

Wild Oysters Assembly

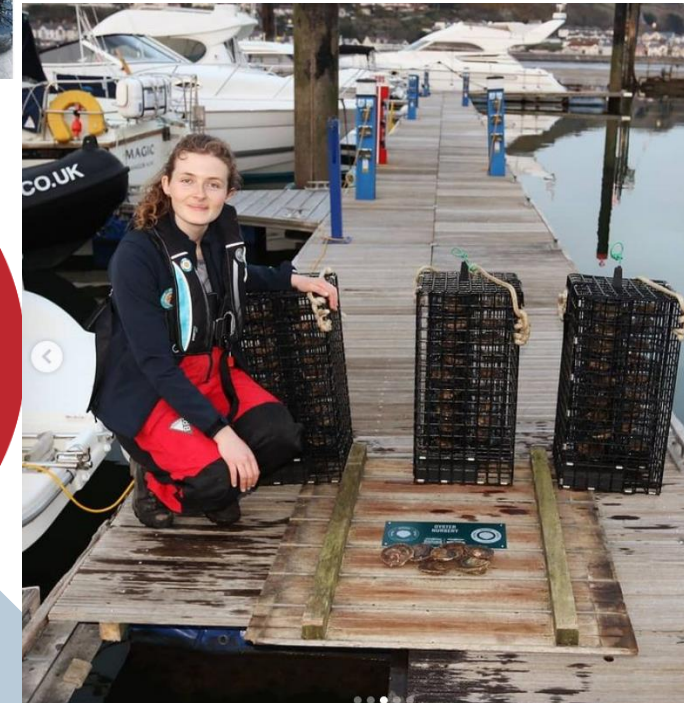
KS3



Working together to recover self-sustaining populations of native oysters in UK seas



The Wild Oysters Project scientists



PROJECT MANAGER (ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON)



LOCAL PROJECT OFFICER (CONWY BAY)



Women in science

in the Wild Oysters team!



PROJECT ASSISTANT (TYNE & WEAR)



PROJECT ASSISTANT (FIRTH OF CLYDE)



SENIOR RESTORATION PROJECT MANAGER (BLUE)





What does the sea mean to you?





Home to more than 90% of life
on the planet
Capable of absorbing a third of
CO₂ emissions!





What is happening to our seas?

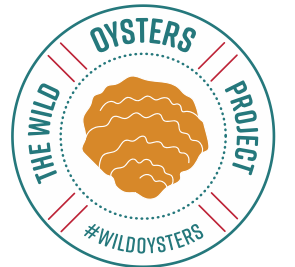
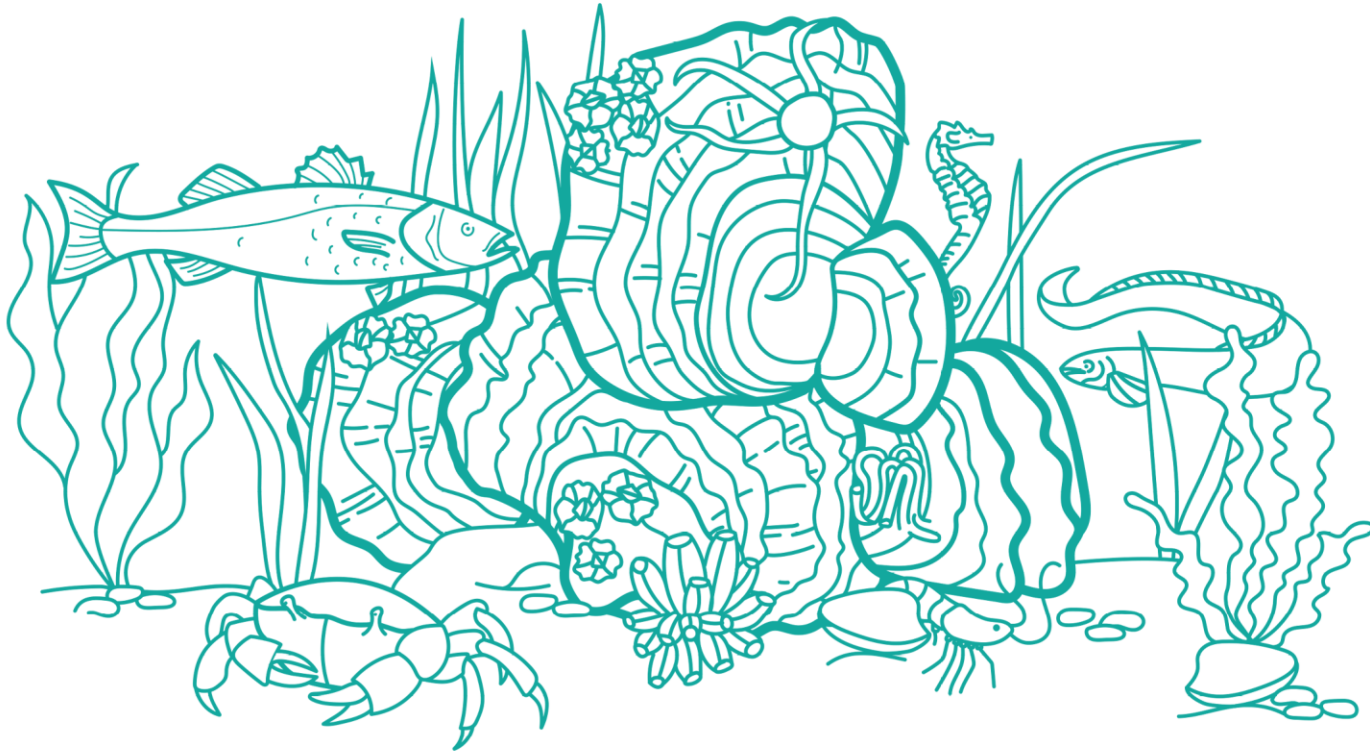


(Over)fishing
Plastic
Pollution
Sewage
Habitat destruction/Trawling
Ocean acidification (due to climate change)
Deep sea mining



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Oysters & why are they important for the health of our oceans?





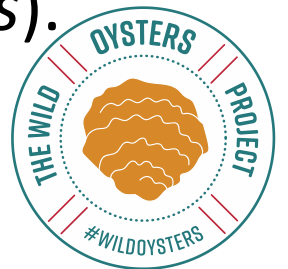
Oyster facts!

