

Stockton University Field Station Joins American Littoral Society's Shell Recycling Program to Restore Reef Habitat in Barnegat Bay

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"They need hard substrate. That's the key. That's why we need the shell-more-

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"There could be millions of oyster larvae in the water column, and when they settle down and it's just sandy mud, they're not going to be recruited. The idea is to create a source of suitable shell for the oyster spat to set on," he said.

Mel Magaziner, an owner of the restaurants, said that The Old Causeway and Mud City Crab House together go through about 5,000 oysters per week in the summer.

In the near future, those shells will become a nursery for the next generation of coastal bay oysters.

Last fall, Old Causeway sponsored a Shellfish Soiree event, where a panel of industry and academic oyster experts led a discussion to educate the public about the economic and environmental importance of shellfish. After that event, "I realized we had to do something sooner rather than later," said Magaziner, who reached out to the American Littoral Society to find a way to repurpose the restaurant's shell waste into a living reef.

Alek Modjeski, a 1998 Stockton Marine Biology graduate and former student-worker at Stockton's field station, is now habitat restoration d a Shelne Bi80I w the A26(m)-6(e)11(r)-6(i)3(c)-2((n Li)3(t)-7 bt(1)3) and the big of the big