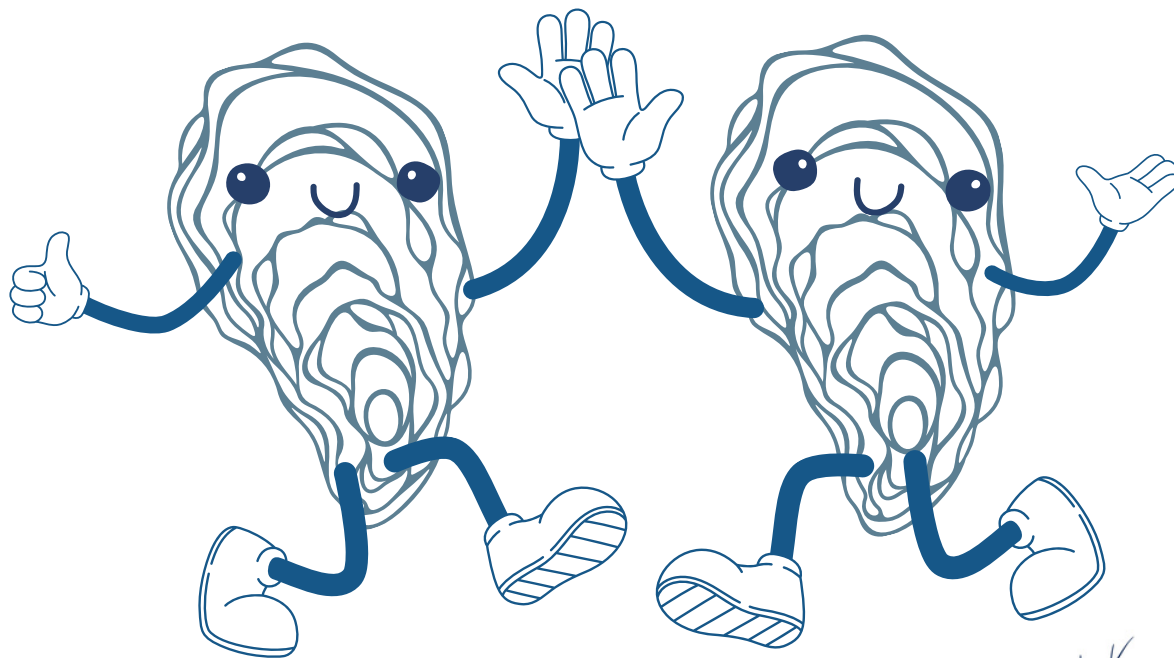




RECYCLE FOR REEFS

ACTIVITY BOOKLET



Oysters 101: The 3 Fs

WHY ARE OYSTERS IMPORTANT?

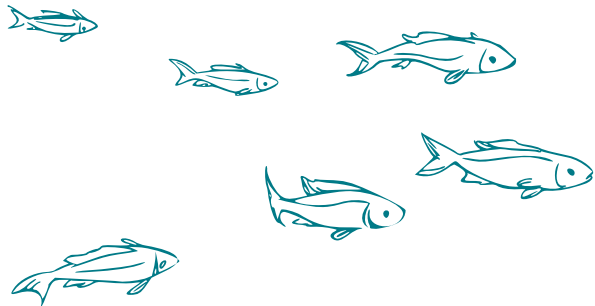
Food

Animals that eat oysters include: blue crabs, snails, fish, sea stars, and oyster catcher birds. People love to eat oysters too! They are part of the food web in the estuary (where fresh and salt water mix) and are economically, recreationally and commercially valuable.



