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WATERSHED WATCH

ST. MARY'S RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
PO Box 94
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

January 25, 2021

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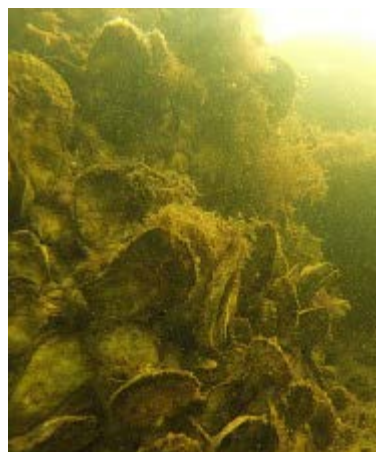
Oysters to be Planted in St. Mary's River TNC Teams with Pew to Assist Oysters Farmers and Restoration

INSIDE THIS EDITION

>>Info on PFAS in St. Mary's County is now on our website

>>The Nature Conservancy to plant oyster in St. Mary's River

>>[Annual Report available](#)



Last fall, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) teamed up with The Pew Charitable Trusts and launched a program to purchase surplus oysters from farmers to plant in waters

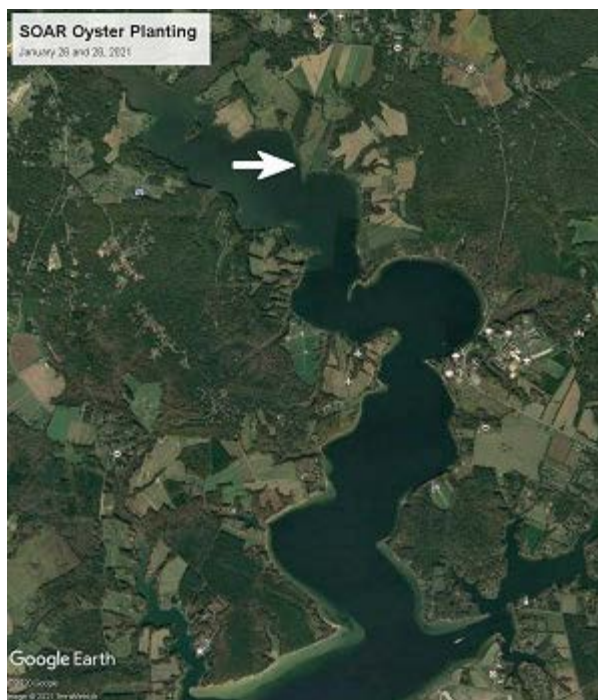


in New England, the mid-Atlantic, and Washington state. The [Supporting Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration](#) (SOAR) initiative will pay out \$2 million to more than 100 shellfish companies to preserve over 200 jobs. Additionally, THC will plant about 5 million oysters across 20 restoration sites.

On Tuesday and Thursday this week, January 26 and 28, 600 bushels of oysters will be planted in the St. Mary's River Shellfish Sanctuary under the SOAR initiative.



"The demand for oysters plummeted in 2020



due to the closing of restaurants and raw bars and this has left many growers with little income

and a surplus of oversize oysters," said Bob Lewis, executive director of the St. Mary's River Watershed Association. "This win-win solution keeps our oyster farms functioning, allows them to move product off bottom needed for the next year's crop, and puts those oysters on our sanctuaries where they can filter water and reproduce."

The oysters will be planted along the eastern shoreline just west of Martins Point, an area adjacent to the Nach-T Farm property, as indicated by the white arrow on the map above.



SMRWA Publishes Basic Information on PFAS Toxins in St. Mary's

Last month, we are launched a webpage containing information on PFAS chemical toxins here in St. Mary's County along with dozens of links to other resources. We provide some answers to important

questions such as what are PFAS, what are your risks, and where can I get my water tested. [Click here to view our PFAS webpage.](#)

Membership renewals are now due

[Click here to renew your membership online.](#)



Upcoming Events:

- (Nothing scheduled due to Covid)

OUR MISSION

To protect, improve, and promote the sustainability of the St. Mary's River Watershed through the collaborative efforts of economic, agricultural, environmental, social, cultural, and political stakeholders in the community.

[We're on the web!](#)

www.smrwa.org



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