

# Oyster Recycling Efforts in Central Florida

Jessy Wayles

Marine Discovery Center

[jessy@marinediscoverycenter.org](mailto:jessy@marinediscoverycenter.org)

Andrea Noel

Department of Environmental Protection

[Andrea.Noel@dep.state.fl.us](mailto:Andrea.Noel@dep.state.fl.us)



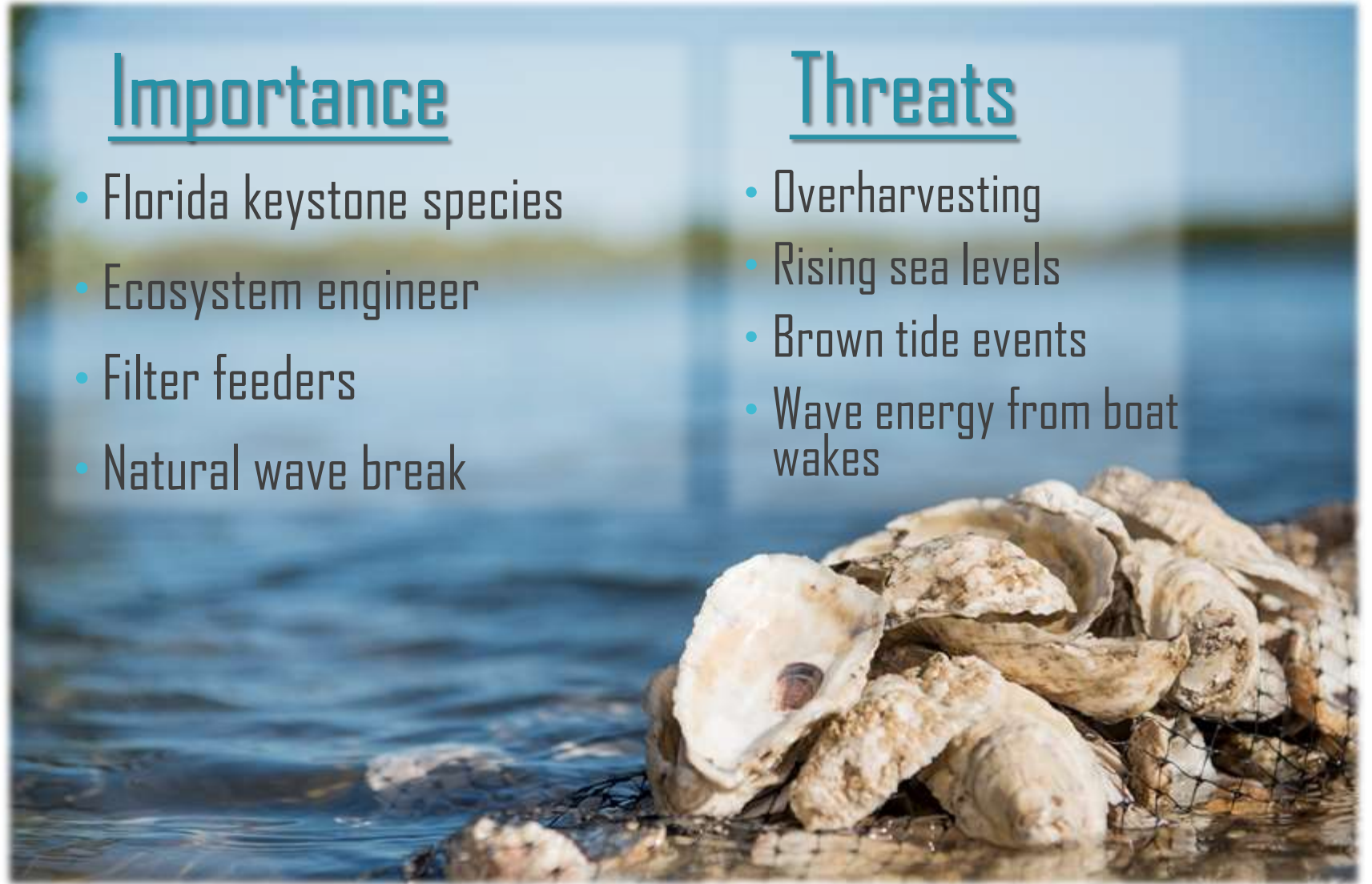
# Oysters 101

## Importance

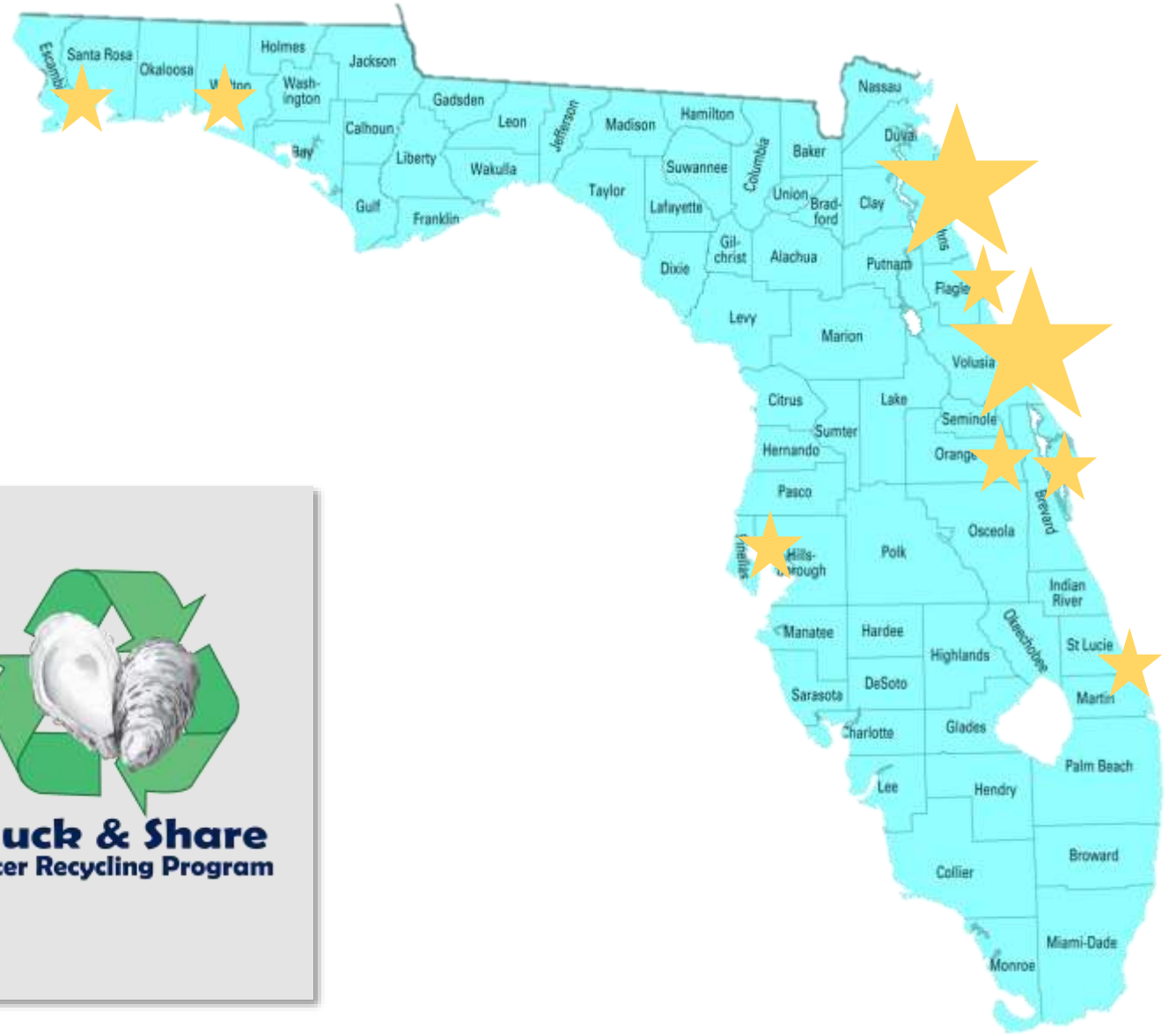
- Florida keystone species
- Ecosystem engineer
- Filter feeders
- Natural wave break

## Threats

- Overharvesting
- Rising sea levels
- Brown tide events
- Wave energy from boat wakes