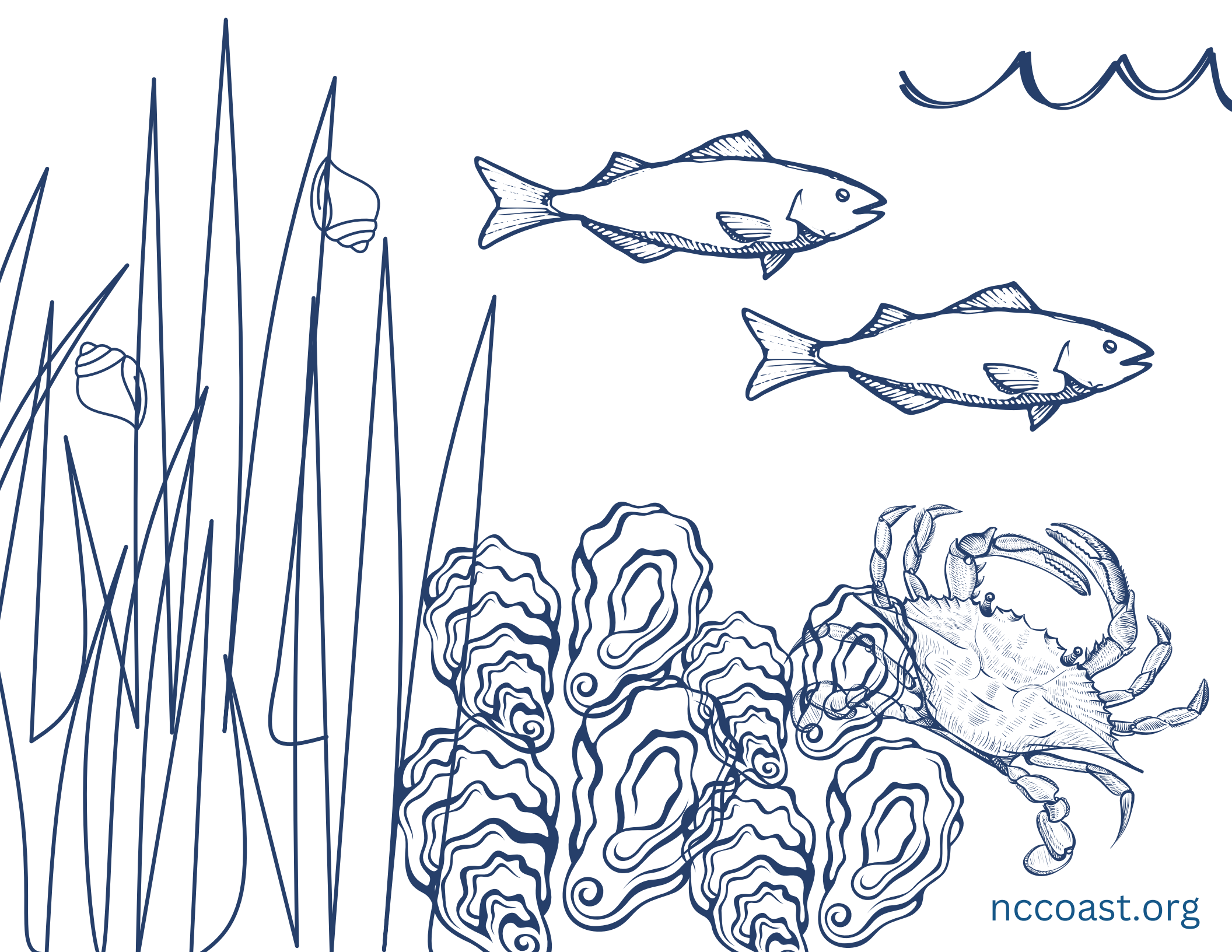
Filtration

One adult oyster can **filter (clean) up to 50 gallons of water a day**, so having healthy oysters is important for clean waters along our coast. 50 gallons is the size of a bathtub full of water!



Fish Habitat

A healthy oyster reef can be **home to up to 300 different plants and animals** in the estuary. Fish, crabs, snails, barnacles and worms use the oyster reef as a home.

