

Oyster Shell Recycling in Maryland

The Oyster Recovery Partnership

December 2021



Oyster Recovery Partnership

- Annapolis-based nonprofit coordinates large-scale oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay
- To date, 9+ billion juvenile oysters planted in the Chesapeake Bay & its tributaries
- Oysters planted in 3 broad settings:
 - Sanctuary reefs
 - Public oyster bars
 - Aquaculture



OYSTER RECOVERY®
PARTNERSHIP | ORP



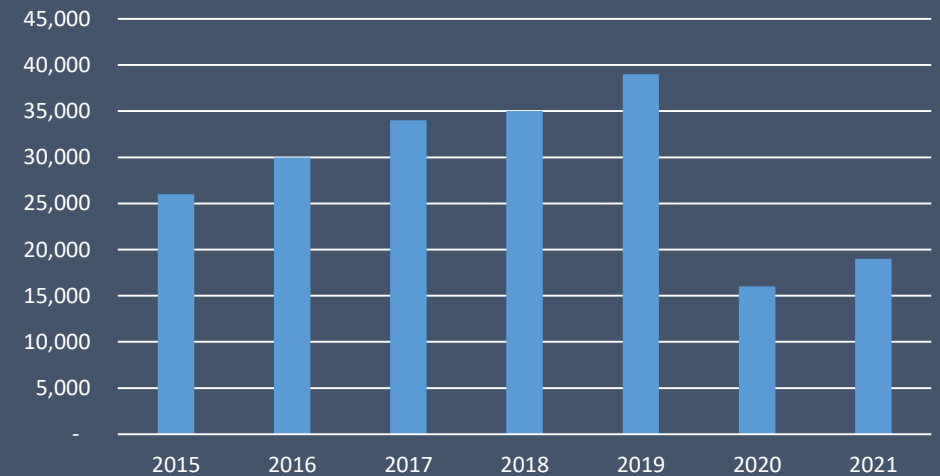


Why Recycle Oyster Shells

- Natural oyster shell best & most natural substrate to plant oysters on
- Demand for shell grows as restoration & aquaculture grow
- Restaurant recycling provides a reliable & growing source of shell



ORP Shell Recycling



Goal of Oyster Shell Recycling

- Divert a useful, valuable resource away from landfills
- Restore & rebuild oyster habitat
- Engage the public



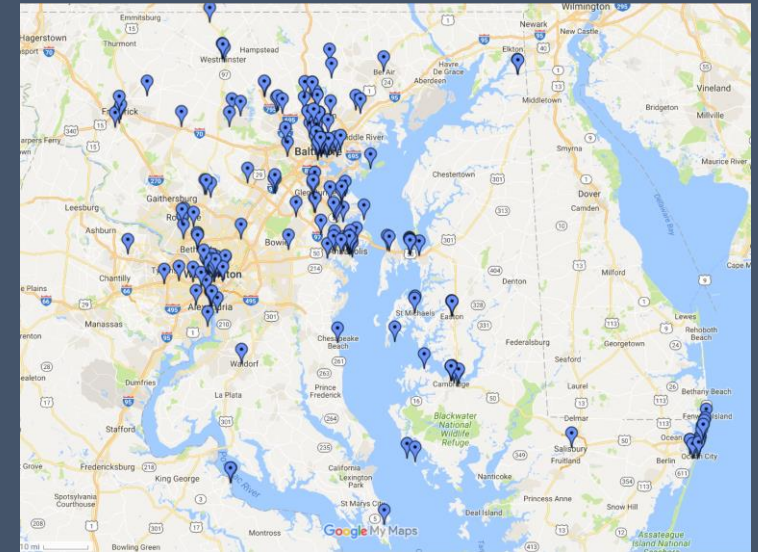


History of Oyster Shell Recycling



SHELL RECYCLING
ALLIANCE

- ORP's Shell Recycling Alliance launched in 2010 – the 1st large-scale, urban-based shell recycling program in the country
- Restaurants participate because:
 - Reduces solid waste disposal costs
 - Defines them as environmental stewards
 - Engages customers in Chesapeake Bay clean-up
- State of Maryland offers \$5-per-bushel tax credit





Oyster Shell Recycling Today

- More than 300 restaurants in Maryland/Virginia/Washington DC
- Recycled shell provides 25% of shell used in oyster restoration
 - Recycled shell: \$4 per bushel
 - Purchased shell: \$5+ per bushel
- Shell is picked up 5 days-per-week & then:
 - Aged
 - Washed
 - Reused







Shell Recycling Alliance – Challenges & Opportunities

- Demand for shell is skyrocketing & will soon exceed local supply
- Logistics are challenging:
 - Recruiting new restaurants
 - Coordinating collection routes
 - Aggregating & moving shell to field HQ
 - Maintaining vehicles
- Most oyster shells around the country still go to landfills
 - Not economically feasible to capture shell outside of Chesapeake Bay region
 - Interest in building shell recycling in other regions



For additional information:

Oyster Recovery Partnership
1805A Virginia Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

www.oysterrecovery.org

www.oysterrecovery.org/sra



OYSTER RECOVERY
PARTNERSHIP
— ORP —

