

Annotated Bibliography on the Decline of Oysters in the Chesapeake Bay

Oyster Harvest (2008, February 21). Retrieved October 26, 2008, from <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/oysterharvest.aspx?menuitem=15320>

The Chesapeake Bay Program's article on oyster harvesting gives general details on the causes human intervention has brought to the Chesapeake Bay's oysters. The article explains the history of the Bay, its decline in oyster population, and the reasons for why the oysters are decreasing in numbers due to overharvesting, poor water quality and sedimentation, rise of diseases (such as MSX and derma), and gives explanations and effects of poor water quality and sedimentation on the populations. This article may be interesting to those who live nearby the bay or wants to get involved in restoration of oyster population. The author clearly gives out the causes to why the oyster populations are decreasing and will be good data for my research project because it gives a general view of the problems the oyster populations are facing.

Oyster Fact Sheet (2008). Retrieved October 26, 2008, from http://www.cbf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=resources_facts_oysters

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's article "Fact Sheet" gives the reader a clear message that the oysters in the Chesapeake Bay are a very valuable keystone species. It details the oysters contribution to the Bay by outlining that its ecological and economical importance, filter feeding attribution, importance to other local organisms, and reasons for why the decimation of oyster populations will cause serious harms to the Bay as a whole. Viewers can be interested in this article if they are interested in ecology and the importance of an eco-friendly environment that can be beneficial for our economy. It includes a generalized chart showing the decline of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay from the 19th century to today and will be a great asset for my final presentation for explaining the harms and inherency.

Oysters (2008, February 29). Retrieved October 26, 2008, from <http://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov/oystermain.aspx>

The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office's (NCBO) shows a specific, native species of oyster in the Chesapeake Bay and states that its historic population levels have since decreased. It explains the projects done to help restore the oyster's prominence in the Bay, such as funding for native oyster restoration and disease research, as well as the consideration of introducing a nonnative oyster to the Bay. This kind of information can be very interesting to my research project and will be helpful for providing information in terms of solvency.

Help Build Living Oyster Reefs (2008). Retrieved October 26, 2008, from http://www.cbf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=action_outdoors_oysters

This article from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is about rebuilding eative oyster reefs to help create a better water quality for the Chesapeake Bay. It details the inherent problems of oyster harvesting as a necessity for fishing industries and explains how rebuilding living oyster reefs can help purify the water (filter feeding) and provide a habitat for a wide assortment of animal and plant species. Reading this article will be interesting to those who want to get involved in

restoring living oyster reefs and help the Chesapeake Bay's water quality. This article can help my research project because it gives reasons to why restoring oyster populations is very vital for the Chesapeake Bay's environment and fishing industries.

United States Office of Fisheries Development. (1977). *A comprehensive review of the commercial oyster industries in the United States / prepared by Office of Fisheries Development, National Marine Fisheries Service.* Washington D.C: Superintendent of Documents, U.S Government Printing Office. Retrieved October 26, 2008. Nature of Pollution from Competing Users, pp. 19-20.

The main purpose of this section of the U.S. Office of Fisheries Development is to outline the root causes of pollution that affect the oysters and other species that are used for the market. The section outlines the causes in 5 ways: disposal of domestic sewage, problems caused by agriculture (such as pesticide runoff and animal wastes), industrial wastes, recreational boating, and urban development that causes loss of important land and water resources that will have long-term effects on oyster production. Since this a government document, it mainly serves to address problems through facts to impose legislation on impeding the problems having an effect on private oyster production. The government document is outdated and does not address the issue of oyster restoration, however, it does show an increasing amount of evidence that shows that, inherently, oyster production was primarily, and only, an entrepreneurial expenditure instead of an environmental and ecological issue.

Rothschild, B. J., Ault, J. S., Goulettquer, P., & Heral, M. (1994). Decline of the Chesapeake Bay oyster population: a century of habitat destruction and overfishing [Electronic version]. *Marine Ecology Progress Series*, 111, 29-39. Abstract

The abstract of this article states that the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay's oyster's population has decreased 50-fold since the early 20th century. It most notably explains that the long-term decline of oyster population has been predominantly attributed to habitat loss from intense fishing practices from private fishing industries instead of the increasing oyster diseases and poor 'water quality'. This article mainly addresses and explains to an audience which is enthusiastic about protecting the oyster population of the Chesapeake Bay. This article will help me with my research project because it contains extensive information, data, and graphs that can support the issues of the Chesapeake Bay's oysters.

Oysters and the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem: A case for exotic species introduction to improve environmental quality?

.The journal article of "Estuaries and Coasts" explains the introduction of an exotic species of oysters that may help improve the Chesapeake Bay's ecosystem which has been ruined due to the reduction of the native Eastern oyster species. It makes conclusions that the introduction of the introduction of the exotic species would help maintain the ecosystems functions. The audience would be interested in this article if they are interested in ecological aspects, such as the introduction of benign foreign species. The article does specify why the introduction of the foreign species of oyster by accounting its non-susceptibility to endemic diseases, and its limited favorable conditions at lower parts of the bay (compromise). Even though this journal article is

redundant to a previous resource regarding the same topic, it does specify more of the reasons why the foreign species will help restore the Chesapeake Bay's ecosystem, therefore this journal article will help me on my research paper when I explain this event.