



Oyster Restoration Service Project

Join us Saturday, June 19th

9am-12pm

[Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary](#) is teaming up with our campus partner, UGA MAREX, and Pittsburgh, PA service group, [The Call to Serve](#), to aid in restoring crucial fish habitat and filtering pollutants from our marine environments.

By planting recycled oyster shells, we can encourage the development of oyster colonies, which in turn provide habitat for other plants and animals, filter algae and pollutants, and control erosion. Intertidal oysters are described as “keystone” species as they play a critical role in maintaining a healthy coastal ecosystem. Georgia’s oyster populations were once immense; however overfishing, habitat degradation, and disease have considerably impacted these estuarine communities.

GEORGIA

Generating Enhanced Oyster Reefs in Georgia's Inshore Areas

The University of Georgia’s Marine Extension Service coordinates a community-based oyster restoration project called GEORGIA ([Generating Enhanced Oyster Reefs in Georgia's Inshore Areas](#)). This program recycles oyster shell to create new oyster reefs, and enhances stewardship and public awareness of the importance of oyster reef habitat along the Georgia coast.

The Call to Serve is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching young adults the power of public service through local and national service trips. Partnering with a variety of organizations, volunteers from the Call to Serve (CTS) provide service to those in need. Founded by Adam Kunes and Andrew Blythe, The Call to Serve welcomes all volunteers ready to make a difference in the lives of others.

We will ‘plant’ bagged oyster shell in the Atlantic Inter-Coastal Waterway behind the UGA MECA Aquarium (Skidaway Island), receive an overview of this restoration project (especially important with the recent oil crisis) and bag additional shell for future planting.

Volunteers should come prepared with water, sunscreen, and bug repellent and expect to get dirty....all for a great cause!

Help rebuild Georgia's oyster population and keep our waterways healthy and beautiful!

Contact Jody Patterson with your interest in participating.

jody.patterson@noaa.gov or 912-598-2431

NOAA Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary

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