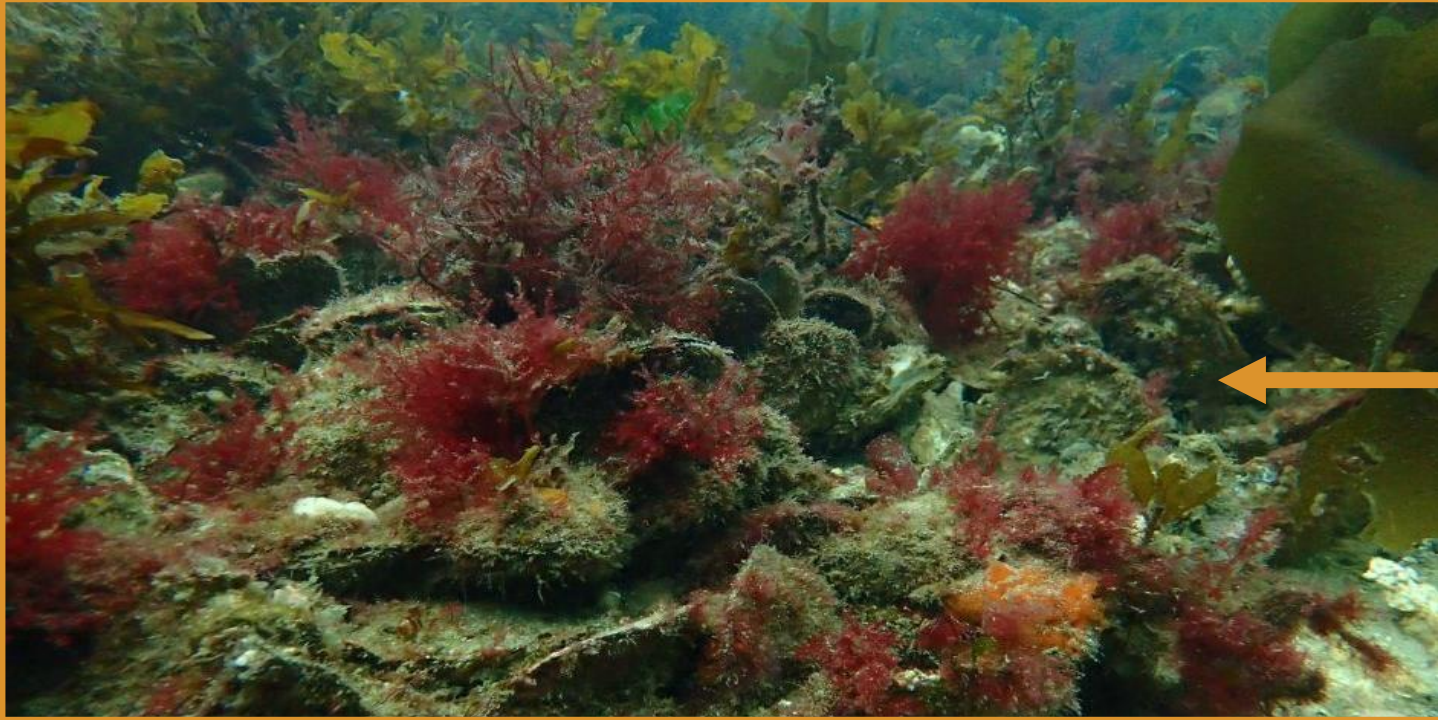
Oysters are molluscs, like snails.

But..... we call them bivalve molluscs as they have two shells instead of one.

Only one species of oyster that is native to the UK - the European native oyster (*Ostrea edulis*).

They live in large groups that form reefs, a bit like coral reefs!





Native oysters
form **reefs...**



...which are as
complex and
biodiverse as **coral**
reefs!



Ecosystem engineers

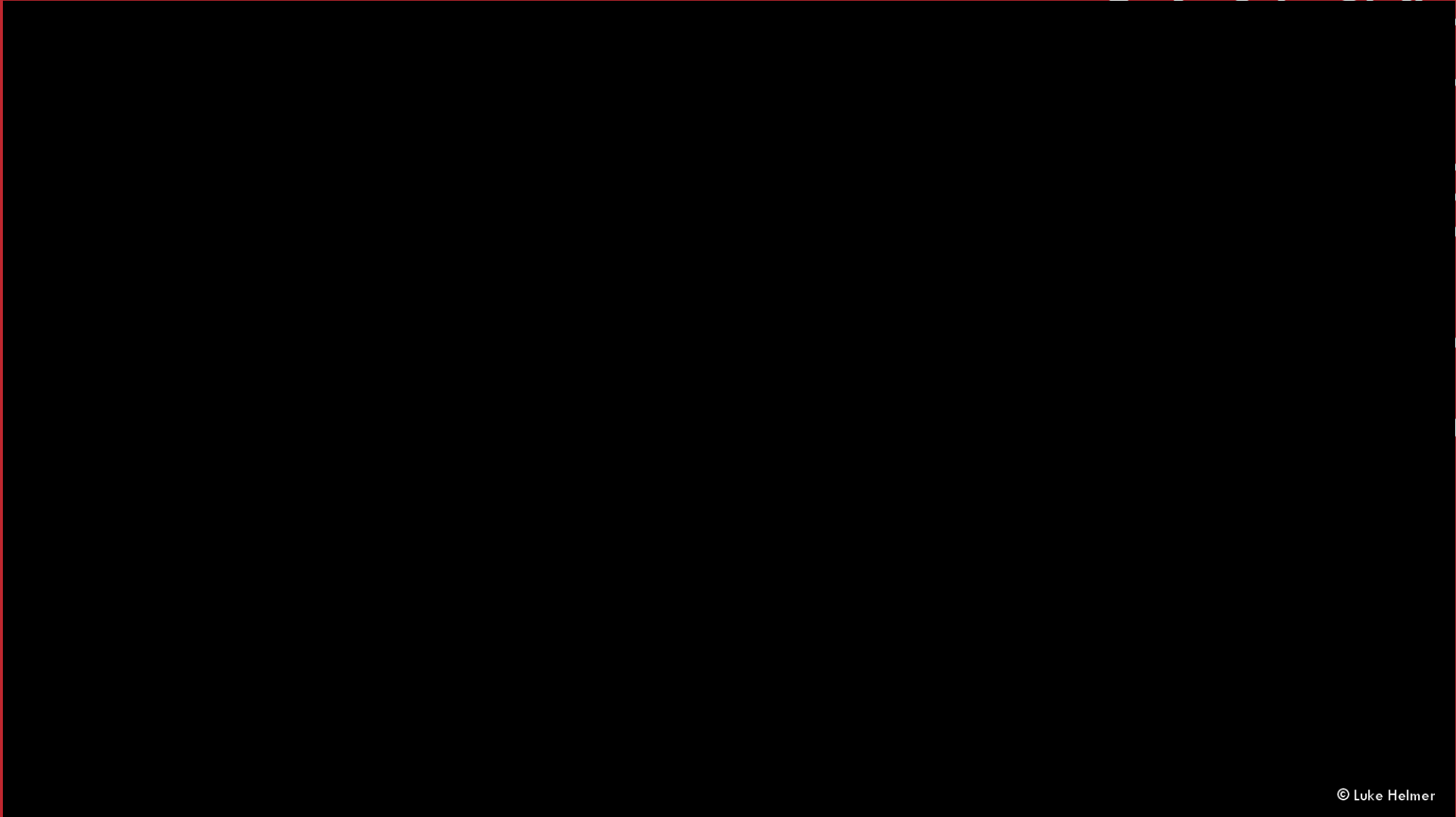
Habitat = a place where an organism lives

Community = all the living things in a habitat

Ecosystem = a habitat and all the living things in it



Biodiversity = variety of life



© Luke Helmer

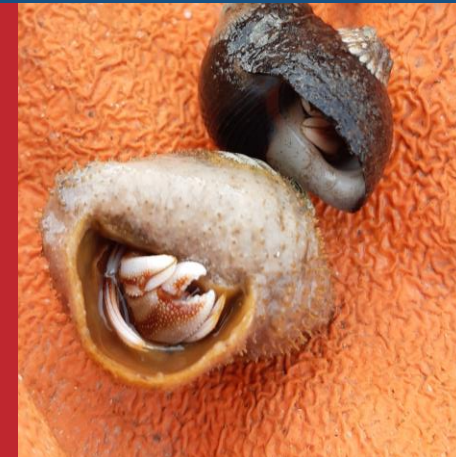


Biodiversity = variety of life

97
species!

Oysters also provide other animals with shelter and a place to live.

Oyster reefs are made up of lots of oysters all living on top of one another, with spaces in between, which makes a really good home for other animals!

