









MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release:

June 20, 2013

Shells Fly in the Bronx as the Largest Oyster Restoration Project Ever Attempted in New York Harbor Commences

NEW YORK – The media is invited to join a partnership of oyster scientists, non-profit groups and government agencies on the water in boats or on the shore at Soundview Park, Bronx NY, as they begin construction on a 1-acre oyster restoration project.

The ambitious restoration effort will literally start with a "bang" as a water cannon blasts a barge load of seasoned clam shells into the water at the mouth of the Bronx River to create the base layer for the oyster restoration project.

The shells will be carefully placed to cover the existing soft sediments with a new veneer of surf clam shells and provide the necessary hard substrate layer to allow wild oysters to attach and grow.

The promising results from a 2-year study started at this site in 2010 by this same group, led to the launch of this restoration project. It is the largest oyster restoration project ever attempted in NY Harbor.

When: June 24th, 10:30 - 1:00

What: Launch of Soundview Park Oyster Restoration Project

Where: Soundview Park, Bronx, NY, in the East River near the mouth of the Bronx River

To view from shore: Lafayette and Morrison Ave. entrance to Soundview Park. Vehicles will be escorted through the gate to the project site at 10:30. Vehicles will be escorted back to the gate

at 12:00 and 1:00.

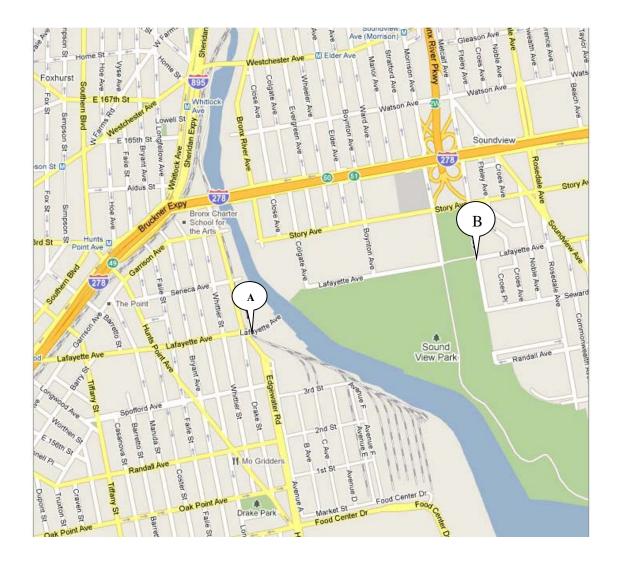
To view from Boats: The boat will leave from dock at Hunts Point Riverside Park at 10:30 and return to the Dock at 12:00. Parking is available at the Park. Entrance is at Edgewater Rd. and Lafayette Ave. (See attached map). Space on the boat is limited so please call to verify

availability.

Photo Opp: 100' barge loaded with 100 tons of clam shells, shells being sprayed into the water from large

water pumps, interviews with project partners including not-for-profit group members and

directors, government agency representatives, scientists.



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This project partnership –The Oyster Restoration Research Project (ORRP)-has more than 30 partners, including Hudson River Foundation, NY/NJ Baykeeper, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation Natural Resources Group, Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, University of New Hampshire, Bronx River Alliance, Rocking the Boat, Wildlife Conservation Society, NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program, US Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA Restoration Center. The project was funded with a grant from the WCS-NOAA South Bronx Waterfront Partnership.

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