



## 1. Recycle Oyster Shells

Instead of throwing away empty oyster shells after meals, save them to help build new reefs for oyster restoration projects. There are shell recycling drop-off bins at participating restaurants across Virginia and Maryland. You can also encourage new restaurants to recycle their oyster shell.



## 2. Become an Oyster Gardener

Raise baby oysters in cages suspended from docks at your home, community pier, or local marina. After one year these oysters are planted on nearby sanctuary reefs.



## 3. Eat Locally Grown Oysters

Aquaculture oysters provide many of the same benefits to the Bay as wild oysters. By eating locally farmed oysters you are supporting local businesses and a healthy Bay.



## 4. Advocate for Investment in Oyster Restoration

Federal and state support is critical to bringing back the Bay's oyster population. Contact your state legislator or member of Congress and let them know that oysters are important to you.



## 5. Volunteer for Oyster Restoration

Volunteers are needed to help with all aspects of putting new oysters in the Bay, as well as other efforts that lead to cleaner water and more oysters.

The Chesapeake Oyster Alliance is a coalition of non-profits, community organizations, oyster growers, and others committed to adding 10 billion new oysters in the Bay by 2025. It is only with a healthy Chesapeake oyster population that a restored Bay is possible. The alliance will improve water quality, engage new constituencies, and drive economic benefits across the region.

Oysters are crucial a healthy Bay and strong economy, but the current population is just a tiny fraction of its historic size. Chesapeake Bay oyster restoration progress has been accelerating thanks to restoration work, the growth of aquaculture, and improvements on land that lead to the clean water oysters need to thrive. But without an ambitious collaborative effort we will likely fall far short of truly restoring this keystone species.

The **top three priorities** are ensuring robust funding for oyster restoration, establishing sound science-based management that ensures sustainable harvest of the Bay's oyster population, and expanding the oyster aquaculture industries in Virginia and Maryland.

**To get involved, please visit:**  
[CHESAPEAKEOYSTERALLIANCE.ORG/JOIN](https://CHESAPEAKEOYSTERALLIANCE.ORG/JOIN)