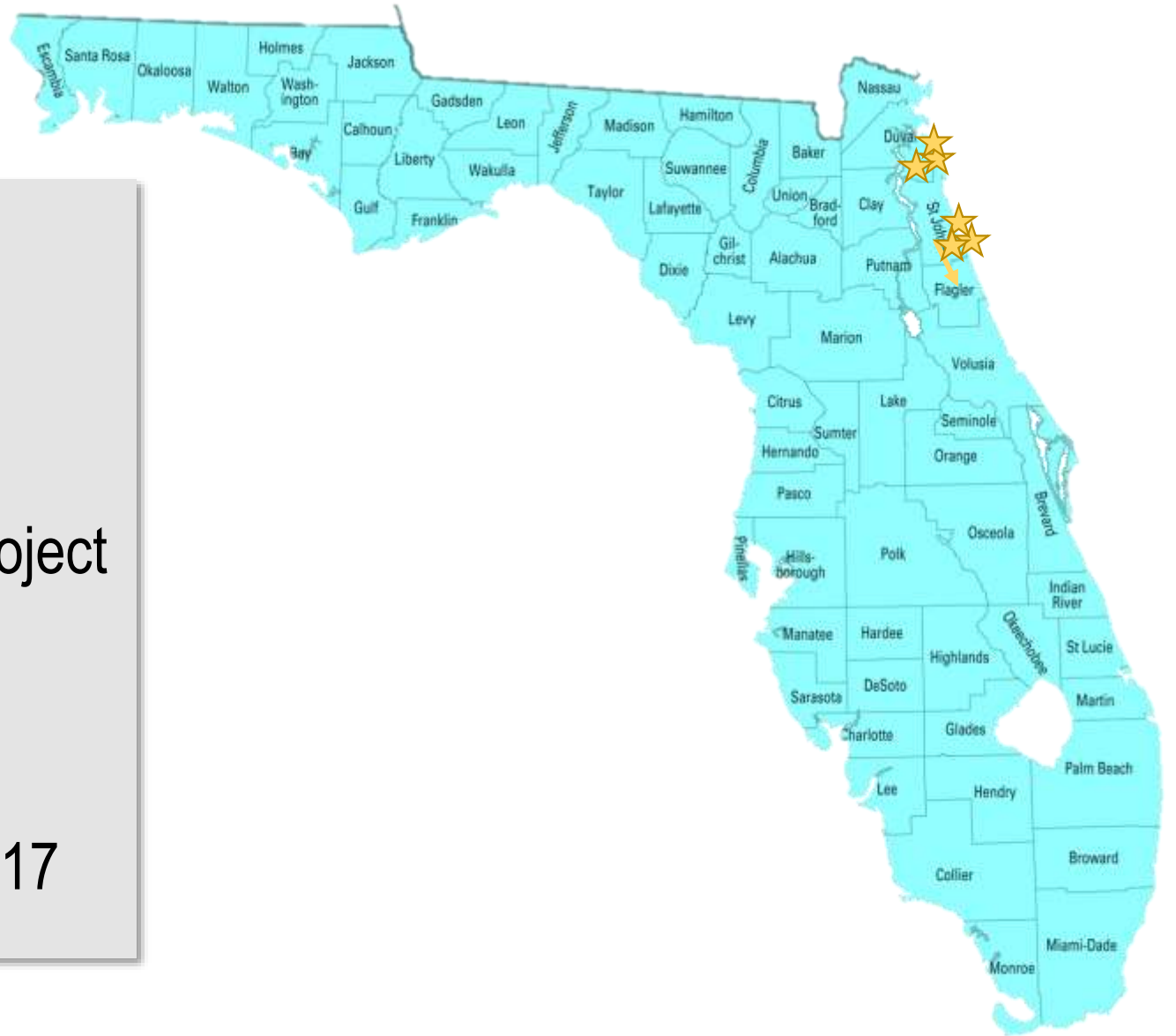
# Oyster Recycling Programs Across Florida



**Shuck & Share**  
Oyster Recycling Program



- Recycled for 2012 GTMNERR project
- Positive community feedback
  - 3 oyster festivals
  - 3 restaurants
- Plans for expansion by Spring 2017





## Shuck & Share Oyster Recycling Program

- Began in 2014
- Provides oyster shell to partners
- Grown from a project to a program





265,000 lbs

11,000 lbs

285,000 lbs

2,200,00 lbs

2,761,000 lbs

(1,380.5 tons)



= 50,000 lbs

Duval / St. John's -



Flagler -



Volusia / Orange -



Brevard -



# Projects



## Wright's Landing

2012-2014



- 1,000 feet of shoreline restored along the Tolomato River using recycled oyster shells

## North Penn.

2015-2016



- 1,000 linear feet of shoreline restored along the Smith Creek using recycled oyster shells
- 22 acres of salt marsh restored

## MDC Marsh

2014- present



- Used over 1,000 oyster bags along exterior and interior shorelines of newly restored marsh

## Mosquito Lagoon

2000-2020



- 2.8 acres of oyster reefs restored in Canaveral National Seashore using recycled oyster shell mats

## Brevard County

2014- present



- Restoring shorelines around Brevard County using spat on shell oyster materials
- "Oyster Gardening" community program

To Be Continued...

