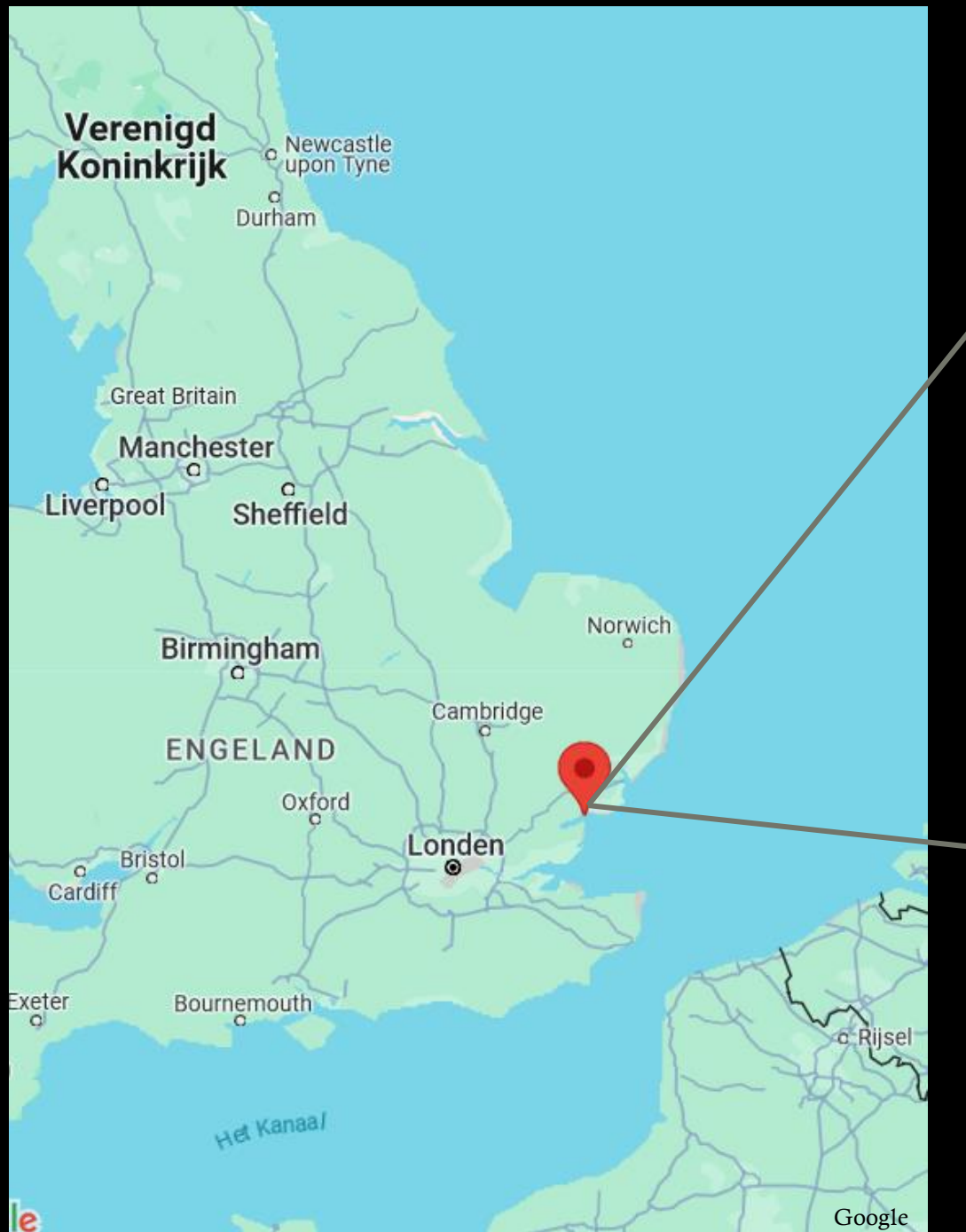

THE FUTURE OF PAST REEFS

POLITICS OF CARE IN OYSTER RESTORATION

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MERSEA OYSTER FISHERIES



<- "Dredging up Natives" (1936), photos Mersea Museum



CONSERVATION



RESTORATION





Photo Veerle Boekestijn



POLITICS OF CARE & REPAIR

What kind of marine nature is restored? On whose terms?

