

❖ Bivalve restoration: Scaling-up, restoring ecosystem services, and setting goals

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The field of bivalve restoration has been gaining momentum in the US over the last 12 years. Much of the proof-of-concept work has been done at the community project scale, often supported by the Community-based Restoration Program within the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA) and partners, such as The Nature Conservancy. Considerable emphasis has recently been placed on scaling-up these projects to ecologically meaningful scales. This raises the question: How much oyster restoration is enough? Bay-wide oyster restoration goals have traditionally been set to return a bay to some point described in terms of historic abundance. An alternative, and more constructive approach, might be to set restoration goals in terms of the amount of an important service that society would like to see returned. The development and application of this logic is being advanced by a coalition of researchers. An overview of the Oyster Restoration Goal Setting Initiative will be provided with specific examples where TNC is assisting communities in implementing restoration using ecosystem goals as targets.