



## VERTICAL OYSTER GARDENS

These VOGs are made of recycled oyster shells from local restaurants, and are suspended from docks to create a hard substance for juvenile oysters to attach and develop. Oysters are a food source for birds and fish. Many small fish, crabs, shrimp and other critters live among the oysters, and provide food for large fish and wildlife. Adult oysters can filter between 3.0 and 12.5 gallons of water per day. This filtration can remove algae, organic matter, and other particles suspended in the water. They can absorb and process nitrogen. Oysters are an important species that contribute to a healthy ecosystem.



## STEPS TO HANG YOUR VERTICAL OYSTER GARDEN

### Step 1

Oysters need water flowing over their shells to catch their food. Place the VOG in an area where you see oysters already growing, making sure that your VOG will not be in contact with boats or other objects. The top of the VOG should be at the same height as any oysters already growing in your area. During high tide, the VOG should be completely submerged and during low tides, some or all the shells may be uncovered and exposed.

### Step 2

Tie the VOG to an eye bolt on your dock at the recommended height. You may need to adjust the height of the VOG during the winter when the tides are much lower than they are in the summer.

### Step 3

Be patient...it takes several months for oysters to colonize on your VOG. If you are in doubt of whether the shells are hanging at the right depth, move them higher or lower in the water column, always trying to match the growth on adjacent areas.

For more information, visit  
[www.LemonBayConservancy.org](http://www.LemonBayConservancy.org)  
or scan this code to request a VOG.

