

Offer Your Shell To Enhance Restoration

O.Y.S.T.E.R.





Shell Recycling Program



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The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Northwest Florida State College (CBA) has partnered with AmeriCorps and local seafood restaurants to establish the O.Y.S.T.E.R. Shell Recycling Program. Local restaurants collect shucked oyster shells, CBA picks up the shells, and then recycled shells are used to build oyster reefs in Choctawhatchee Bay.

-  Oyster reefs provide the hard surface necessary for oyster larvae to settle and thrive.
-  Oysters filter nutrients, algae, bacteria, and fine sediments from the water, improving water quality and clarity. A single adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day.
-  Oyster reefs provide important feeding and refuge habitat for over 300 species of invertebrates, such as shrimp, crabs, clams, snails, and worms, as well as many species of fish such as grouper, redfish, black drum, and more.
-  Oyster reefs are a natural coastal buffer, protecting shorelines and coastal marshes from erosion.