

CCA Building Conservation Trust Supports Oyster Project

A new collaborative program utilizing oysters to help improve fisheries and water quality is coming to Puget Sound. The water quality decline in Puget Sound has been well documented over the past several decades, and oysters are seen as an integral part of the ecological solution to these water quality problems. Funded by the Building Conservation Trust (BCT), CCA's National Habitat Program, the program will feature CCA members working alongside the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) and others to enhance oysters in South Puget Sound. The ultimate goal of the program is to improve habitat for juvenile salmonids along with native Olympia oysters.

Oysters play a vital role in the Puget Sound ecosystem, with their ability to help filter toxins and sediment from the water. In addition, oyster beds in the sound provide excellent habitat for juvenile salmonids and bait fish, making oysters equally important in salmon recovery efforts. With decreasing water quality in Puget Sound, oyster populations have been greatly diminished. It's become clear that our help is needed to improve oyster and salmon habitat in the area.

CCA Sea-Tac chapter president Joe Slepski, along with CCA members Anil Srivastava and Larry Burnstad have formed a partnership with WDFW to plant Pacific oyster seed in optimal areas to increase recreational harvest opportunities and enhance salmon habitat. The oyster seed will be sponsored by CCA's BCT and will be strategically planted in areas where they can be monitored to evaluate baseline conditions to help guide future programs. Initial plantings will occur at Kopachuck and Penrose Point State Parks. The oyster program will also feature an educational element to help citizens understand the importance of oysters in Puget Sound.

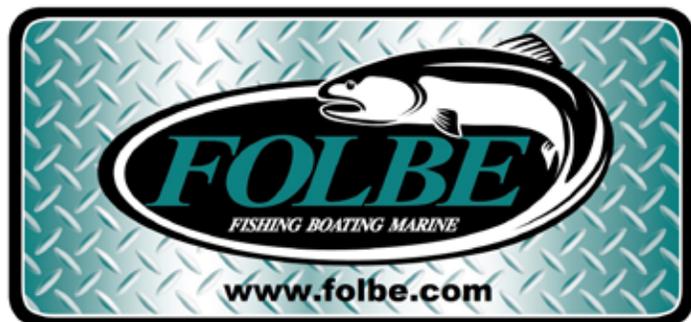
Approximately \$20,000 in funds and support from the CCA BCT will be used to help make this oyster project a reality, and it is the latest in a line of impressive habitat



Oysters play an important role in the Puget Sound ecosystem. Oyster reefs provide protection to juvenile salmonids and while filtering toxins from the water.

enhancement programs that the BCT has helped support across the country. The BCT was created to provide vital funding for grassroots-driven projects that achieve one or more of five key objectives: Restore degraded habitats; Create new habitats; Advance the science of coastal habitat and marine fisheries conservation; Foster habitat stewardship; and Educate coastal communities on the value of conservation.

The benefits of oyster enhancement are abundantly clear; more oysters available for future harvest, cleaner water, and higher quality salmon habitat. We thank our CCA members who have spearheaded this initiative and look forward to working with WDFW and the BCT to help improve Puget Sound for salmon and oysters alike! 



CCA Members Demonstrate “Volunteer Power”

Being a grassroots organization means that our members come together to affect positive changes for our fisheries. Our members make CCA great and their contributions across the state deserve to be recognized. Whether it's a nutrient enhancement project, riverside cleanup, improving access sites, or helping with youth fishing events, CCA Washington's members positively impact their communities. Here are just a few projects that CCA chapter members have worked on this past year to help improve their fisheries and communities.

Nutrient Enhancement: Over the past year, the Pierce County chapter has devoted hundreds of volunteer hours towards nutrient enhancement efforts in the upper Puyallup River watershed. This is in addition to their efforts to help advance new river access projects on the lower Puyallup. Sno-King, Lower Columbia, and Southwest Washington members assist nutrient enhancement programs in their local watersheds as well.

Improving Habitat: The Sea Tac chapter has kicked off a collaborative program, funded by the CCA Building Conservation Trust, which is planting oysters at strategic locations in south Puget Sound. This summer, volunteers planted nearly 200,000 oyster seed, which will help enhance juvenile salmon habitat, improve water quality, and provide recreational harvest opportunities in the coming years. Additionally, this spring, North Sound members helped undertake two successful river cleanup operations on the Lower Skagit River.



Encouraging Future Anglers: Through their involvement in local kids fishing days and other outings, members of the Southwest Washington, Lewis County, and Yakima chapters have helped foster a new generation of anglers. Dozens of chapter members from Southwest Washington attend local kids fishing events, helping the kids catch and clean their fish. While many of our Yakima members have devoted their time to taking disadvantaged youth out fishing through a local Youth Ranch program.

As a CCA member, you are encouraged to join an existing outreach or habitat project, or even create your own new effort through your local chapter. Contact your local chapter leadership team or the CCA state office for details on how you can help make a difference today. 🐟



COSTAS
FOR WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN.

We've taken all we've learned making legendary sunglasses and put that into a new line of expertly crafted frames. Introducing Costa Optical. Because not every moment of our lives takes place under the sun.

COSTA OPTICAL

Visit our Dealer Locator at costadelmar.com to find an Optical retailer near you.