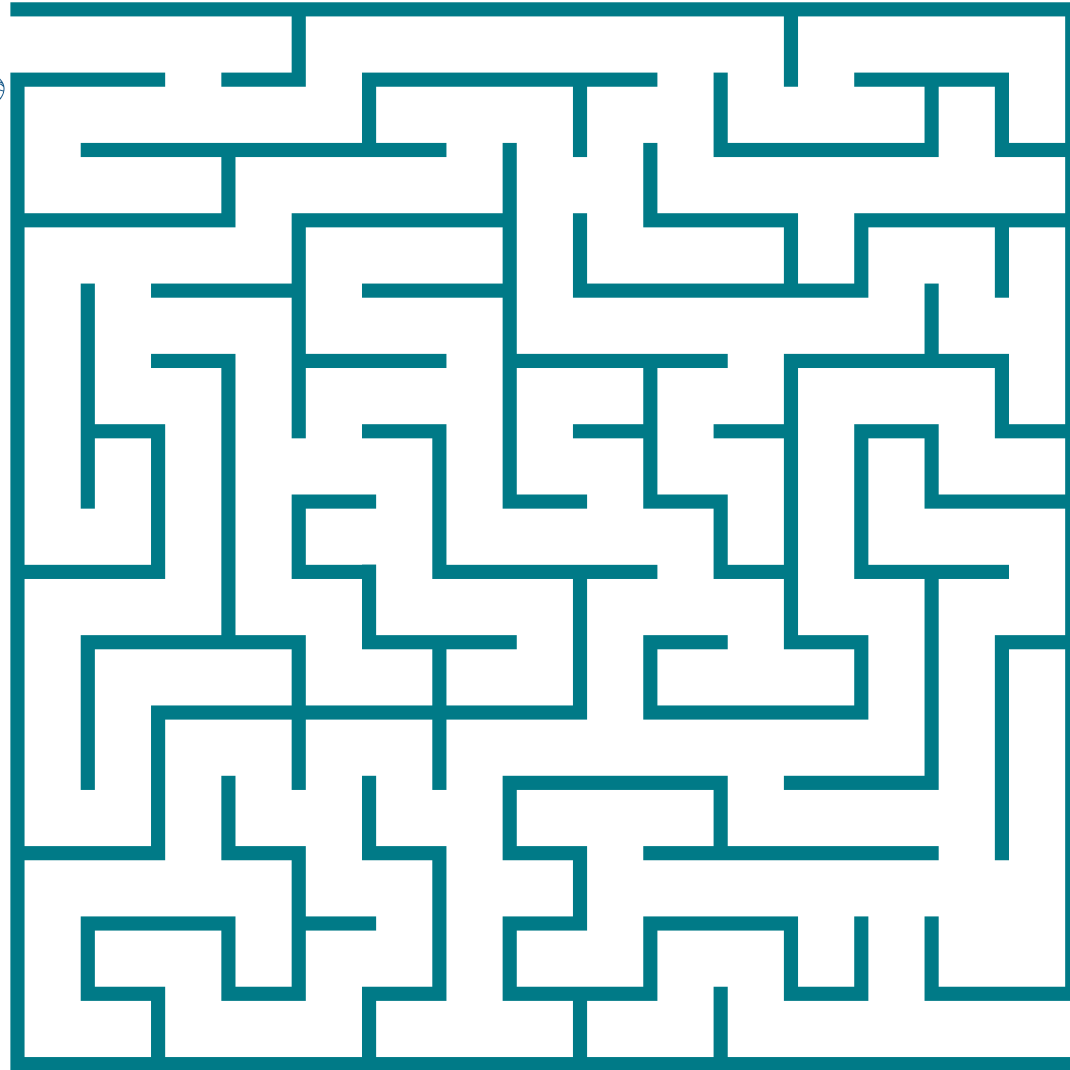


OYSTER SHELL RECYCLING

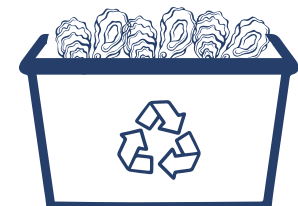
Can you help this oyster shell find the oyster recycling bin?



