

The City of Sebastian, in partnership with  
The Indian River Lagoon Council, Present Sebastian's



# Project Goals:

- ❖ To raise public awareness of oyster conservation and the vital role that they play in the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary.



- ❖ To educate the public in the construction and maintenance of oyster cultivation systems so that together we may improve the water quality and natural habitat of the Lagoon.



# Why Oysters?



Oysters are a **KEYSTONE** Species!

*Crassostrea virginica*  
**The Eastern Oyster:  
Fun Facts!**



*Occurs naturally  
from Canada all the  
way down to Brazil!*



*Can switch from  
male to female  
many times in  
their lives !*



*Can live for more  
than 20 years!*



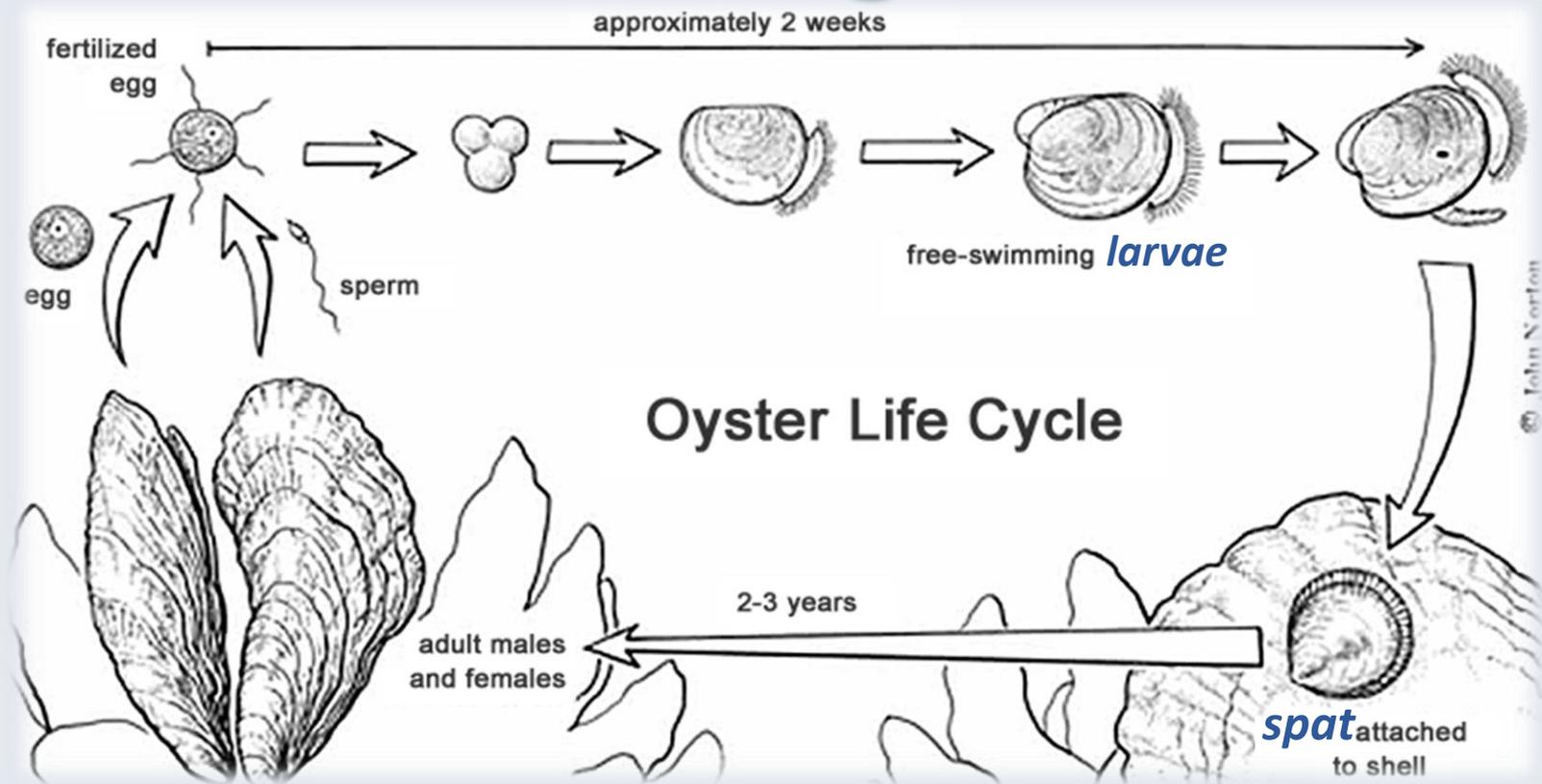
*These are NOT the kind  
of oysters that make  
pearls!*

*Lays over  
1 million eggs in  
1 year!*



# *Crassostrea virginica*

## The Eastern Oyster: Life Cycle



# Clean Water!!

*Oysters are **filter feeders**, meaning they eat by pumping large volumes of water through their body. They remove algae and excess nutrients from the water, making water cleaner and healthier for the seagrasses and marine life!*



*A single live oyster can filter **50 GALLONS** of water per day!!!*

# Shoreline Stabilization



As oysters grow and reproduce, they form large groups, called **colonies**. These colonies eventually become **reefs**, which help protect the shoreline from erosion and buffers the land from hurricanes.

# Habitat

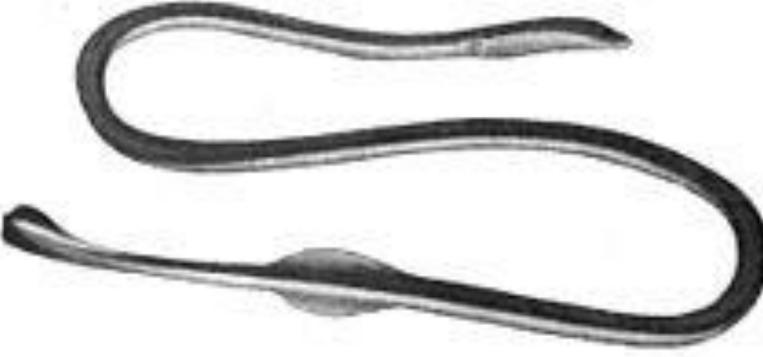
**Oyster reefs are a vital habitat for many animals at various life stages**



# Predatory locals



# Forage species



# How Can You Help?

➤ **Use less!**

Reusable plastic bags, water and fertilize your lawn less, reusable packaging, carpool.

➤ **Clean up!**

Pick up litter and fishing line.

➤ **Be careful!**

Don't walk on or drive boats over oyster habitat.

➤ **Teach others!**

Help inform those around you how they can help too!

THE WORLD  
IS YOUR  
OYSTER

