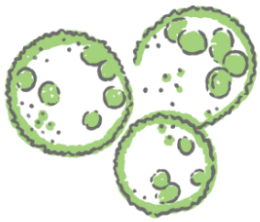
EASTERN OYSTER

CRASSOSTREA VIRGINICA

APPEARANCE

Eastern oysters can reach up to 8in in length. Their shells are rough, irregular, and usually gray or tan on the outside with a smooth white interior.



DIET

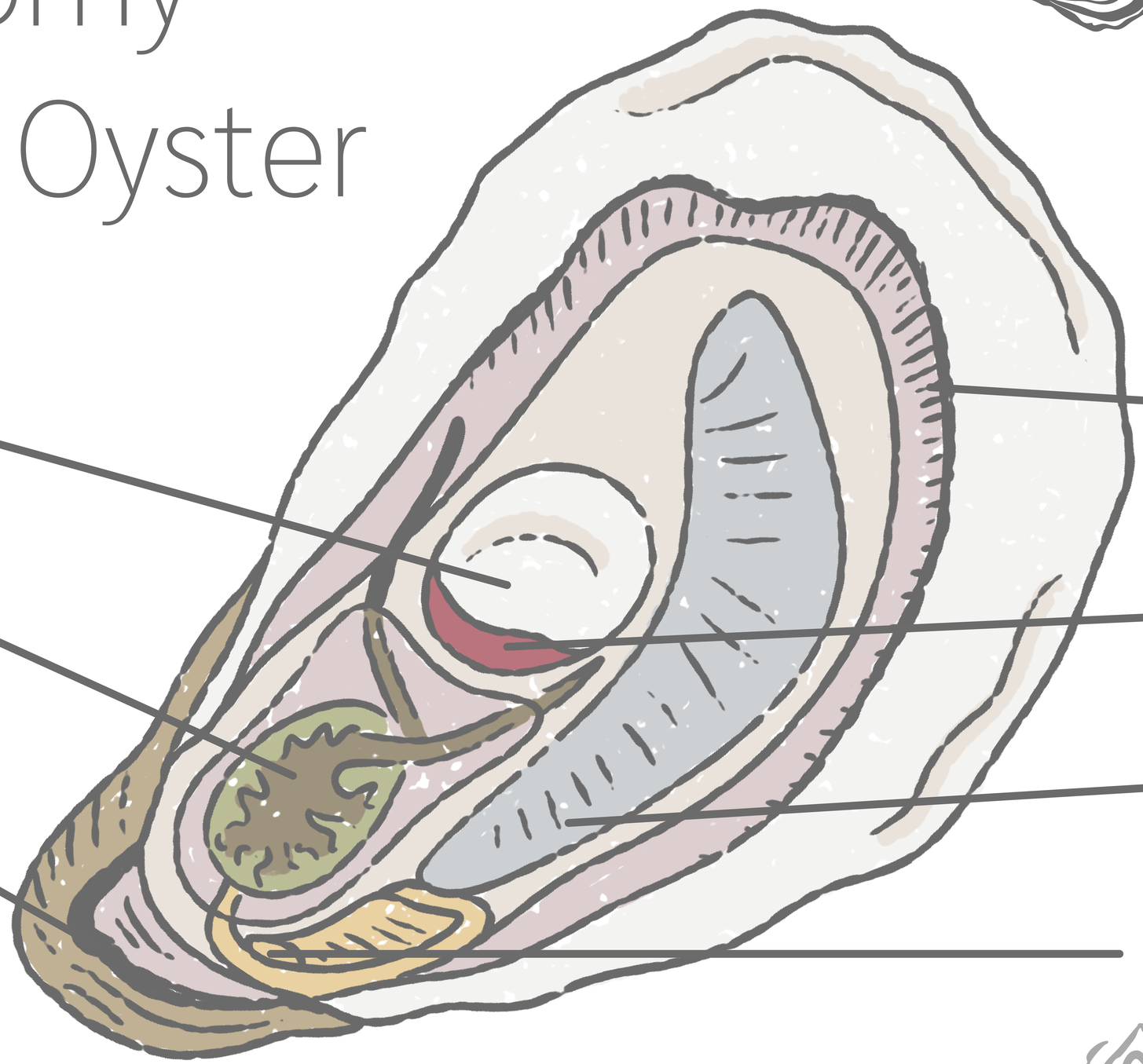
Oysters are filter feeders. They pull water across their gills and filter out algae, plankton, and nutrients for food. They filter up to 50 gallons of water per day.

HABITAT

Oysters live in bays and estuaries in brackish waters, where freshwater and saltwater mix. They attach themselves to hard surfaces like old oyster shells, forming reefs.

PREDATORS

Common predators of oysters include crabs, snails, fish, birds, and humans.

Anatomy of an Oyster

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