start



end



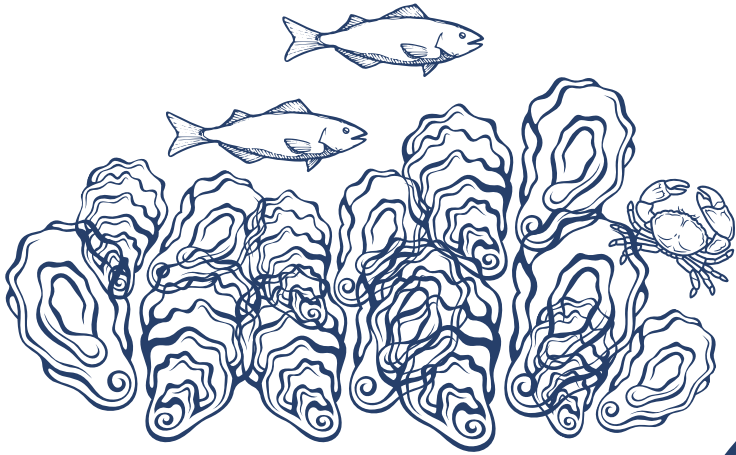
Why Recycle Oyster Shells?

- Shells are used to build or restore oyster reefs. Oyster reefs are big groups of living oysters.
- Baby oysters attach to the recycled shells and grow a new living reef.

Oyster Reefs:

- Provide important habitat for fish, crabs, shrimp, and other marine life.
- Reduce soundside erosion.
- Clean our estuaries because oysters are filter-feeders that clean the water while they eat!

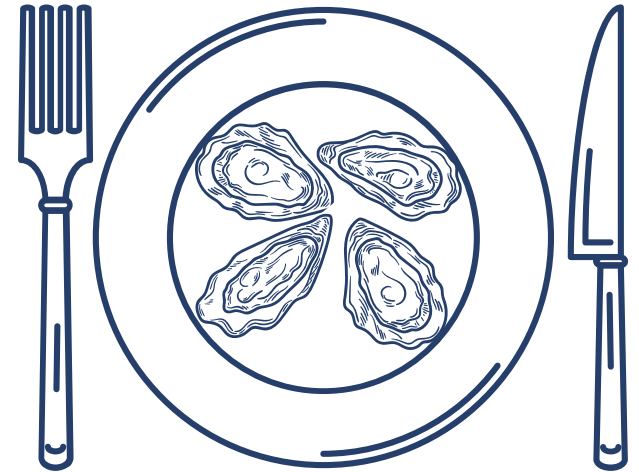
Oyster Reef



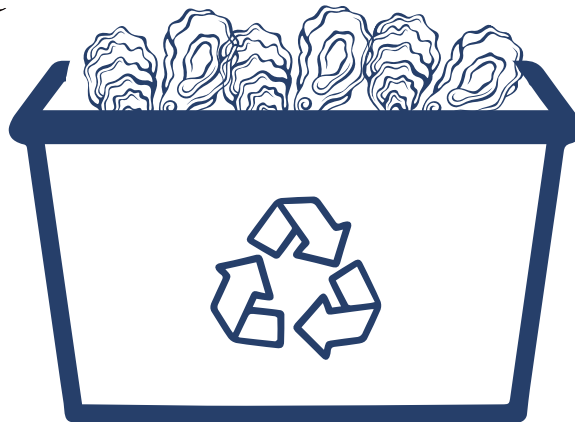
Harvested



Restaurant



Back to the Water!



Recycle Shells



North Carolina
Coastal Federation
www.nccoast.org

Healthy Oysters = Clean Waters

Want to learn more? Check
out our Distance Learning
Lab to explore the Oyster
page and more!



BOSCH