



# Lake Worth Lagoon Oysters

There are several major oyster reefs in Lake Worth Lagoon.

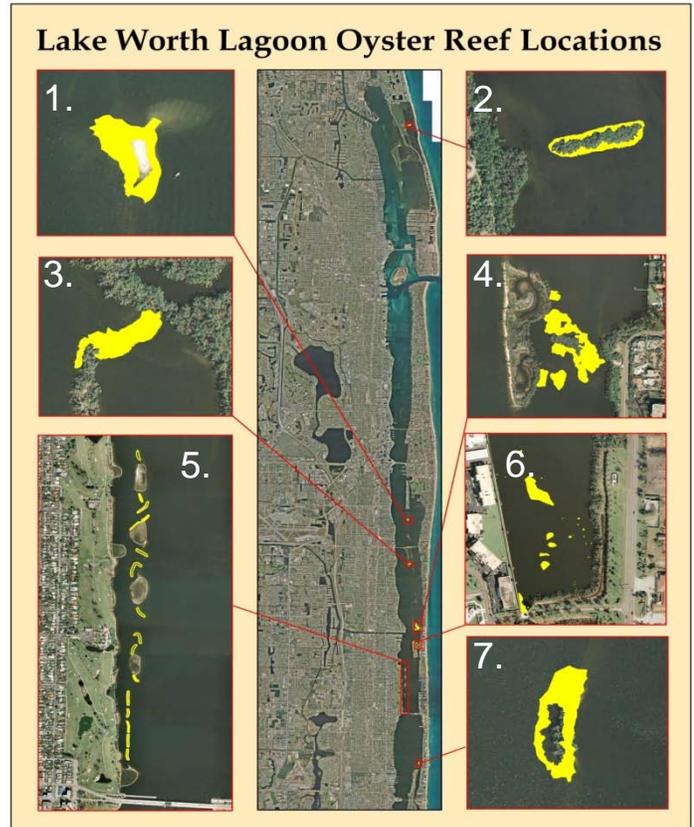
## Lake Worth Lagoon

- 20 miles long, stretching from North Palm Beach to Ocean Ridge.
- Largest estuary in Palm Beach County.
- Separated from the ocean by Singer Island and Palm Beach Island.
- Two permanent, man-made inlets.

## Oysters...

- can be found in estuaries from Canada to Florida.
- are a food source for wildlife.
- provide habitat.
- can filter up to 50 gallons of water per day.

1. North of Fisherman's Island
2. Munyon Island area
3. Audubon Islands
4. John's Island
5. Snook Islands Natural Area
6. Ibis Isle
7. North of Hypoluxo Island



## Oyster Research

### Research Objectives

- Measure and compare growth, abundance, reproductive effort, and health of the Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) in Lake Worth Lagoon.

### Research Timeframe

- Two years of monitoring.

### Oyster Reef Locations

- MacArthur Beach State Park (Natural Site)
- Ibis Isle (Natural Site)
- Snook Islands Natural Area (Created Site)

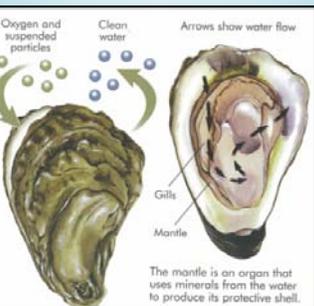
### Research Conclusions

- Oyster beds/reefs are as productive or more productive than oyster reefs in other east Florida locales.
- Created oyster reefs are as productive as natural reefs.

### Recommendations

- Construct additional artificial reefs, similar to that created at Snook Island.
- Increase the amount of substrate. Additional rock or fossilized oyster shell provides a suitable substrate for larvae to attach.
- Implement smaller volunteer projects, such as Living Shorelines, and monitor those projects in conjunction with homeowners, student and community volunteers under the direction of a biologist.
- Use multiple sampling sites within an area, e.g., monitoring other islands in the Snook Islands Natural Area to better describe variation at a site (i.e., vertical distribution).

Reference: Scarpa, J. and S.E. Laramore. 2010. Survey of select eastern oyster populations in Lake Worth Lagoon, Palm Beach County, Florida, 2010 Annual Report. Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University. [www.pbcgov.com/erm/lakes/estuarine/oysters](http://www.pbcgov.com/erm/lakes/estuarine/oysters)



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**Fun Fact:** On a daily basis, oyster reefs at John's Island, Ibis Isle, and Snook Islands Natural Area, filter the amount of water approximately equivalent to 310 Olympic size swimming pools.



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