

Eastern Oyster



**Captain John Smith
Chesapeake National
Historic Trail**



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The Bay is full of edible shellfish, from blue crabs to clams. The type of oyster found in the Chesapeake Bay is the Eastern Oyster, *Crassostrea virginica*. Oysters live on the bay's floor, growing in groups to form reefs. These reefs create habitat for many other animals, such as sponges, anemones, and barnacles. Oysters feed on algae by filtering water through their bodies. An adult oyster can filter and clean up to 50 gallons a day and live for up to 25 years.