

Angasi Oyster

Ostrea angasi

The Angasi Oyster, unlike other varieties, is a native oyster. It was originally a plentiful food source for indigenous people and European settlers alike, but due to commercial dredging, pollution, introduced species and disease, these shellfish reefs have virtually disappeared. A shellfish reef restoration project is underway in Port Phillip Bay so the native oyster can flourish once again.

Oysters are filter feeders, meaning they filter out excess nutrients and pollutants in water to keep it clean. An individual oyster can filter up to five litres of water per hour, enough to fill a bathtub per day.

As of 2018, many local restaurants have collectively donated 420 cubic metres of shells to be recycled back into Port Phillip Bay to restore habitat for the Angasi Oyster.

Threats

Nurdles are small pellets of plastic which serve as raw material in the manufacture of plastic products. They wash up on beaches and look like fish eggs and are easily mistaken for a food source by marine animals.

