

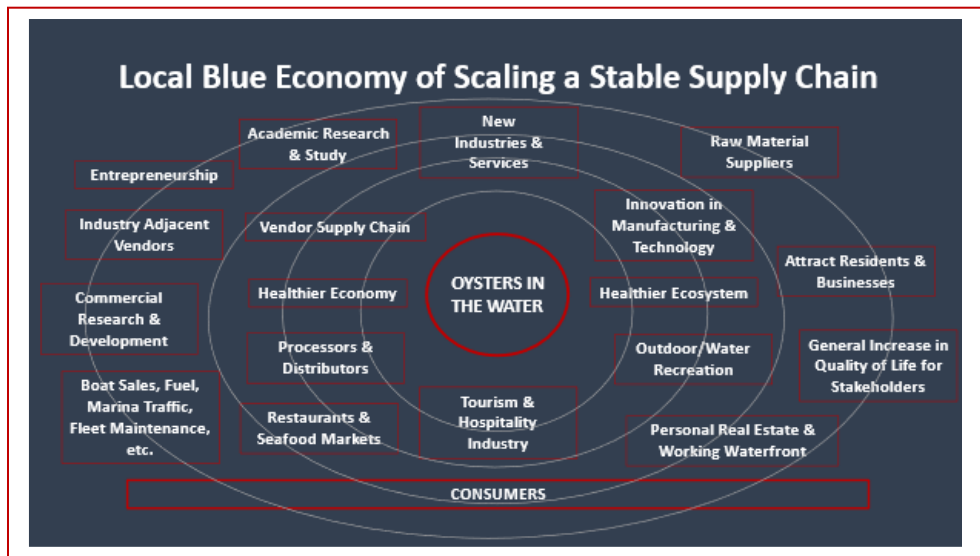
Oyster Aquaculture: Sustainability, Environmental Services, and a Blue Economy Cornerstone



Global loss of wild oyster populations has increased market prices due demand outstripping supply, driving a loss of economic opportunities in rural and/or depressed communities, and has left a void of environmental services in the face of ever-increasing urban development throughout local watersheds. The Florida Oyster Trading Company is taking a locally focused approach to a global issue.

More oysters in the water mean a healthier estuary. But how do we accomplish that goal without tens of millions in capital expenditure distributed throughout the oyster aquaculture industry or government funded projects to restore wild reefs? Scale the industry organically - more growers growing more oysters to supplant the loss of the wild populations both as a food and keystone species providing filtration and habitat. **FOTC's patent-pending Micro-Hatchery production model** facilitates more growout sites to grow more oysters through vertical integration and leveraging genetic integrity to promote higher quality harvests, but also is available to vertically integrate more growers for sustainable local production and scale the US industry.

Indirect benefits of the oyster aquaculture industry include being a ¹*Blue Economy Cornerstone*, a robust core industry and stable supply chain will generate economic opportunities as well as reestablish vibrant working waterfronts and ²Industry-led restoration will enable commercial operations to collaborate,



develop, and implement projects to benefit their estuaries while simultaneously promoting stakeholder stewardship and education about the local waterways. And healthy waterways support tourism and hospitality, key industries in Florida and the coastal US.

At scale FOTC will annually filter 336,990,000L of water, sequester 2.64T of Nitrogen, and remove 26.4T of Carbon at harvest.



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