

Project news

July 2022

Noosa River Oyster Ecosystem Restoration

Project summary

The Nature Conservancy, Noosa Shire Council and the Noosa community are rebuilding oyster reefs in the Noosa River.

Oyster reefs were lost from the Noosa River over 100 years ago and played a significant role in helping maintain the health, and resilience of the Noosa River. Oyster reefs were also culturally important to Noosa's traditional custodians, the Kabi Kabi Nation, who also wishes to see them restored.

This collaborative project is supported by the Thomas Foundation, the Australian Marine Conservation Society, and the Australian Government's Reef Builder program.

Investigations and Options

The Nature Conservancy worked closely with its local partners, project's technical advisory group, coastal engineers, and ecologists to refine the parameters of work.

In the construction phase of this project, marine contractors deploy the rock foundations onto the riverbed in special configurations to create oyster reef patches. The contractor uses a barge and excavator, with oversight from specialist engineers, to do this work.

Permits

All works are undertaken in strict adherence with state and local laws and the required government permits.

Location of works

Site 1: Goat Island - centre of the southern shoreline, landward of the formal moorings.

Site 2: Tewantin shoreline - upstream of the boat ramp below the council chambers.

Sites 3 and 4: Noosa Sound – east and west

Scope of works

Locally sourced rock and clean oyster shell is transported to the project load out site at the end of Hilton Esplanade, Tewantin.

At the load out site, the rock and shell are loaded onto a barge and transported to the restoration sites.

The contractor then deploys the rock and shell onto the restoration sites in strict adherence to the design specifications.

Timing and duration of works

The construction work is due to begin on 27 July and will continue for six weeks.

The contractors will aim to minimise the duration of the construction process by working continuous days during this period.

Next Steps

Post construction, the sites will be clearly marked, mapped, and monitored by scientists.

Further information

Please contact us at queensland@tnc.org

Find out more about the project here:

www.natureaustralia.org.au/noosa