OYSTERS...

...can live up to 20 years

...in Texas can grow to market size (3 in.) in 18 MONTHS

...can be eaten year round

...feed by filtering algae and other food particles from the water

...reproduce by releasing eggs or sperm into the water when temperatures warm

...can change gender once or more during their lifetime

One oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water per day

Oyster Life Cycle

Credit: Karen R. Swanson/COSEE SE/NSF