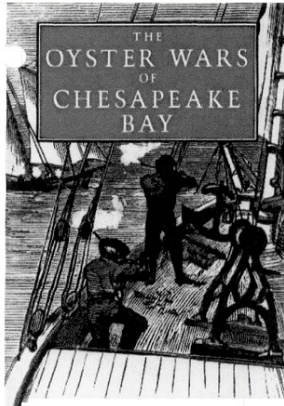




The Almighty Oyster: Food, Fighting, and Sensibility, By Benjamin R. Wennersten, 3 October 2007



This presentation traces the evolution of the oyster industry in Maryland from the colonial period to the mid-twentieth century. Mr. Wennersten details the rise of the oyster from a poor people's food to a status delicacy. As the desirability of oysters rose, deadly violence broke out among watermen over access to the oyster beds in the Chesapeake Bay, Tangier Sound, and the tributary rivers, leading to the notorious "Oyster Wars". Tragically, its national and international popularity led to over-harvesting and the demise of what had once been called the Almighty Oyster. The audience will consider how humans use, sensibly or not, the bounty of our natural resources