

# OYSTER REEF RESTORATION

IN THE MANNING GREAT-LAKES AREA



Local Land Services



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Oyster reefs are important areas that provide habitat for fish and other marine life, improve water quality and store 'blue' carbon. Once covering vast areas in Australia and around the world, oyster reefs have been decimated by over-harvesting for food and lime, diseases, pests and pollution.

## OBJECTIVES

1 **stabilise**  
foreshore areas  
using natural materials

2 **increase**  
habitat for fish and  
other marine life

3 **help**  
fishers and oyster  
farmers adapt  
to climate change

4 **improve**  
connectivity between  
estuarine habitats

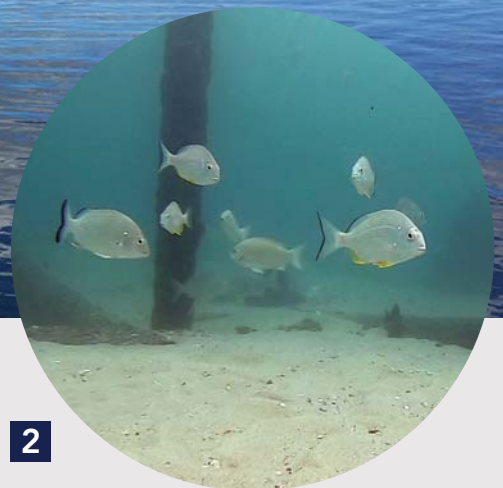
**collaborate**  
with fishers and  
oyster farmers on  
restoration projects

5 **reduce**  
bank erosion and improve  
water quality

6



2



Major efforts to restore oyster reefs are happening around the world. On a local scale, Hunter Local Land Services (LLS) and MidCoast Council are working with the oyster and fishing industries and other partners to restore our lost oyster reefs with funding from Council's Environment Levy, Catchment Action NSW and the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

For more information on oyster reefs, visit NSW Marine Estate: Oyster reef restoration <[marine.nsw.gov.au](http://marine.nsw.gov.au)>.

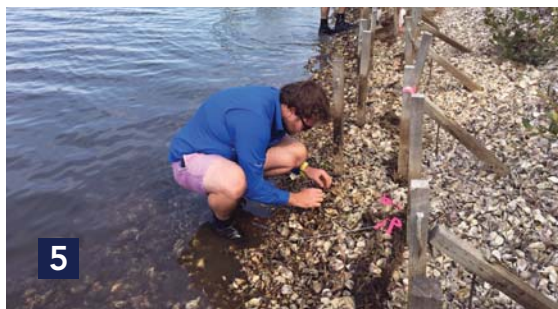
**Figure 1** Shellbeds and other structures previously used for cultivation have now formed reefs within commercial oyster leases [Photo Brian Hughes].

**Figure 2** Oyster infrastructure also provides valuable habitat for fish such as these Yellowfin Bream caught on video camera in Wallis Lake [Photo Lucy Goodridge Gaines].



## IT IS WORKING!

Results from the work so far have been positive with mangroves protected and growing and live oysters surviving. The University of Newcastle are monitoring the changes taking place following restoration work, such as their use by fish and invertebrates, growth of mangroves and stability of the shoreline. The University of the Sunshine Coast are undertaking research to help prioritise future sites for oyster reef restoration that maximise their benefits as fish habitat.

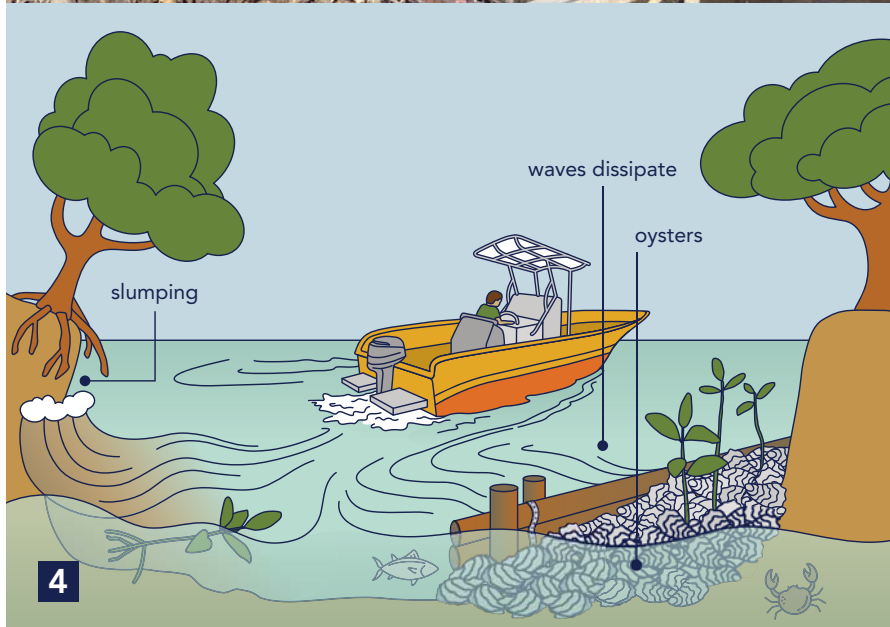


## WANT TO GET INVOLVED? WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Whether you're an oyster farmer, fisher or someone who is just plain interested in getting involved there are opportunities to help with monitoring, in-water work or promoting oyster reef restoration within the community. We will also be working closely with Aboriginal communities on future restoration projects as we recognise the cultural importance of oyster reefs.

**Figure 5** Harry Smith from the University of Newcastle monitoring the restoration site at Gereeba Island [Photo Brian Hughes].

**Figure 6** Oyster farmer Anthony Sciacca and commercial fisherman Danny Elliott filling coir bags with oyster shell for use on restoration sites [Photo Brian Hughes].



In-water work has been focussed on Gereeba Island in the Wallamba River, Wallis Lake. Working together with the oyster industry to use discarded shell from the production process, LLS and Council are currently using a combination of logs, oysters and mangroves to stabilise eroding foreshore areas.

**Figure 3** Unloading oyster shell behind timber 'fillets', Gereeba Island [Photo Abbey Henry]. **Figure 4** The foreshore stabilisation technique involving coir logs and both live and dead oyster shell [Illustration Kathryn James].

For more information, or to register your interest in getting involved, please contact Brian Hughes at Hunter Local Land Services on **0428 293 021** or [brian.hughes@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:brian.hughes@lls.nsw.gov.au)