



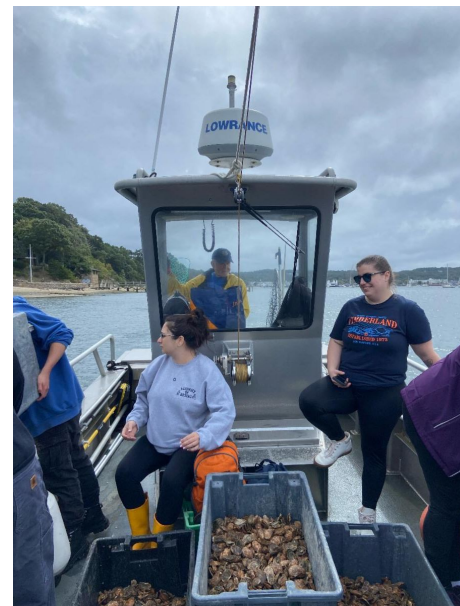
## What We've Been Up To: Fall Recap

We are delighted to share that our 2023 Shellfish Restoration Program and beach cleanup events have come to a successful conclusion. We can't thank our amazing and dedicated volunteers enough for helping us this season. Their contributions and support have immensely contributed to our goals of preserving and restoring Long Island's beautiful coastal ecosystems.

### Oyster Release

Since June we have been raising thousands of oysters and in October we were finally able to release them into their new homes. To prep for their release, volunteers aided us in moving oysters out from their growing bags and into large plastic tubs. We loaded the tubs onto our landing craft and headed out to the sanctuary sites. On October 7th and 21st, we introduced the oysters to Port Jefferson Harbor. It was great to see people of all ages coming together to restore the oyster population! A special thank you to Town Of Brookhaven councilmembers Jane Bonner and Jonathan Kornreich for attending the oyster release and for their support of Coastal Steward!

Why is the restoration of oyster populations so important? Oysters play a vital role in coastal ecosystems by acting as filters feeders, removing excess nutrients and improving water quality. The formation of oyster reefs provides habitats for various species of fish and crustaceans and protects against storms and erosion. By restoring oyster populations we are bringing balance to coastal ecosystems.