# Volunteers

- Heart and Soul of non-profit organizations
- Citizen science, shoreline restoration, oyster recycling efforts
- They enjoy giving back to their community, and furthering our mission



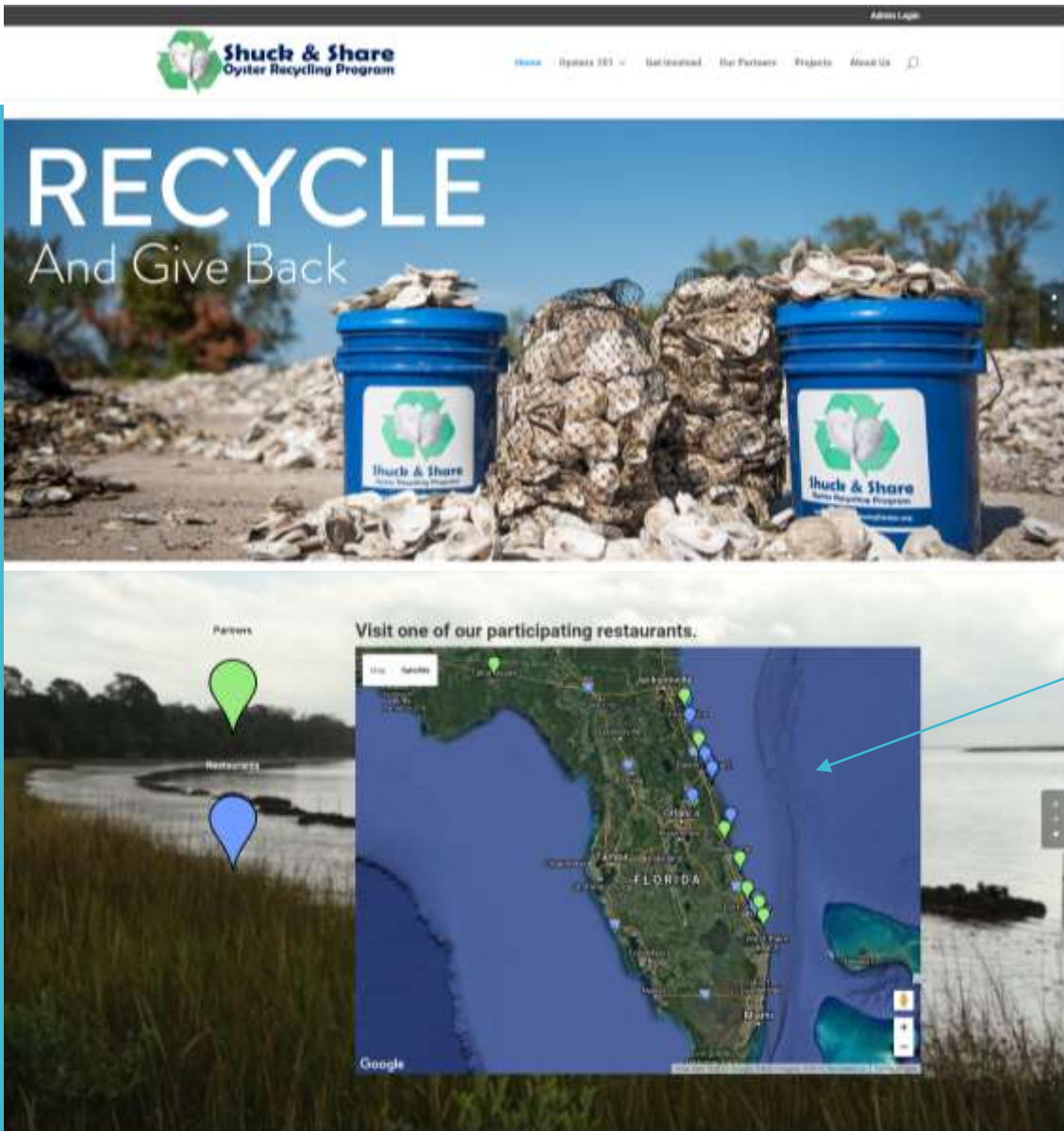


# Partners

- Partnerships allow for bigger and better projects
- Ability to share materials and ideas
- Stronger community influence

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.”  
- Helen Keller





[www.ShuckAndShare.org](http://www.ShuckAndShare.org)

- **Main Page**
  - *Interactive State Map*
- **Oysters 101**
  - *Basic information*
- **Get Involved**
  - *Contact information of S&S partners*
  - *Calendar*
- **Our Partners**
  - *Restaurants*
  - *Organizations*
- **Projects**
  - *Overview of shoreline projects*



# Questions?

