



Spring 2021 Edition

## What We've Been Up To!

As the whole world experiences the one year anniversary since COVID-19 changed our lives, we thought it would be best to focus on something similar that happened to the shellfish community in the 1980-90's. Oysters are susceptible to a parasite called *Perkinsus marinus* which causes them to experience a 'dermo disease', killing roughly 50% of the infected population. Originally it was found in and south of the Chesapeake Bay due to the high temperatures and salinity of the water bodies. In the beginning of the '90's our water temperatures began to drastically increase during the winter months allowing the range of the *P. marinus* to expand northward. It spreads when several oyster beds are placed in close proximity to one another, so some states like Delaware, placed an embargo on the trading of eastern oysters in order to eliminate the spread of the disease. This dermo disease is not harmful to humans but does affect the oysters blood cells causing issues with growth, fecundity, mortality, and can take up to two years to be noticed in an individual. Scientists have determined that the best way to stop the spread of *P. marinus* is to isolate the infected oysters and while the occurrence of this disease has decreased in frequency it is still prevalent in oysters today. If you want to learn more about this topic here are some papers that may answer some of your questions [1] [2] [3].



On the right is an oyster infected with *P. marinus*. [\[Photo\]](#)

## Interested in Joining Us?

Warmer weather is coming which means that our events will be starting up again! Bring your friends and family to volunteer with us and get in the outdoors! Head over to our website and click on our [News and Events tab](#) for more details.

On Saturday April 24th Coastal Steward LI will be hosting an Earth Day beach cleanup at Smiths Point beach in Mastic. Come and join!

**April 24th from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm**  
**South End of William Floyd Parkway, Mastic**



## Support Coastal Steward!

We'd like to take this opportunity to again thank all of our volunteers and those who have donated to CSLI in the past. By supporting us, we can continue our mission of restoring and preserving LI's coastline through education, raising public awareness and community action.

You can support us by making a tax-deductible donation to our organization that supports our marine education programs. Click [here](#) to help make a difference with us!

Another way to help our non-profit (501(c)(3)) is by using 'AmazonSmile' whenever you order something from Amazon.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to CSLI. And there's no extra cost!

Simply navigate to <https://smile.amazon.com> and click on the 'Get started' button. After signing in, you will need to choose 'Coastal Steward Long Island' as the charitable organization. There's a 'Learn more about AmazonSmile' link at the bottom of their page to get more information.



## Did You Know?

You can purchase your very own Coastal Steward apparel! Head over to [Tidal Tees Apparel](#) where we have a collection of items and a 100% of the profits come back to us!