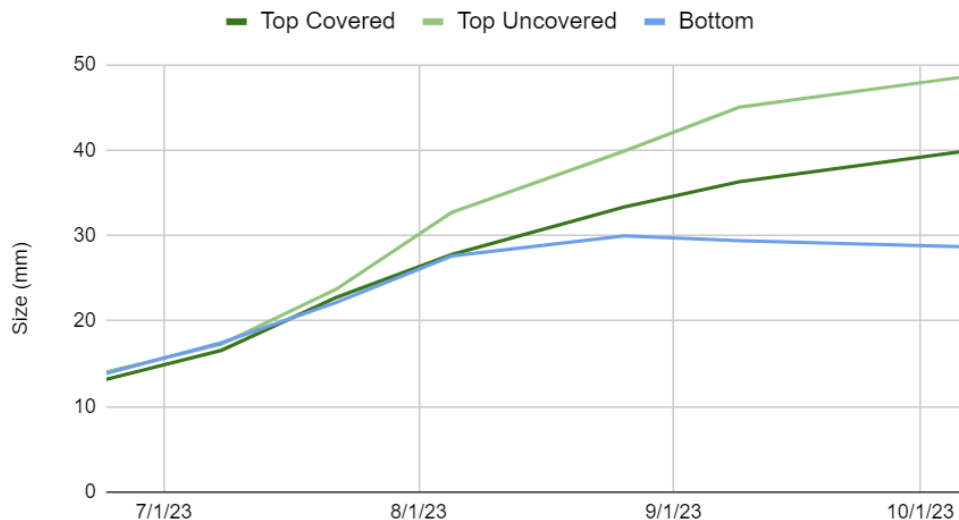




## Oyster Growth and Mortality

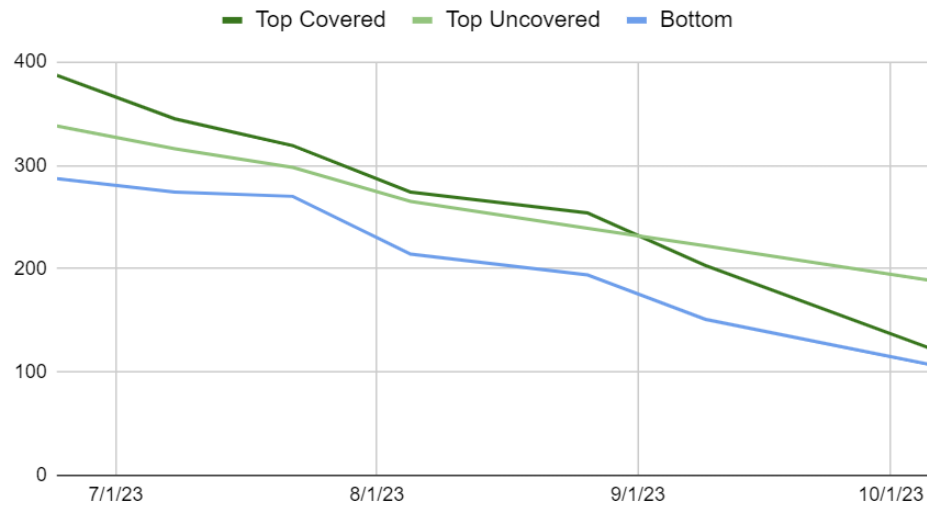
This year, we wanted to determine if covering the growing cages had an effect on the growth and mortality of the oysters. At low tide, the tops of the oyster cages were above the water and exposed to direct sunlight. Our experimental cage had a layer of thick black mesh covering the top, allowing minimal light to pass through. We compared the growth of the oysters in the top of the uncovered cage to the oysters in the top of the covered cage. Additionally, we took measurements from the oysters present at the bottom of the covered cage.

Oyster Growth 2023 Season



We found that the oysters at the top of the uncovered cage had the greatest growth, averaging at 49 mm before release. Oysters on the top of the covered cage had a slower growth, followed by the oysters found at the bottom of the cage. This showed that covering the cages had a negative effect on oyster growth.

### Oyster Count 2023 Season



The mortality rate was the highest in the oysters at the top of the covered cage, with a loss of 268 oysters over four months. The oysters at the bottom of the cage had the second highest mortality rate with a loss of 182 oysters. The oysters present at the top of the uncovered cage had the lowest mortality rate, with a total loss of 116. The high mortality of oysters in the covered cage again showed the negative effect the cover had on oyster growth.

## Beach Cleanups

This fall we held successful beach cleanup events at Centennial Park, Port Jefferson East/West Beaches and Cedar Beach. We collected large amounts of trash thanks to the dedicated volunteers that worked hard to keep our coastlines clean. Many thanks to Stony Brook University ASBO students, American Rivers/JPMorgan Chase employees and WBLI/WBAB for airing public service announcements about the November 11th cleanup.





## Want to Get Involved?

There are no more events for 2023, but keep an eye out on updates for 2024 spring events on our [website](#)!

## Support Coastal Steward L.I.-GivingTuesday

Please support Coastal Steward L.I. on GivingTuesday, November 28th.

Coastal Steward is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and your donation goes towards things such as the repair, maintenance, registration and insurance of a 4-wheel drive vehicle and a landing craft; fuel; power washers/beach cleanup supplies; cost to maintain the [coastalsteward.org](http://coastalsteward.org) website and email services. All board members are volunteers and we rely on a core of volunteers to make each event successful. Please help with a donation on GivingTuesday and make a difference in restoring and preserving Long Island's precious coastline.

Click [here](#) to donate!

**GIVING TUESDAY**  
NOVEMBER 28, 2023

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**About Coastal Steward Long Island**  
Coastal Steward Long Island (CSLI) is dedicated to restoring and preserving Long Island's coastline through education, raising public awareness, and community action.



**Voting is now open for Bethpage Best of Long Island 2024! Please vote for Coastal Steward L.I. (we're located under 'Services/Environmental Organization')**

<https://www.bestoflongisland.com/voting#!/>

### About the Author

Hi! My name is Jasmine Mateo and I'm a Senior at Stony Brook University studying Ecology and Evolution. I'm from the Bronx but have come to love Long Island and its beautiful ecosystems. I first learned about Coastal Steward L.I. when they tabled at an Earth Day event on campus. This past summer and fall I participated in almost every Shellfish Restoration Program event and always looked forward to getting my hands dirty and being a part of an amazing program. I encourage everyone to participate in these

events- don't miss out!



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