Martin (2022) *Wild by Design*
Higgs (2003) *Nature by Design*

3 INTERLINKED CASES



Voordelta, NL

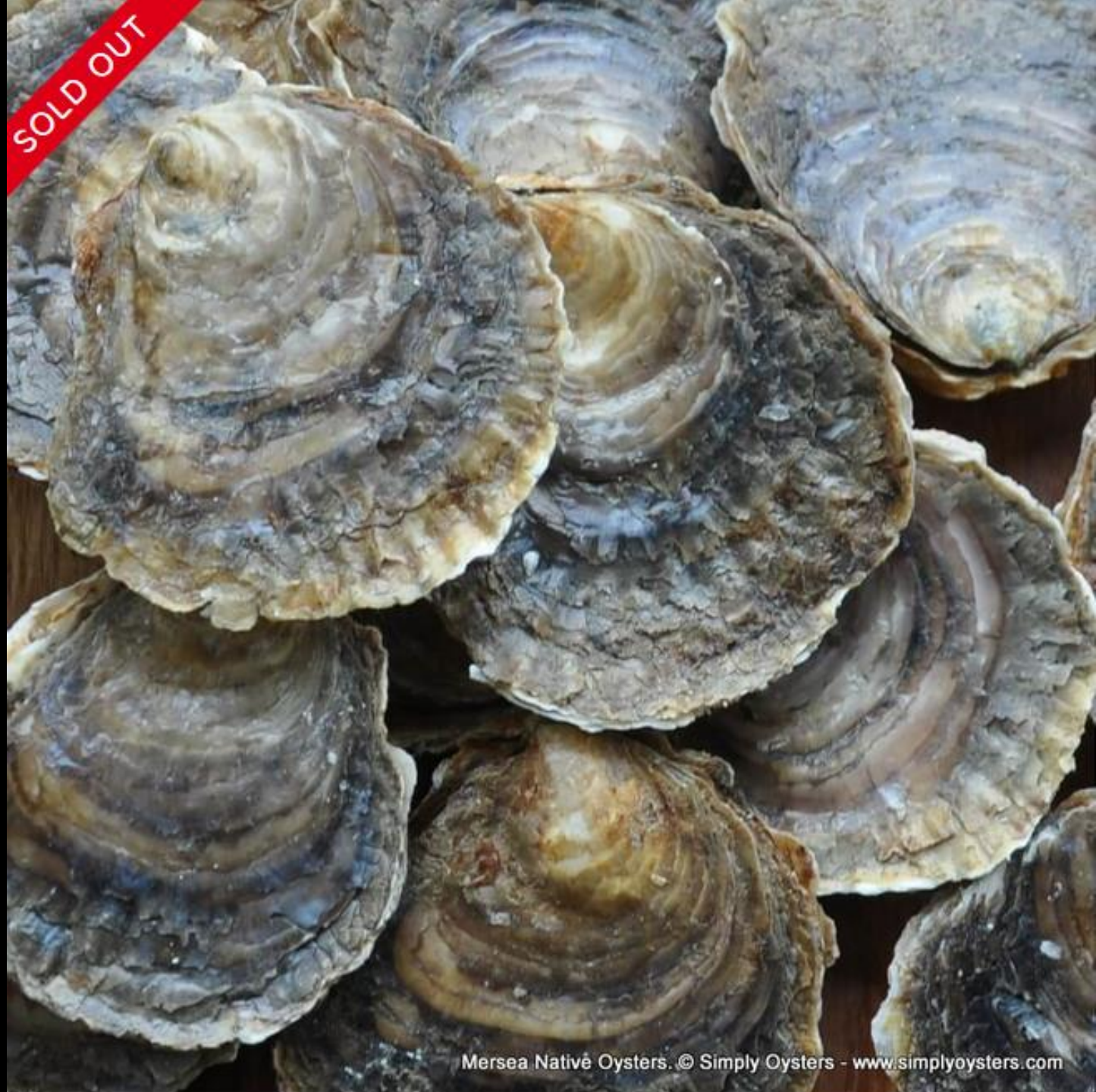


Essex, UK



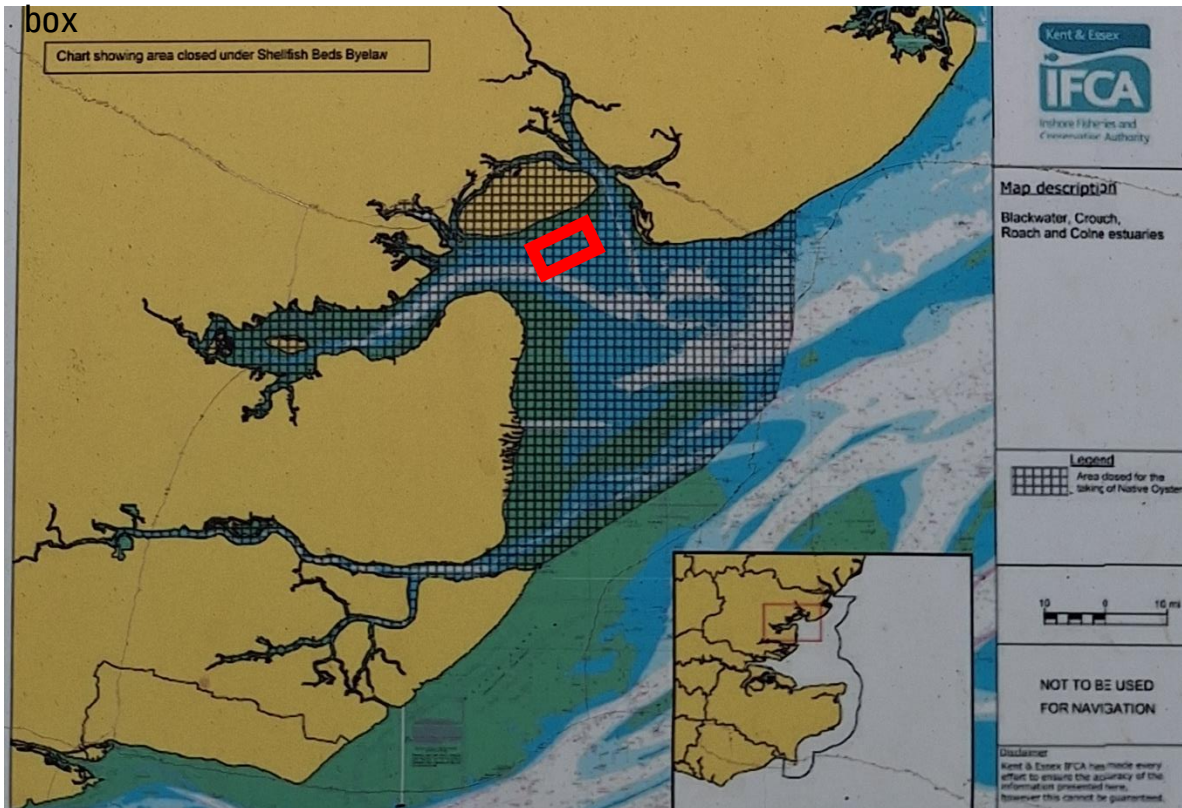
New York, USA

ESSEX NATIVE OYSTER RESTORATION INITIATIVE



COLLABORATIVE SCIENCE & RESTORATION

Marine conservation area + restoration



Culch deployment in the restoration box

ENORI
ESSEX NATIVE OYSTER
RESTORATION INITIATIVE

The logo for the Essex Native Oyster Restoration Initiative (ENORI) is displayed. It consists of the acronym "ENORI" in large, bold, blue letters, followed by the full name "ESSEX NATIVE OYSTER RESTORATION INITIATIVE" in smaller, blue, all-caps letters. To the right of the text is a stylized blue oyster shell.





Photo by Jiri Rezac

TO DREDGE OR NOT TO DREDGE?



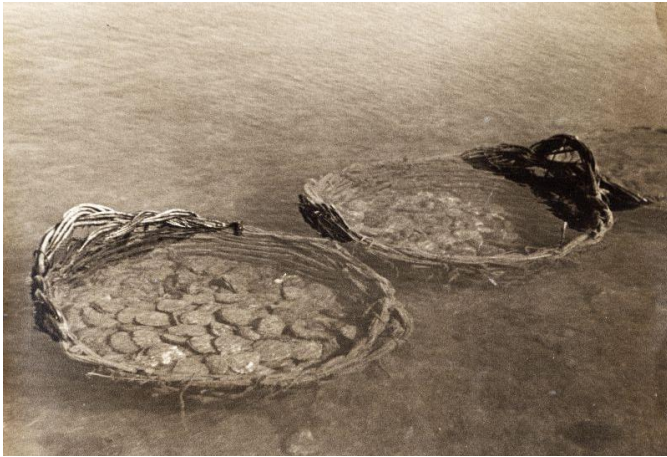
