

Clam



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF CULTURED CLAMS

NEW RESEARCH REVEALS ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS



1

Clams Clean the Water by Filter Feeding:

- Reduce turbidity and anoxia (low oxygen)
- Improve water quality and light penetration
- A single adult clam can filter 4.5 gallons a day, retaining particles as small as 2 microns
- A small clam farm in Florida (5 acres, 0.5-1.0M) can clean from 2 to 5 million gallons each day

2

Clams Remove Excess Nutrients:

- Clams feed on naturally occurring microscopic plants
- Nitrogen contained in shellfish tissues is removed when harvested
- Clam feeding also stimulates denitrification
- Harvest from a small clam farm (0.5-1.0M) can remove 88 to 190 lbs of nitrogen from the environment and 35 lbs per acre through enhanced denitrification each year

3

Clams Stimulate Diversity:

- Clam farming can improve species abundance and diversity
- Shells and culture gear provide habitat for juvenile fish, crabs, and other aquatic organisms

4

Clam Farming is Sustainable:

- Clams filter microscopic cells from the water column
- Clams feed low on the food chain
- No fertilizers, feed, chemicals, drugs, or antibiotics are used in clam production

