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Optimal stocking density of the eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) in upwellers at the Sound School

Crassostrea virginica, commonly known as the eastern oyster, is a filter-feeding bivalve that inhabits the eastern coast of the U.S. in the mid-Atlantic. Data taken from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science shows that in only one year, the value of oysters (28 million single oysters) went up from \$6.7 million in 2011 to \$9.5 million in 2012 (NOAA). *C. virginica* has been aquacultured at the Sound School Aquaculture Center (Sound School) in West Haven, CT for many years; however, the optimal stocking density for the oysters in the upwelling stage had yet to be determined. By studying three stocking densities of oysters in this system, an optimal density for oyster growth can be determined