

Some researchers are experimenting with raising fish in giant cages many miles offshore. The cages are equipped with cameras so that scientists on dry land can see what is happening. If the cages need to be repaired or there are other problems, boats take divers to the site. FLOUNDER and cod are being raised offshore in other states.

New Jersey aquatic farmers raise hard clams, OYSTERS, koi, fish for food and to stock ponds for recreational fishing. SALMON is one of the world's most important aquaculture fish. New Jersey farmers don't raise salmon because the water is too warm at certain times of the year.

Clams, oysters and mussels are important both because they taste good and because they help to keep the water clean. These animals are called FILTER feeders because they strain food out of the water.

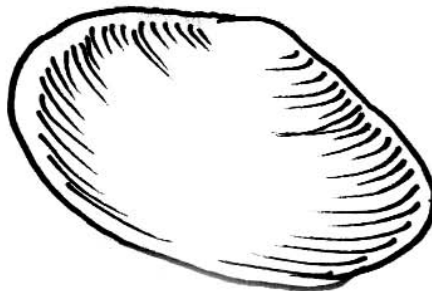
Clam, oyster and mussel farmers plant seeds (baby shellfish) in water just like farmers on land plant corn seeds. The seeds are raised in nurseries on land where they are fed ALGAE (very tiny, microscopic green plants). When they reach a certain size, the seeds are planted on aquatic farms. Farmers in the Delaware Bay produce some of the finest oysters in the world.

In Japan, oysters are farmed to produce cultured PEARLS. A tiny bead is placed in the oyster. The bead bothers the oyster so it produces a smooth shiny substance called NACRE over the bead. The layers of nacre that grow over the bead form the pearl.

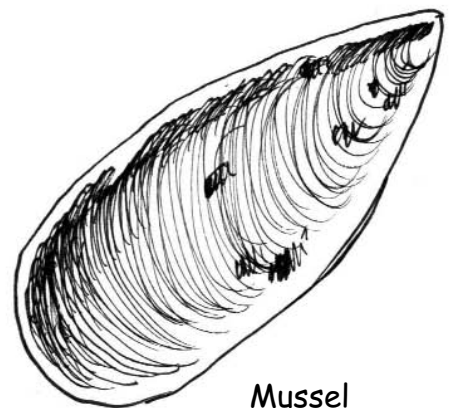
Color These Filter Feeders



Oyster



Soft Shell Clam



Mussel