



What We've Been Up To!

It is an honor to say that our Shellfish Restoration Project has reached an end. This was one of our most successful years to date and what an accomplishment, that is, considering everything we've endured throughout this crazy year of 2020. We have all felt the stress, negativity, and disappointment that COVID-19 has brought upon us but the volunteers of Coastal Steward LI persevered. In the beginning of the year it still wasn't known if we could continue to host our various marine education programs, but we were filled with joy after receiving permission to invite our community to Cedar Beach in Mt. Sinai and begin our SRP. It was heart warming to see the amount of people that wanted to join us and take part in something good during a time of uncertainty. College students, families, high schoolers, and people from all different age groups came out to participate in something critical to our waters. It has been wonderful getting to know each of the volunteers that dedicated their time to raising, cleaning, and measuring our oysters. On October 18th we took our first trip into Port Jefferson Harbor to begin releasing our population of 80,000 oysters. The Coastal Steward LI team was able to take an estimated 40,000 oysters with them on this trip and the remaining were then dispersed on October 31st. During our release dates we were visited by special guests like Councilwoman Jane Bonner, who has always shown the upmost support to our organization. Check out [this](#) short article about her visit. We were also joined by a wonderful photographer, Leslie Von Pless, who captured the moment through her amazing pictures that we get to now share with you on our website. Make sure to check her out on Instagram too! When walking the beaches in Port Jefferson or Mt. Sinai harbor try to notice if any of the oysters you see have a black stripe on its shell, this is the distinctive mark of our disease resistant oysters. Thank you again to everyone from the Coastal Steward LI team for helping us raise and care for our hard working oysters!



The month of October was also spent inviting the Long Island community to participate in our final beach cleanups of 2020! On 10/14 and 10/10 the Coastal Steward team collected over 4,000 lbs. of garbage. Check out [this](#) great article from TBR News Media about our success. While we may be taking a break from hosting clean ups that doesn't mean you should too! Keep visiting your local shores with some gloves and a bag to collect washed up garbage.



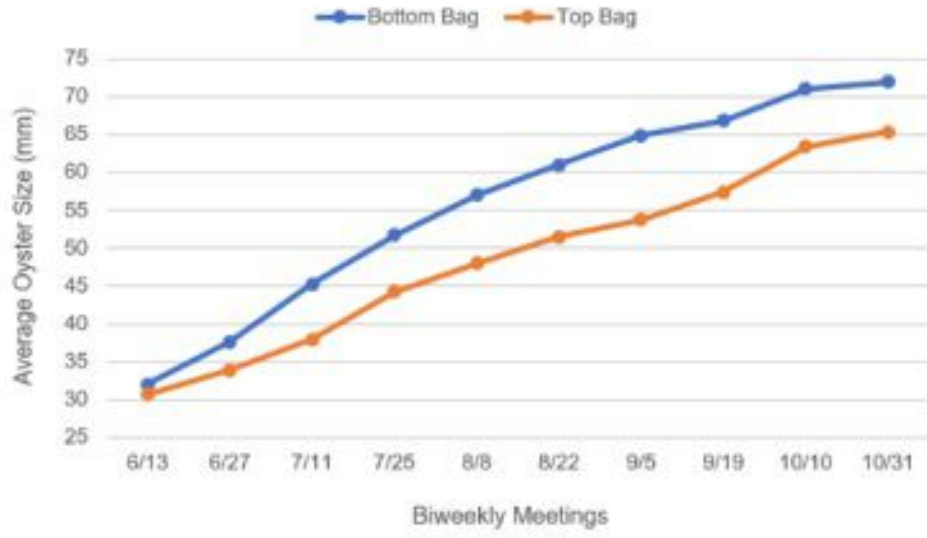
Interested in Joining Us?

As we enter into the colder months the frequency of our events may decrease but that doesn't mean we aren't coming up with new ways to be involved with our community! Head over to our website and click on our [News and Events](#) tab for more details.

Below is a graph representing the average growth of two of our oyster bags. Each oyster from these bags were measured at every meeting in order for us to determine which location in our cages could provide the most optimal growth. This part of our SRP is headed by our dedicated volunteer, Ethan, who wrote some words about the growth of our oysters:

"Unlike last year's oyster measurements, this time we split our sample cage in half and put one bag in the top of a cage, and one in the bottom. The reason was to determine if their placement in the water had any noticeable difference on the size and mortality of the oysters at the end of the season. In the first initial weeks, there weren't many differences, but as time went on, the bottom bag started growing larger faster, while the top bag grew more slowly. Oysters that started all around the same size had a distinguishable size difference, and the weight difference was also very notable, with the bottom bag weighing easily twice that of the top bag. It seems that if we hope to have the largest-and most likely healthiest oysters-it would be better to have all of the oysters in the lower half of each cage."

From our first meeting on June 13th to our last on October 31st there has been a 124.30% increase in growth in the bottom bag and a 112.76% increase in the top. The average size of our oysters is 52.28 cm.



Support Coastal Steward!

Vote for the Coastal Steward LI in the Bethpage Best of Long Island annual competition. Our organization is listed under *Services: Environmental Organization*. Click [here](#) to be directed to our link to vote or check out the [Home](#) page on our website.



You can enter once a day until December 15th so get those votes in!

You can also 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!

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!

