

THE PACIFIC OYSTER-

(Support of our economy or a threat to our *National Park*?)

Pacific oysters from Japan were deliberately introduced into European waters (Sylt 1986) to revive the oyster stock. The warming of the Wadden Sea has created a favorable condition for these oysters to reproduce rapidly.



Crassostrea gigas



Oysterbank in the Königshafen

- Variable in shape
- Size ranges between 8cm and 20cm
- Two valves unequal in size
- Grows on all hard substrates in the tidal zone

Any dangers?

Yes.

- cut-injuries for barefoot tourists
- building reefs and influence sedimentation in the Wadden Sea
- like to attach to mussels and suppress their growth
- no natural enemy for the oyster was introduced therefore
- they have competitive advantage over mussels
- Increases exponentially



Oyster clutch suppress a mussel

There is an economic advantage to the community of Sylt (Jobs for farmers and tourism) but what about the disadvantages?

Till now there is no way of getting rid of the oysters and this means we have to be careful when introducing alien species in our environment.