the Oyster Reef



Most Dangerous: Crab



Cutest: Blenny



Creepiest: Oyster Toadfish



50 gallons of cleaner water

A single adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day.

Ecosystem engineers

Oysters are **ecosystem engineers**, which means they modify and create habitat and moderate (either directly or indirectly) the availability of resources to other species.

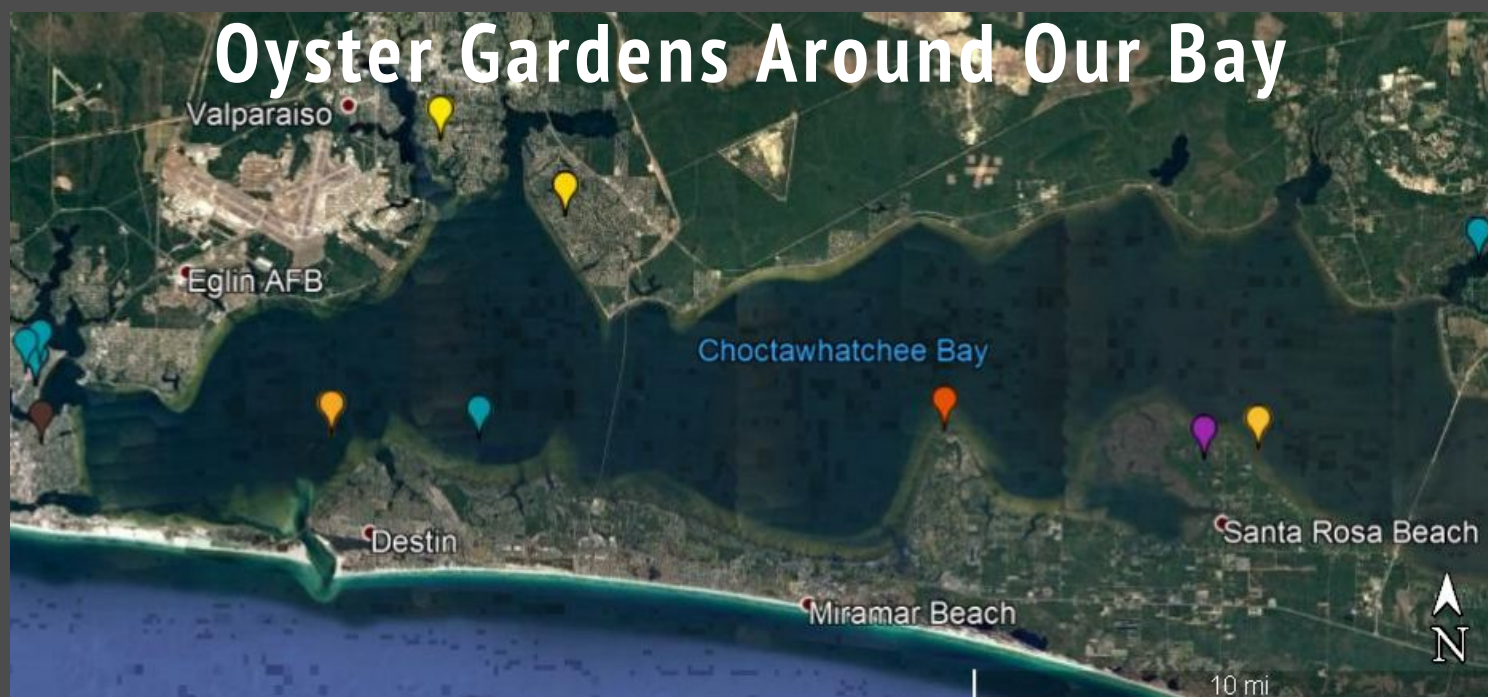
180 million years old

Oysters have been around for 180 million years.

Ecosystem services

Oyster reefs provide many **ecosystem services** such as: water filtration, habitat, food, shoreline stabilization, nutrient recycling, even combatting bay and ocean acidification.

Oyster Gardens Around Our Bay



Want to get involved? Visit our website at <http://basinalliance.org>. Contact us at cba@nwfsc.edu.