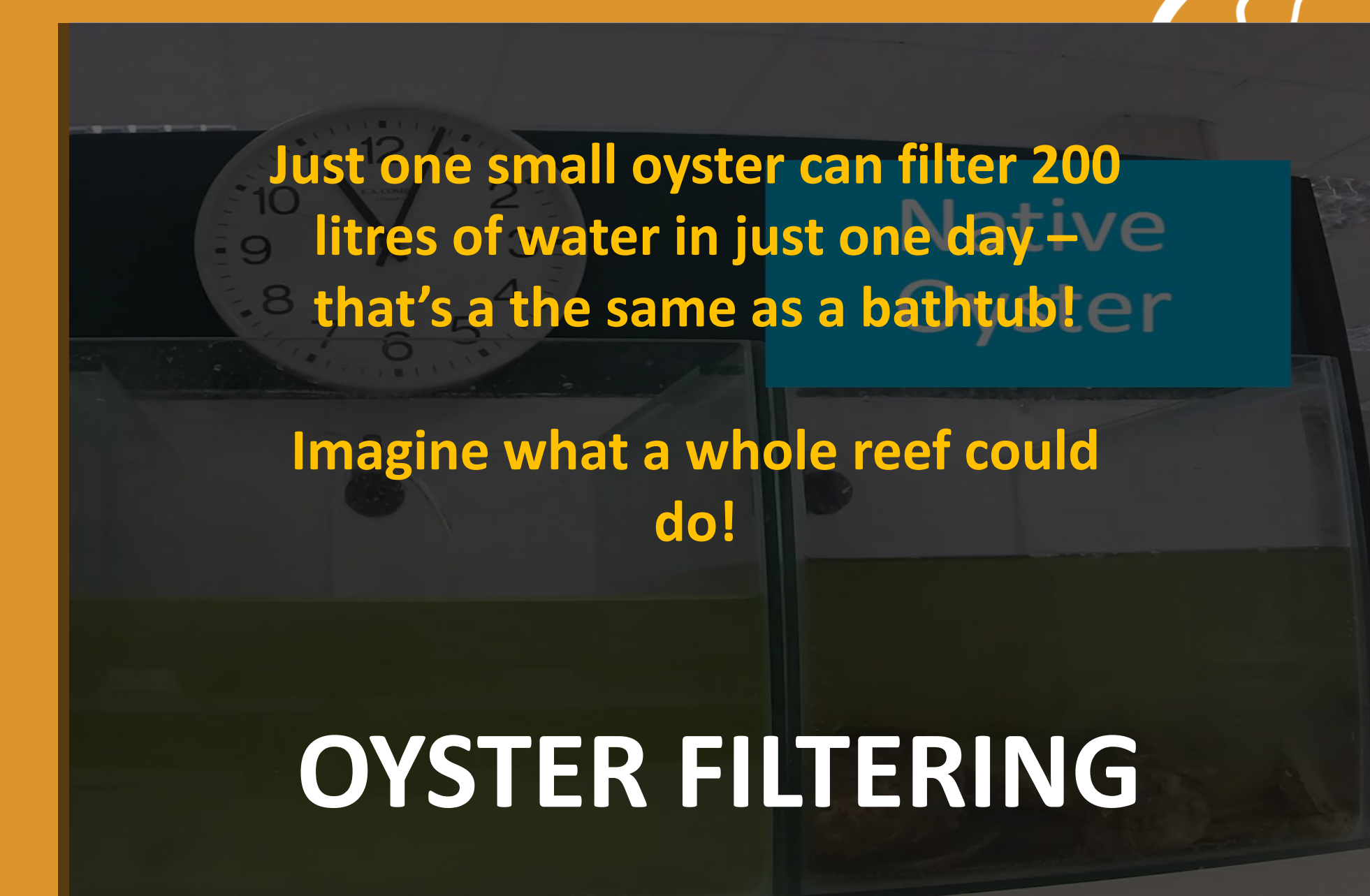


FILTERING THE WATER



AND PROVIDING HABITAT FOR LOTS OF OTHER SPECIES

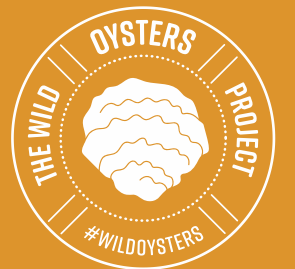




**Just one small oyster can filter 200
litres of water in just one day –
that's the same as a bathtub!**

**Imagine what a whole reef could
do!**

OYSTER FILTERING

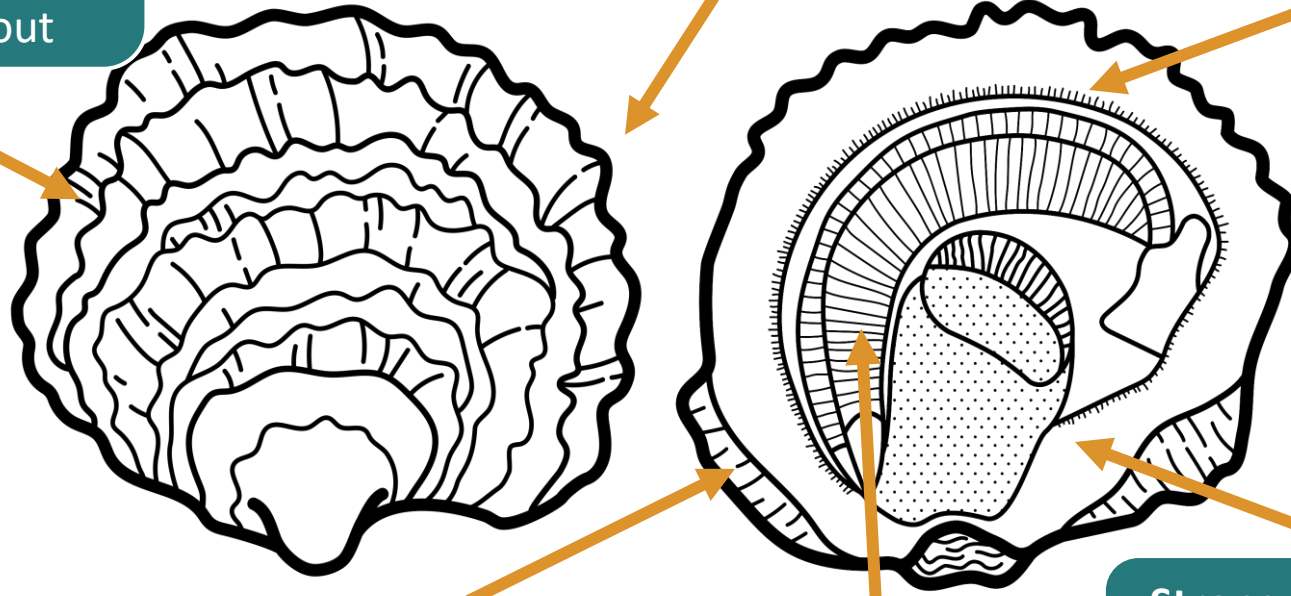


Oyster adaptations

Hard shell for protection against predation and to stop them drying when the tide goes out

Can change sex so there is always the correct ratio of males to females

Hairs (cilia) and mucus to trap microscopic algae and small organic particles from the surrounding water



Produce lots of larvae to ensure that some survive to adulthood

Valves to suck in water and pass it over the gills

Gills to absorb oxygen from the water

Strong muscles to close their shells quickly when threatened by predators

©2020, Native Oyster Network - UK & Ireland
Oyster Restoration Alliance.



Oysters are secret... **SUPERHEROES**



The jobs they do for humans are called **ecosystem services**



Mozambique

Mozambique women collect oysters from the seashore as a social activity and sell them at market



UK

Whitstable in England there is still an oyster festival every year – Oyster King and Queen!



Brazil



India

Source of food and money, as well as being part of the local culture



France

In France oysters are considered a delicacy.



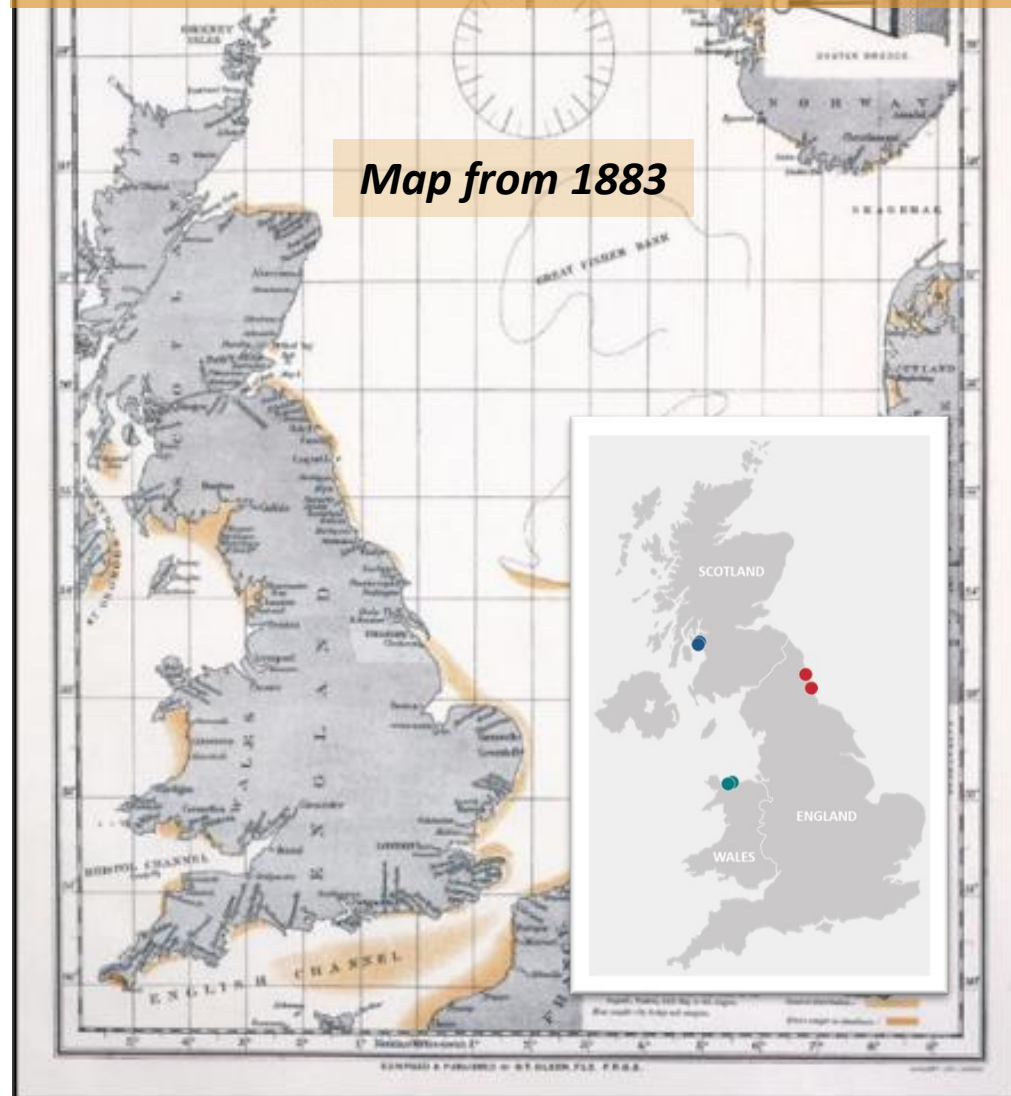


Oysters have now practically disappeared due to - **overharvesting, pollution and habitat loss.**



Have declined by **95%** in the last 200 years

Map from 1883

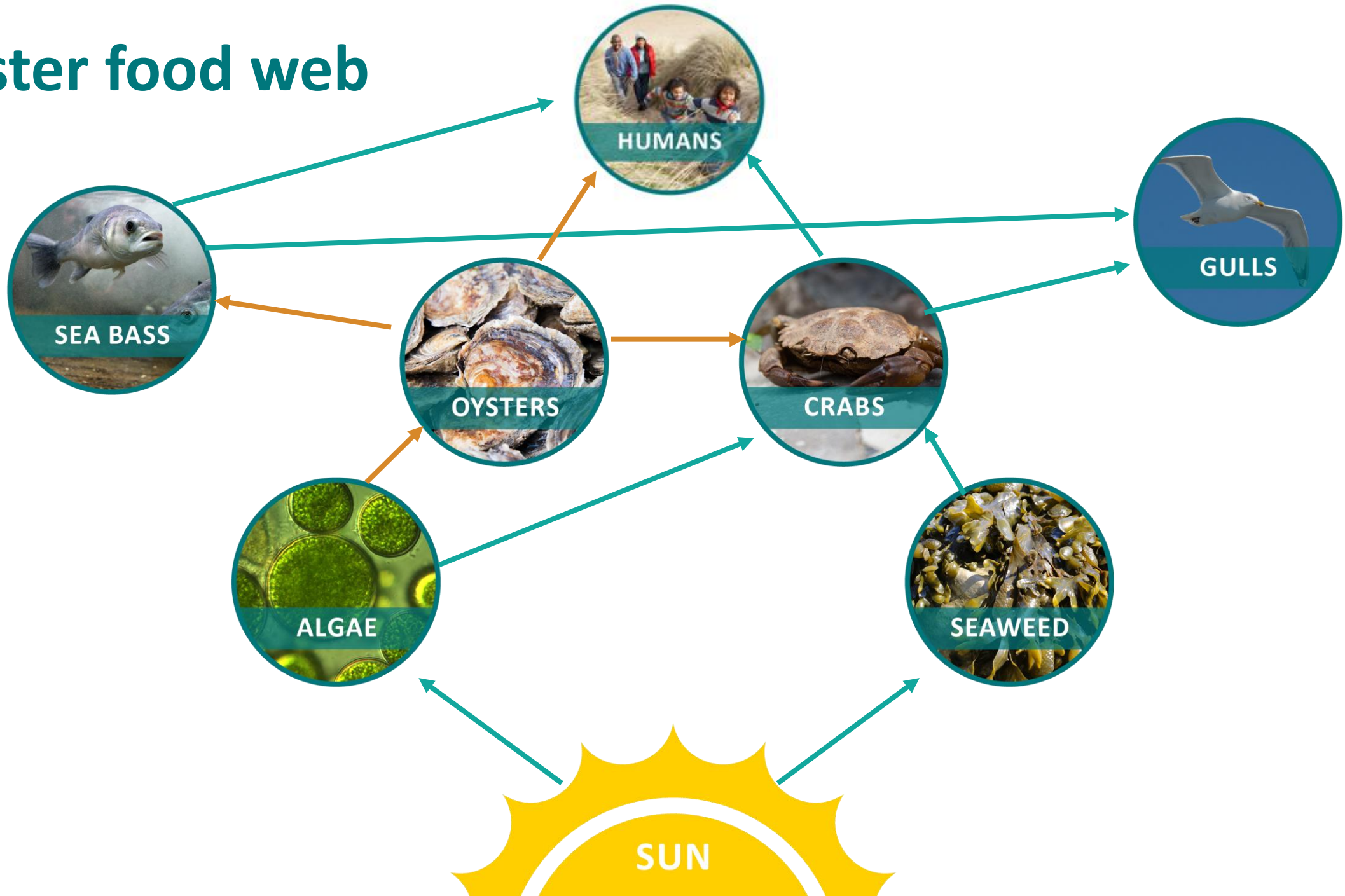


Oyster day in 1835- the arrival of the first oysters of the season at Billingsgate fish market. Oysters were a staple part of their diet as they were so cheap – around 4 for 1 penny.

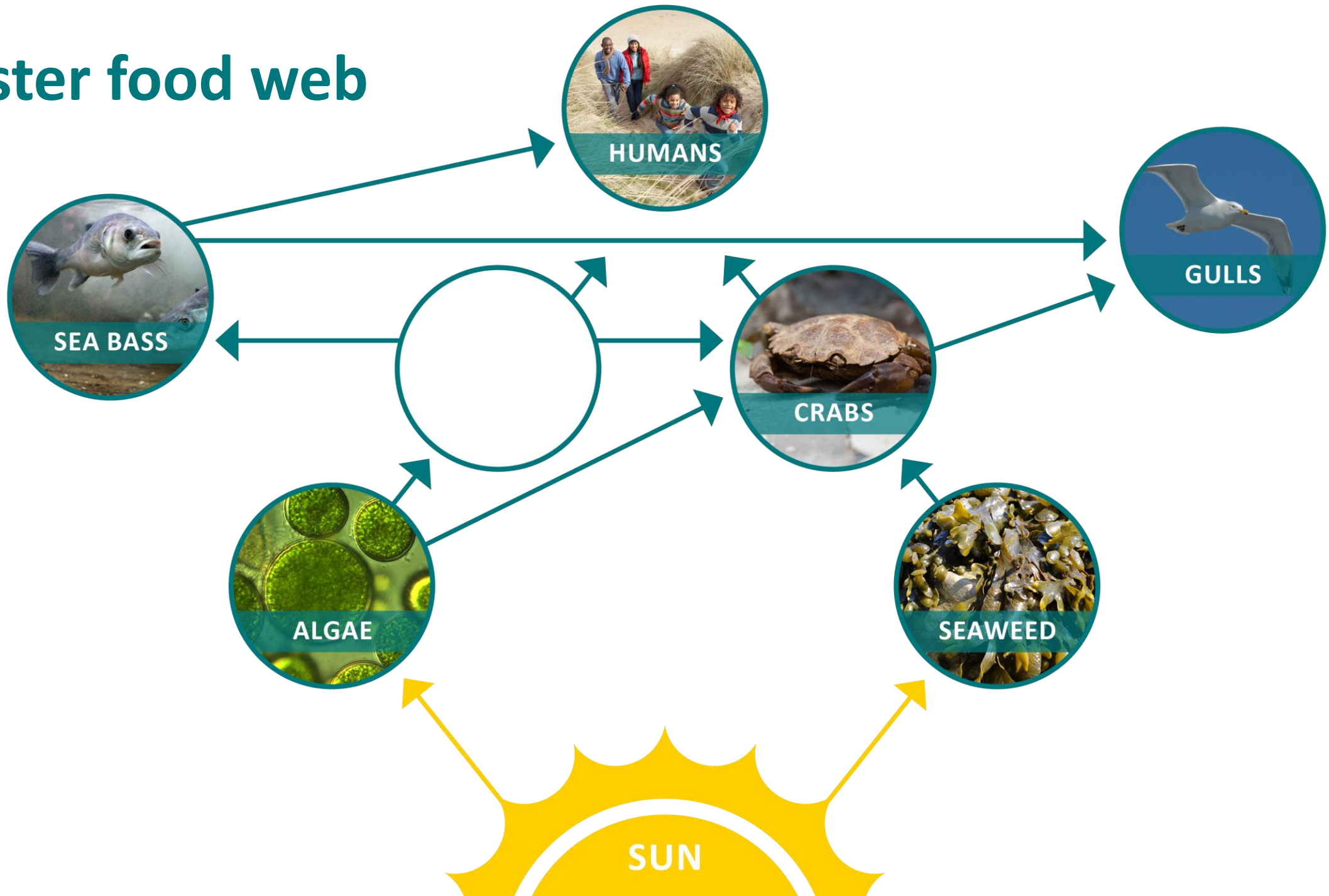


AUGUST.

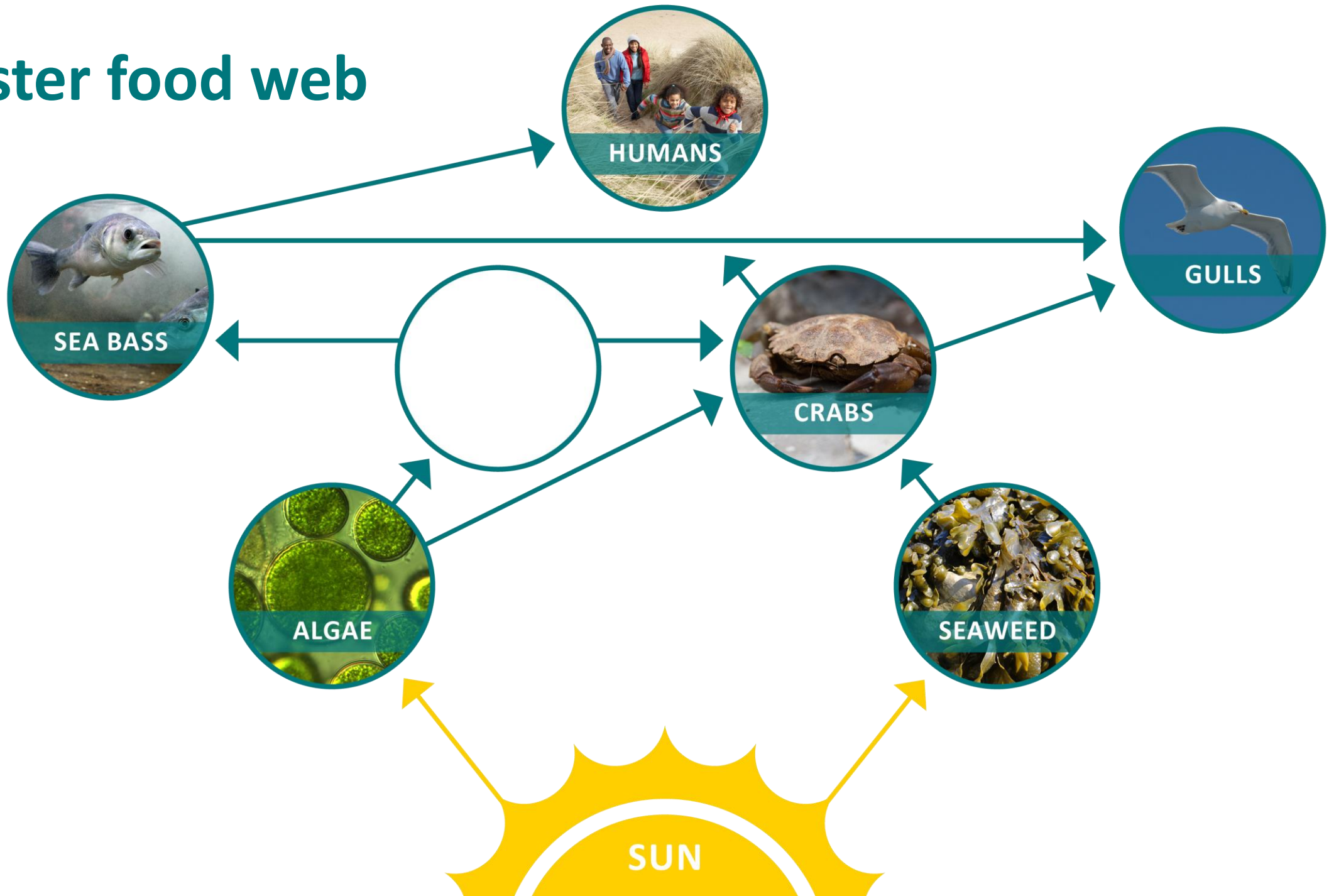
Oyster food web



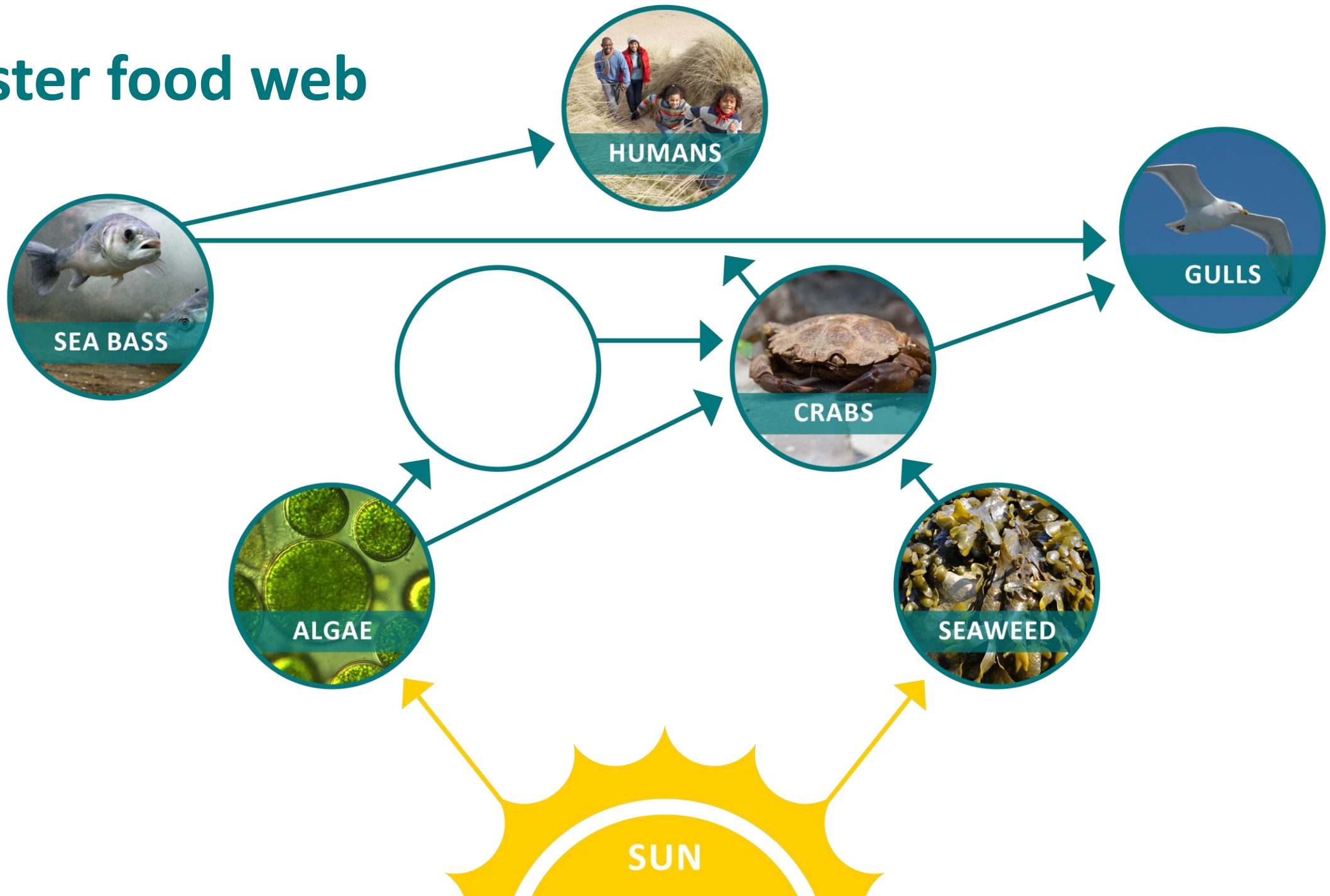
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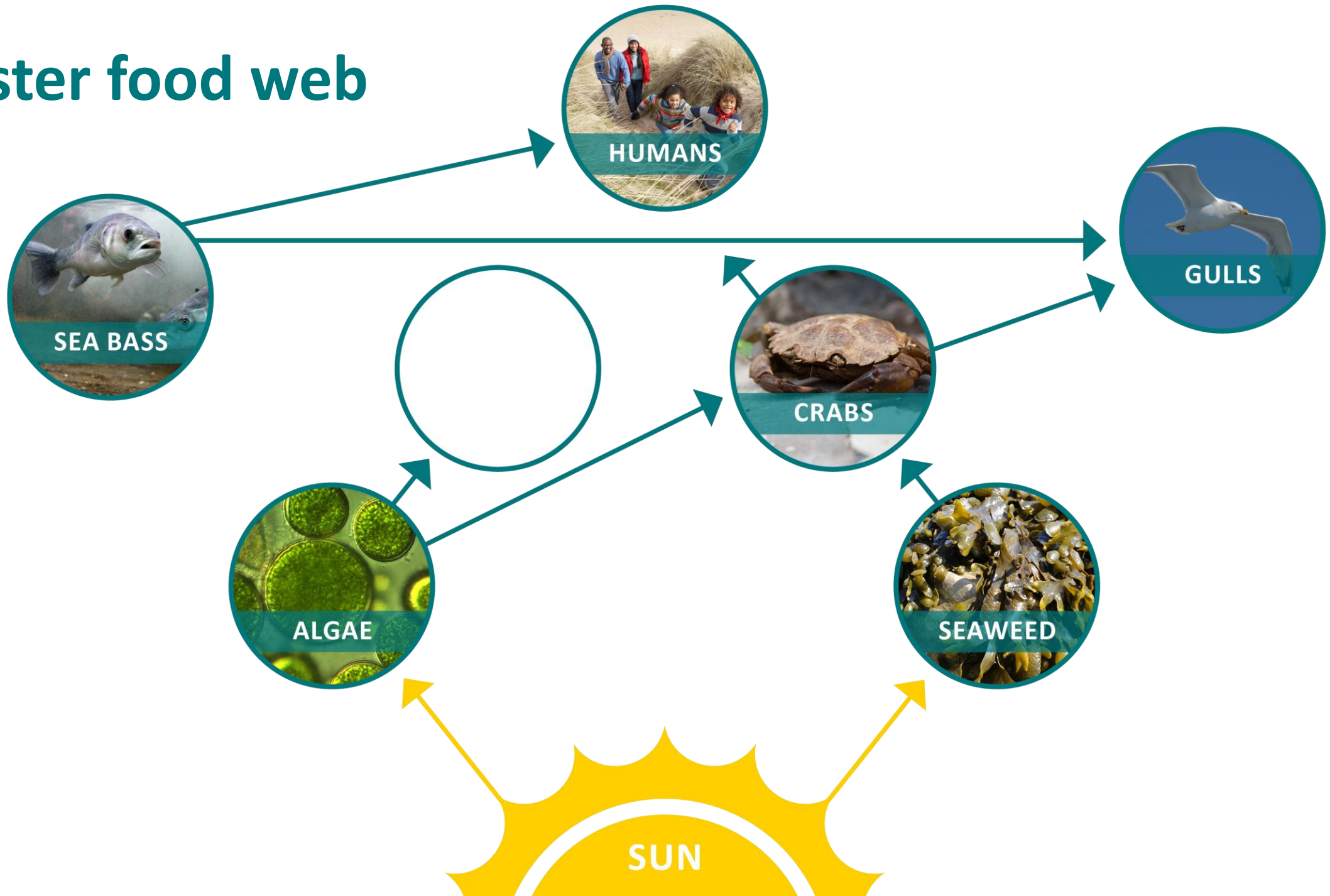
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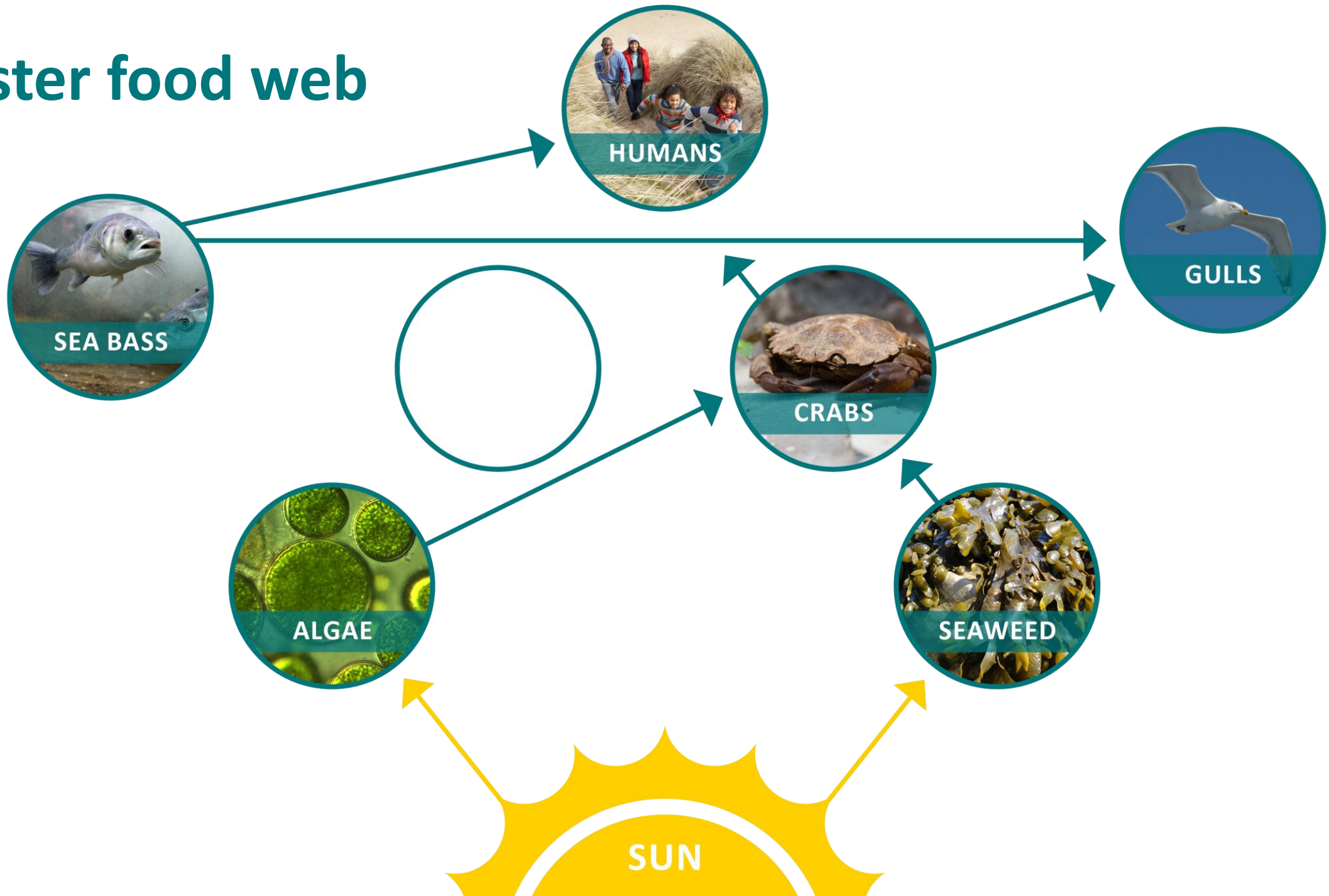
Oyster food web



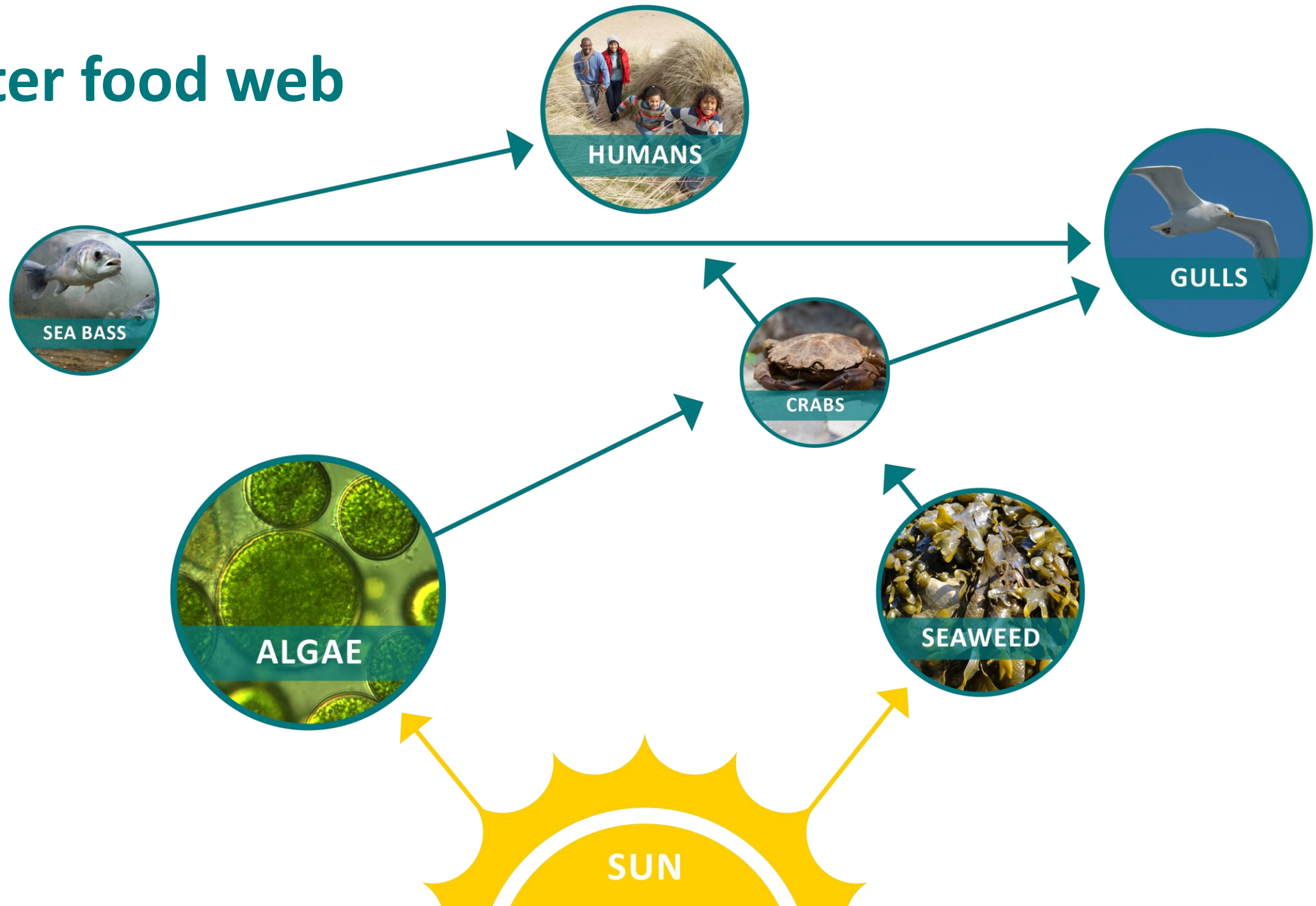
Oyster food web



Oyster food web



Oyster food web



Amazing Oysters need our help...



...they are on the path to extinction.

Marine scientists like the me are helping to put oysters back in different areas of the UK and Europe.



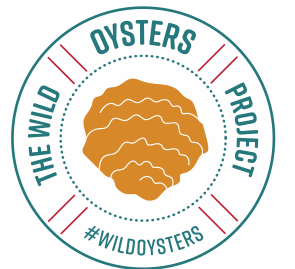
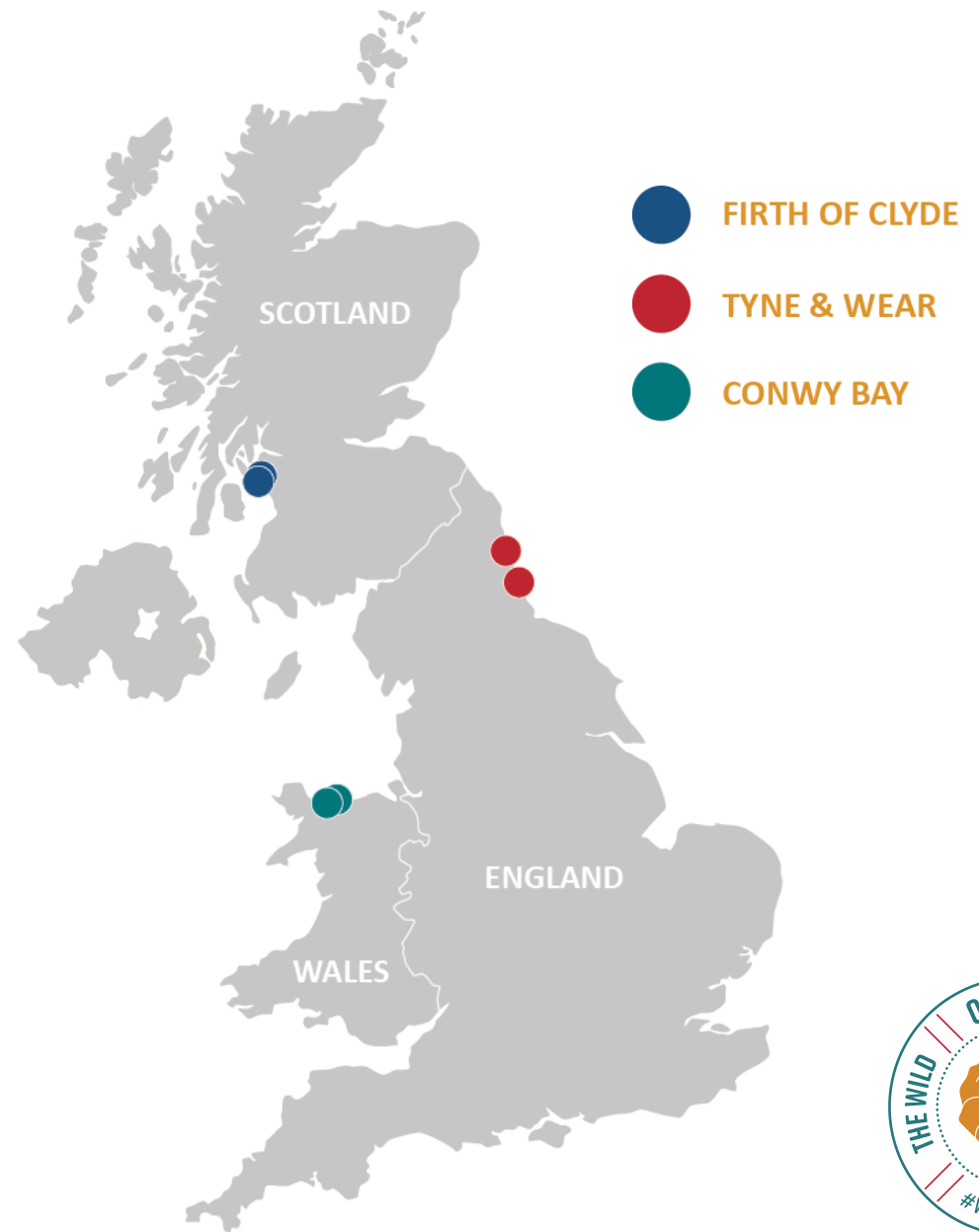


Projects like Wild Oysters are helping to put oysters back!



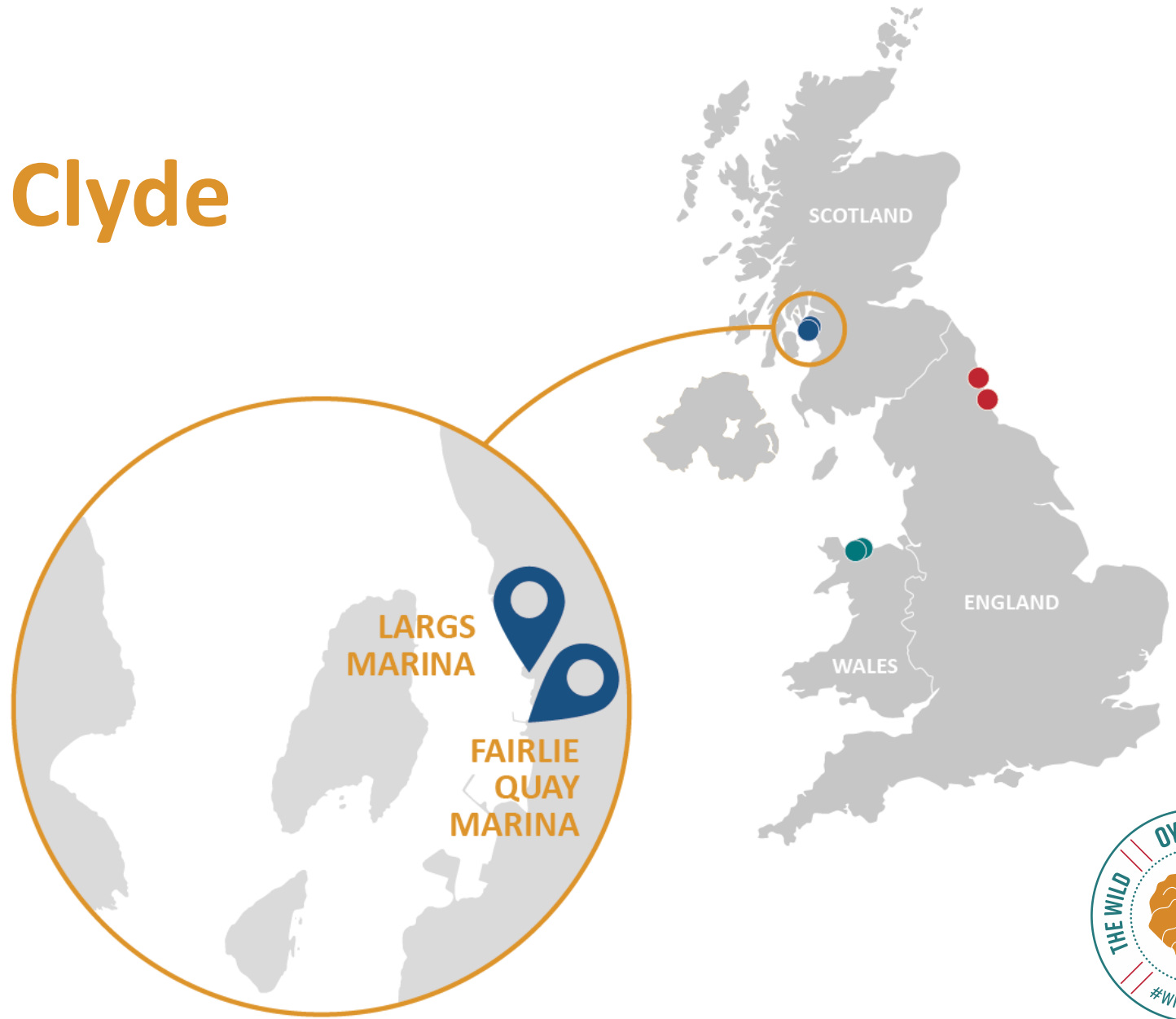
Wild Oyster Project locations

With the support of our local delivery partners, we have established three restoration hubs across the UK to recover the native oysters and the services they provide.





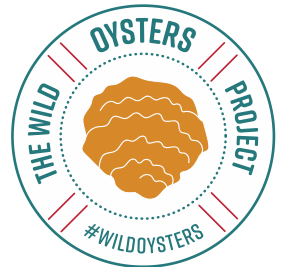
Firth of Clyde



Supported by players of



Awarded funds from





Tyne & Wear





Conwy Bay





What is happening to our seas?



(Over)fishing
Plastic
Pollution
Sewage
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How can you help?

Reduce waste= especially plastic waste – so that it doesn't end up in the environment



Help clean up your local area =
Recycling with your family at home
Organising a beach clean-up



Get involved and **volunteer** at local Wild Oysters project



Share fascinating facts =
about oysters and how important they are with others



Oysters are secret...

SUPERHEROES

Improve water
quality



Reduce
nitrogen levels



Increase
biodiversity



Create nursery
habitats for fish



The jobs they do for humans are called
ecosystem services

Provide jobs
and food





Your Visit!





Wild Oysters Assembly

KS3



Working together to recover self-sustaining populations of native oysters in UK seas

