

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control (400)

Bivalve aquaculture gear and biofouling control includes actions that reduce, clean, or remove biological fouling organisms and other waste from bivalve production areas while minimizing environmental risk.

Practice Information

Bivalve aquaculture gear and biofouling control is used to minimize adverse impacts of shellfish aquaculture operations and gear on water, plant, animal, and human resources. The practice is used to ensure dependable water quantity and quality to support shellfish production, and ensure adequate food quantity and quality to support shellfish production.

Examples of activities include:

- Gear recycling—provide cages and floating bags for the purpose of rotating for the reduction of biological fouling inputs into the marine environment in shallow areas.
- Disease monitoring—histology samples, trying to locate and maintain native stock, annual pathology tests for disease.
- Buffers between beds.



- Monitoring and record keeping of pests, interaction with endangered species, and wildlife and boat maintenance. Spill kit required to be maintained on all vessels. Water quality testing and invasive species record keeping also required.

Common Associated Practices

Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control (400) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Heavy Use Area (561) and Access Control (472).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.