

What's the Deal with Oysters?

The Problem:

Because of overharvesting, pollution, and disease, **WE'VE LOST MORE THAN 99%** of the Chesapeake Bay's oysters.

Why it Matters:

One adult oyster can filter **50 gallons of water per day.**

Or, the same amount of water that would fill an average bathtub or the amount of water used in a 10-minute shower.*



Maryland and Virginia's economies have lost over

\$4 BILLION DOLLARS

in the last 30 years because of the decline in oysters.*



Oyster reefs provide **habitat and food** for crabs, fish, and other Bay critters. At one time, oysters were so abundant in the Chesapeake Bay that their reefs defined the major river channels.



What We Are Doing to Fix It:

CBF and our volunteers have planted more than **200 MILLION OYSTERS.**



Oyster Harvests are Rebounding: **

2003-2004



50,018 BUSHELS

2013-2014



In ten years, we have experienced a **1,752% increase** in annual harvests.

926,425 BUSHELS

We're working to restore the oyster population, but we need your help. Knowledge is power. Share with your friends.

*CBF's Report, "On the Brink: Chesapeake's Native Oysters," July 2010
**Maryland DNR and Virginia Marine Resources Commission

