

# 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

