



## Oysters for a Resilient and Sustainable Future

### WHY OYSTERS?

Without the ocean, we cannot survive. Like the keystone to the arch, so is the oyster to the health of our one ocean. As bioengineers, oysters have been adapting and building reef systems along our coasts, purifying coastal waters while providing habitat for hundreds of species to thrive – they have performed these functions for 350 million years. Now, however, when their bioengineering benefits are needed most, 85% of their historic reef systems are gone making oysters in the wild the most endangered habitat worldwide (Beck et al 2011). Fortunately, it's not too late. Appreciation for and benefits of this hard working ally are growing in many sectors of society, from science to ecology to cuisine and economy. It's time to join forces and take action **now** to reinforce the “KEY-stone” between land and sea that helps keep our ocean “standing.” Why? Because in helping oysters, we help the ocean and in doing so, we help ourselves.

### INTENTION OF THE SYMPOSIUM

Bring together thought leaders in oyster science, industry and culture anywhere in the world on:

- Current and future sustainable culture of oysters
- Advancing industry's use of oysters as human food
- Adapting to exacerbated environmental changes in coastal areas, innovative applications to improve water quality, restoring biodiversity, and sustaining our harbors
- Improving public knowledge of oysters and empowering communities through art/culture and traditional knowledge about oysters for the benefit of humankind.

### THE GOAL

Fashion a dynamic, dialogic, forward-looking three-day exchange where local and global representatives from academia, conservation, government, business and culture communities will share applied practices, projects and research relative to oysters and their place in ocean preservation and human affairs. In addition, participants and the public will have the opportunity to attend the opening interdisciplinary forum, a Trade Show and Expo, including the comedy “Cirque de Sea: An Oyster Tale Extraordinaire,” an Oyster Grand Tasting with top chefs, and a Bivalve Beach Bake and Bonfire closing event, while enjoying and learning from the incomparable natural beauty of Cape Cod and its oysters.

### WHO IS INVOLVED

[The Living Arts Institute](#), the elected producing organization for the IOS6 by the [World Oyster Society](#) based in Japan is working with a planning team from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Marine Biological Laboratory, NOAA, Green Harbors Project at University of Massachusetts, Department of Agricultural Resources, Barnstable County Extension, oyster farmers, and a growing list of national and international enterprises. **Therefore, we are inviting YOU to participate and help make this action-based symposium successful!**

**DATES:**            October 20, 2015            Pre-conference Activities  
                          October 21 – 23, 2015    Conference

**LOCATIONS:**    Marine Biological Laboratory, Wood Hole, Falmouth, MA USA and the  
                          Sea Crest Beach Hotel, N, Falmouth, MA USA