

## Oyster Planting with EYC Junior Sailors - Thursday, July 5

On July 5, the Junior Sailing Program Bay Cruisers helped the EYC Green Team analyze water quality at the marina and plant oysters from our marina cages at the Severn River oyster sanctuary. For the full story check out the attached flier.

**1. Briefing and water quality analysis:** John Butler and Bob Whitcomb briefed the kids on the value of oysters for cleaning up bay waters and EYC's oyster restoration efforts. The students then analyzed the water quality in the marina for a variety of parameters including water clarity, salinity, pH, dissolved oxygen and nutrient levels with help from their instructors and Spa Creek Conservancy monitoring volunteers.



**2. Oyster Cages in the marina:** The students raised the oyster cages and emptied the oyster covered shells into transport containers. They checked out the “baby” oysters attached to the shells and the other critters they found in the cages.



**3. On the water - planting oysters:** Three EYC boats took the kids and members of the Green Team to the Severn River Sanctuary site by the Route 50 bridge. Photos show: kids with oyster containers on Captain Chris Houpt's boat, dumping oysters from Captain Bob Whitcomb's boat and Captain Mike Krissoff with kids on Full Moon.



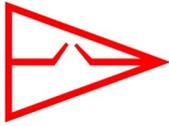


**4. Clean-up on EYC dock:** To prepare for our next batch of oysters coming in September, Phil Renaud cleaned the oyster cages and John Butler secured the cages under the dock.



**5. Celebration and R&R:** To celebrate our bay stewardship efforts, the project was highlighted at the clubhouse with a Juanita drink special and an oyster appetizer. Tent cards on the tables provided oyster facts and information about EYC's oyster efforts. The Butlers enjoyed eating their oyster special at a table on the deck with a tent card.





## EYC Grows Oysters



The Eastport Yacht Club Environmental Committee (aka “**The Green Team**”) strives to be good stewards of the Chesapeake Bay.

Oysters are natural water filters and we participate in the *Marylanders Grow Oysters Program* to help improve water quality of the waterways that we love to boat on and swim in.

In partnership with the *Severn River Association*, the **EYC Green Team** began to grow oysters last year in cages suspended from the docks of EYC’s marina. Growing oysters in cages protects the baby oysters from being eaten by other marine critters and gets them off the bottom where there is more oxygen for them to grow.

In the summer, the baby oysters are “planted” (dropped off a boat to the river bottom) on a designated oyster sanctuary near the Severn River Bridge. Then we’ll start the process all over again in the fall, with a new batch of baby oysters growing in cages in the EYC marina.

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, the EYC Environmental Committee oyster workgroup and students from the EYC Junior Sailing Program planted our 2018 EYC baby oysters in their new home on the Severn River Oyster Sanctuary.

