

Biodiversity Associated with Deep-water Oyster Farms

(Preliminary summary of research conducted by Dr. Penny Barnes, Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Aquaculture Development)

- **Oyster strings provide habitat for diverse groupings of invertebrates with high abundance and biomass - comparable with mangrove swamps in Central America**
- **One oyster string in Gorge Harbour can provide habitat for over 1600 individuals across 48 different species**
- **If one oyster raft has 250 strings, there may be up to 750 kg of organisms – other than oysters – living on that raft**
- **Ongoing studies may reveal the presence of rare species - and the potential of these habitats as “refuge” sites for rare species**
- **Deep water suspended oyster culture also provides habitat for species of fish, such as rockfish and surf perch**