



THE RIVER PROJECT

New York City Oyster Gardening Event June 28, 2007

The River Project co-hosted the First Annual Oyster Gardening Event with the New York Harbor School, NY/NJ Baykeeper and the New York–New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program. This event celebrated the contribution of volunteer oyster gardeners towards oyster restoration in the Hudson estuary, and marked the opening of The River Project's newly constructed oyster wet lab at Pier 40.



The River Project's new oyster wet lab

More than fifty people gathered for the event at the wet lab, where water from the river below circulates through three large tanks used for growth and health studies of local oysters and as educational exhibits for visitors. Volunteers brought in oysters they raised for the past nine months at sites around the city, and placed them in the flow-through tanks for observation and monitoring.

Volunteers picked up new oyster seed and oyster gardening supplies for next year. Each group received 1,000 thumbnail-sized oysters to grow. Over 10,000 baby oysters were distributed at the event, along with oyster nets with floats, data sheets and calipers for measuring oyster growth, and the Oyster Gardening Manual.

The event included training of new gardeners by the Oyster Ambassadors of the New York Harbor School. Training covers identification of species associated with oysters, oyster measurement protocols, and proper cleaning and care of the oysters, nets and floats.

Groups now participating in the oyster gardening program are:

- CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities/Hunter College
- East River Crew
- Gowanus Dredgers
- New York Harbor School
- New York Restoration Project
- NY Soil and Water Conservation District/P.S. 3
- NY Sunworks/Science Barge



Counting oyster seeds for distribution

- Patagonia Soho
- P.S. 33
- P.S. 47
- P.S. 58
- P.S. 78
- Regional Planning Association
- Rocking the Boat
- Solar One
- South Street Seaport Museum
- Statue of Liberty
- SUNY Maritime College
- Trevor Day School



Measuring oyster growth by program standards

Thank You to:

Our funders: the Harbor Estuary Stewardship Program and Patagonia Soho.

Our partners: the New York Harbor School, NY/NJ Baykeeper and the New York–New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program, for their hard work and dedication.

The volunteer oyster gardening groups, who make this project work.



Counting and measuring oysters



New York Harbor School Oyster Ambassadors addressing the group

The River Project

PIER 40 AT WEST ST. & HOUSTON ST., 2ND FLOOR • NEW YORK, NY 10014 • PHONE: 212-233-3030

e-mail: info@riverproject.org • website: www.riverproject.org