



United States Department of Agriculture

**400 – Bivalve Aquaculture Gear
and Biofouling Control
Practice Specification**

Client Name:

Location:

Farm Number:

Field Number:

Project or Contract:

County:

Tract Number:

Lease(s):

Practice Purpose(s):

- ☐ Reduce adverse impacts of shellfish aquaculture operations and gear on water, plant, animal, and human resources
- ☐ Improve dependable water quantity and quality to support shellfish production
- ☐ Improve adequate food quantity and quality to support shellfish production

Description of current aquaculture system (include details of the aquaculture growing system, expected bivalve numbers to be raised, length of growth period, types of gear used, current cleaning techniques/methods, etc.)

The following practice(s) will be installed to support the implementation of this practice:



Specifications:

A minimum of at least 20% of gear shall be kept onshore to be cycled with biofouled gear in the water. Implementation requirements include utilizing the proper rate, method, and timing of biofouling controls. Practice requirements include:

- Regular monitoring of gear to assess level of biofouling
 - Record-keeping must include:
 - Dates that gear was cycled and cleaned
 - Total bivalves raised
 - Amount and type of gear cycled and cleaned
 - Records of labor hours used for cycling and cleaning gear
 - Photos of fouled gear being cleaned and drying
- Manage the risk of accidental loss or damage to aquaculture gear within the environment due to inadequate securing or hazardous weather damage by:
 - Securing and effectively maintaining shellfish containment systems on a regular basis
 - Monitoring weather conditions to allow proper scheduling of equipment removal, relocation, or other alternative measures as appropriate prior to severe storms, etc.
 - Properly disposing of waste/damaged gear on land in a timely manner, at an appropriate facility, and in a manner that does not cause environmental degradation, including:
 - Growers will dispose of waste/damaged gear within 48 hours
 - Recordkeeping will include:
 - Date and type of gear being disposed of
 - Method of waste gear disposal
 - Photos of gear being disposed of



EXAMPLE RECORDKEEPING DOCUMENTS: GEAR

I. Cycling/Cleaning/Drying Recordkeeping

Date of Gear Cycling	Type of Gear Cycled	Amount of Gear Cycled	Labor Hours Used for Cycling/ Clean Gear

Note: Participant will provide photos of gear being cleaned and drying.

II. Waste Gear Disposal Recordkeeping

Date of Gear Disposal	Type of Gear Disposed of	Method of Disposal

Note: Participant will provide photos of gear being disposed of.

Participant Serf-Certification I have completed the gear cycling plan for
Farm _____ Tract(s)/lease _____ Fields
_____ and complied with the specifications under this implementation
requirement.

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____



III. Operation and Maintenance Plan

Secure all gear properly to minimize risk of offsite movement. Inspect growing areas regularly, especially following storm events and repair any damage to prevent loss of equipment to the environment. Dispose of waste/damaged gear onshore in a manner that is timely and does not cause environmental degradation. Monitor and keep records of potentially harmful interaction events with protected wildlife species and corrective actions taken, as well as invasive species on or adjacent to growing areas. Monitor and keep records of water temperatures and weather conditions. Carefully secure gear during winter or remove materials offsite to an upland or deep water licensed shellfish growing area.

NRCS Office Use Only		
Project JAA Level Required:		
Planned by:	Planner JAA:	Date:
Designed by:	Designer JAA:	Date:
Reviewed by:	Reviewer JAA:	Date: