shellfish reefs in the area. Recent baseline observational dives showed that this site appears to be an old, dead and buried shellfish reef with some of the biggest oyster shells we have ever found and scattered shells everywhere.

Further survey work will occur to refine the boundaries of the restoration site and ensure other habitats, such as seagrass, are avoided. A *Restore The Bay Network* public information session was being organised for Dromana in April – stay tuned for more details.

Volunteer Opportunities

We will be monitoring the existing shellfish reefs again, so we are calling for expressions of interest from volunteers.

The volunteer work will be land-based and involves measuring oysters and mussels that our divers collect from the reefs so we can track survival and growth over time. Training, PPE, and lunch will be provided.

Please contact **Ashley Whitt** at ashley.whitt@TNC.ORG for more details.
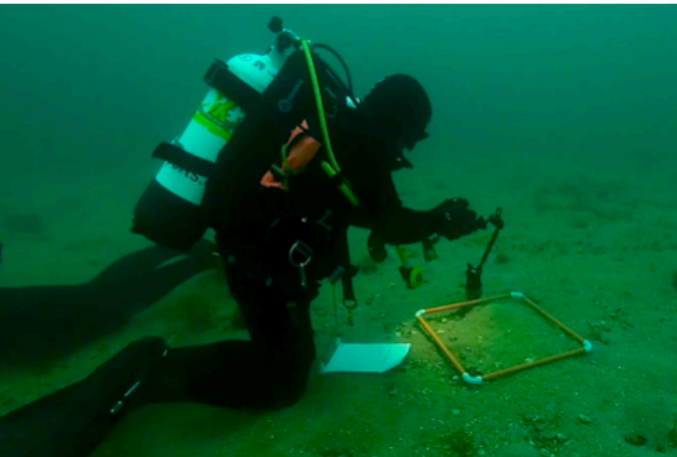
9ft Bank Geelong Outer Harbour - Paul Hamer

OysterWatch

Nicole Mertens from the Victorian National Parks Association *Reef Watch Program* has been busily working with OysterWatch volunteers to retrieve and analyse settlement plates throughout the Bay. As part of this project, Greg Jenkins from the University of Melbourne is piloting a larval dispersal model for oysters, based on the results from the settlement plates, the locations of the existing restored shellfish reefs and previous eDNA testing (also conducted by the University of Melbourne). All the results will be released by May 2020 and will contribute to future shellfish reef site selection. OysterWatch is funded by the Victorian Government's Port Phillip Bay Fund.

OysterWatch volunteers looking for oysters & mussels on settlement plates - Nicole Mertens

Volunteers measuring oysters at Warmies Boat Ramp, Williamstown - Ashley Whitt

In Other News

The monitoring results from 2019 will be published by June 2020, however early analysis is showing continued strong survival and growth of the shellfish and increases in fish species colonising the reefs. This video says it all HERE.