

# NOW SERVING OYSTER ASSESSMENTS! *ON THE HALF SHELL*



## **Why are oyster assessments necessary?**

In the State of Louisiana, an oyster assessment satisfies conditions within a Coastal Use Permit that is required by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Coastal Louisiana supports two major industries—our country's leading oyster production and abundant oil and gas operations—which gives our state an extraordinary position of economic opportunity. The environmental implications are complex, so oyster assessments are integral to preserving these oyster habitats while simultaneously serving as a fair negotiation tool between oil and gas operators and oyster lease holders.



C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates, L.L.C.  
Louisiana Firm Registration No. VF. 0000154.  
Texas Firm Registration No. 10028500.

## **What is a biological oyster assessment?**

A biological oyster assessment is the scientific estimate of the quantity of eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) resources within a defined boundary. Louisiana currently leases out approximately 388,000 acres of water bottoms to private citizens and businesses while holding another 1.6 million acres in public seed grounds and reservations. Louisiana's coastal regions boast one of the highest levels of oyster production in the country, as well as serving as home to one the richest oil and gas fields. This unique combination causes complications when both endeavors need the same space to thrive.

## **When are oyster assessments necessary?**

Biological oyster assessments are required when any coastal activity may impact the water bottoms of areas containing oyster leases and/or oyster seed grounds. These activities include, but are not limited, to the following:

**Proposed Well Locations**

**Flowline & Pipeline Installation, Repair or Removal**

**Structure installation (Saltwater Barge,  
Production Facility, etc.)**

**Bucket or Spray Dredging**

**Propwashing**

**Access Routes**

**Site Clearances**

**Coastal Restoration Activities**



**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**For more information, contact  
Nick Gaspard**

**[nicholas@fenstermaker.com](mailto:nicholas@fenstermaker.com)  
337.237.2200**

*Nicholas Gaspard, Fenstermaker's Oyster Lease Damage Evaluation Board (OLDEB) certified biologist, assists clients in navigating the complex and difficult task of completing a biological oyster assessments and/or damage settlement negotiation. Mr. Gaspard has over ten years of experience in oyster biology and ecology, particularly along coastal Louisiana.*