

# Number and weight of bivalve adults and spat in the initial bushels collected from oyster reefs along Southeastern Atlantic Bight (SAB) North Carolina to Florida in 2011 (Oyster Trophic Cascades project)

**Website:** <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/555241>

**Version:** 2015-04-01

## Project

» [The influence of predators on community structure and resultant ecosystem functioning at a biogeographic scale](#) (Oyster\_Trophic\_Cascades)

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## Dataset Description

Oyster reef cages containing either bivalves, consumers or predators were set up along the southeastern US coast from N. Carolina to Florida. This dataset includes number and weight of mussels, crabs, oyster adults and spat for the initial bushels used in reef construction.

### Related Reference:

DL. Kimbro, JE. Byers, JH. Grabowski, AR. Hughes and MF. Piehler. The biogeography of trophic cascades on US oyster reefs (2014) Ecology Letters 17:845-854. doi: 10.1111/ele.12293.

Data is also available from the Knowledge Network for Biocomplexity (KNB):  
1. Cage Experiment Bivalve Data <http://knb.ecoinformatics.org/knb/metacat?action=read&qformat=knb&sessionid=0&docid=evanlpettis.101.15>

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## Data Files

File
<b>init_bushel.csv</b> (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 31.01 KB) MD5:eb3e97f81bd1ecbca22288ecb29d9d9d
Primary data file for dataset ID 555241

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## Parameters

Parameter	Description	Units
site	Experimental study site/estuary within each region; Two sites per region	unitless
lat	latitude; north is positive	decimal degrees
lon	longitude; east is positive	decimal degrees
collection_id	Indicates collection batch number for bushels	unitless
bushel_size	Whether the bushel was of larger clusters (400 g) or smaller clusters (	unitless
cluster_id	Clusters are numbered in the numeric order in which they were measured. Loose refers to any single oysters found in the bushel.	unitless
wgt_cluster	Weight of individual cluster (or aggregate weight of loose oysters). Illegible values on NC datasheets indicated by question marks.	kilograms
num_mussels	Number of mussels found on the cluster	unit
wgt_mussel	Weight of mussels found on the cluster	kilograms
num_spat	Total number of live spat on cluster (	unit
num_dead_spat	Total number of dead spat on cluster (	unit
num_crabs	Number of mudcrabs found in cluster	unit
num_live_adults	Total number of live adult oysters in cluster (>25mm)	unit
num_dead_adults	Total number of dead adult oysters in cluster (>25mm). Includes gapers and whole bottom valves.	unit
num_dead_total	Total number of dead oysters in cluster (adults and spat). Includes gapers and whole bottom valves.	unit
comment	Additional notes	unitless

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## Deployments

### Kimbro\_2011

<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/554925">https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/554925</a>
<b>Platform</b>	Oyster_Reefs_SE-US
<b>Start Date</b>	2011-06-02
<b>End Date</b>	2011-09-02
<b>Description</b>	Oyster reef communities were manipulated to test the generality of potential causal factors of trophic cascades across a 1000-km region from N. Carolina to Florida using monitoring and cage experiments.

## Project Information

### **The influence of predators on community structure and resultant ecosystem functioning at a biogeographic scale (Oyster\_Trophic\_Cascades)**

**Coverage:** St. Augustine, FL to Cape Hatteras, NC

Predators structure ecological communities by consuming and altering the traits of prey, yet these effects have only recently been linked to local variation in ecosystem functions such as primary production and nutrient cycling. Such linkages may operate differently across biogeographic scales because factors known to affect local predator mechanisms also vary with latitude. The mismatch between knowledge of how predators locally affect ecosystem functions and the biogeographic range at which predator-prey interactions occur inhibits understanding of linkages between ecological communities and ecosystems, and thus our ability to manage valuable ecosystem services. Intertidal oyster reefs provide a model system to address this knowledge gap: they occur throughout the mid-Atlantic and Gulf coasts; they contain a similar food-web assemblage across latitudinal gradients in predation, resource supplies, and environmental conditions; they are strongly influenced by predator effects; and they influence sediment and nutrient cycles by enhancing benthic-pelagic coupling. This research involves a series of standardized sampling and experimental studies to: (1) investigate biogeographic patterns in oyster food web structure, resource supplies, environmental conditions, and sediment properties associated with reef function (2) determine how the vital rates of oysters, which can influence benthic-pelagic coupling, vary geographically; and (3) examine experimentally the relative importance of consumptive and non-consumptive predator effects on oyster reef communities and the ecosystem processes they provide and how these effects vary latitudinally. It will provide a mechanistic understanding of the basis for biogeographical shifts in valuable ecosystem services performed by an important marine foundation species, and it will also advance understanding of the interactions between predator effects in food webs and the ecosystem processes that depend on them. *(from the Lead Principal Investigator proposal Abstract)*

This is a Collaborative Project with Investigators from four major research universities.

[Funding for this project has transferred from award OCE-0961633 to OCE-1338372, and from award OCE-0961741 to OCE-1203859, coincident with Principal Investigators Dr. Kimbro's and Dr. Grabowski's affiliation changes.]

BCO-DMO is in the process of serving data from this project directly. These data are also available online from the [Knowledge Network for Biocomplexity](#).

## Funding

Funding Source	Award
<a href="#">NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)</a>	<a href="#">OCE-0961633</a>
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<a href="#">NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)</a>	<a href="#">OCE-0961853</a>
<a href="#">NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)</a>	<a href="#">OCE-0961741</a>
<a href="#">NSF Division of Ocean Sciences (NSF OCE)</a>	<a href="#">OCE-1203859</a>