Mersea museum – oyster dredger

“It just doesn't want to survive, it really doesn't”

Oysterman, 28 june2024

“How long does it take an oyster to become naturalized? These gifas are more local than the natives!”

Oysterman ,27 Julne 2024

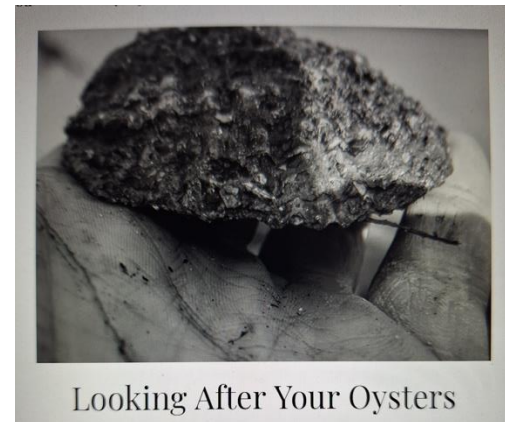


ADAPTIVE OYSTER HERITAGE?



CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- Marine restoration as inherently social and political care practice
- Politics of what and whose ways of knowing and relating to the sea takes precedence in steering the goals and priorities of restoration.
- Plural ways in which people understand and engage with the lifeforms they care for.
- Repair as a relational and historically embedded practice of healing of marine social ecologies



THANKS!

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