Billion Oyster Project is on a mission to restore oyster reefs to New York Harbor through public education initiatives.

Vision: A future in which New York Harbor is the center of a rich, diverse, and abundant estuary. The communities that surround this complex ecosystem have helped construct it, and in return benefit from it, with endless opportunities for work, education, and recreation. The harbor is a world-class public space, well used and well cared for—our Commons.

Goal: Restore one billion oysters to New York Harbor by the year 2035.

Key Stats

Since launching in 2014, the Billion Oyster Project has...

- Restored 47 million oysters across 12 acres of New York Harbor
- Established 15 reef sites, including four nurseries, and five community reefs where New York students and community groups can help build and monitor oyster reefs
- Engaged 8,000+ local students in STEM education through restoration with hands-on curriculum created by Billion Oyster Project staff
- Diverted 1.6 million pounds of used shell from landfills thanks to 75 NYC restaurant partners
- Engaged more than 10,000 volunteers in hands-on restoration work

Project History

Murray and Pete met at The Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, where Murray served as Director and Pete taught Aquaculture. The two found that when students are given real responsibility, like helping to restore a degraded New York Harbor, they rise to the occasion with great enthusiasm. Billion Oyster Project has expanded on that idea — offering public school students, volunteers, community scientists and restaurants the opportunity to learn about New York City’s rich oyster history and lead the movement to restore it.

VIDEO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNSIsFSRvag
Media Coverage

- Bon Appetit: It’s Alive with Brad Leone (Dec 2020)
- YETI Dispatch: New York Harbor’s Ecosystem Engineers (Nov 2020)
- MUNCHIES (Vice Video) Fighting Climate Change with 1 Billion Oysters (Sept 2020)
- The 74: How New York Students Are Restoring the City’s Harbor One Oyster at a Time (Aug 2020)
- NY1: Shipping Containers Turned into Oyster Tanks in Brooklyn (July 2020)
- Brooklyn Daily Eagle: Billion Oyster Project Brings Over 1,000 Juvenile Oysters to Domino Park Waterfront (June 2020)

Press Releases

- Sep 4, 2020: Billion Oyster Project Prepares for First-Ever Virtual Party with Oysters Delivered to your Door
- July 17, 2020: Billion Oyster Project Takes Big Step Forward in Scaling Urban Oyster-Setting Capacity Despite COVID-19 Limitations
- Mar 13, 2020: Billion Oyster Project Prepares for 7th Annual Billion Oyster Party at Liberty Warehouse
- Feb 14, 2020: Back to the Future Dinners Presented by Familia Torres Winery and Talisker Single Malt Scotch Whisky
- Aug 1, 2019: Billion Oyster Project to Partner with Pew to Expand Shell Recycling, Oyster Reef Restoration Areas in New York State Waters

Boilerplate

Billion Oyster Project is a nonprofit organization on a mission to restore oyster reefs to New York Harbor through public education initiatives. Why oysters? Their reefs provide habitat for many marine species, have the ability to filter water, and help shield New York City shorelines from storm damage. Founded on the belief that restoration without education is temporary, and observing that learning outcomes improve when students have the opportunity to work on real restoration projects, Billion Oyster Project collaborates with public schools. The crew designs STEM curriculum for NYC schools through the lens of oyster restoration, and engages Urban Assembly New York Harbor School students in large-scale restoration projects, collects discarded oyster shells from 75 NYC restaurants, and engages the local community. The project has planted 47 million oysters across 12 acres and 15 reef sites, with the help of more than 8,000 students and 10,000 volunteers.
Contact

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