



Conservation Practice Overview

September 2020

Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control (Code 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. To support shellfish production, the practice is used to ensure dependable water quantity and quality and adequate food quantity and quality for the system.



Examples of activities include—

- Gear recycling—providing cages and floating bags for the purpose of rotating out gear for the reduction of biological fouling inputs into the marine environment in shallow areas.
- Disease monitoring—using histology samples, locating and maintaining native stock, and performing annual pathology tests for disease.
- Using buffers between beds.
- Monitoring and recordkeeping of pests, interactions with endangered species, and wildlife and boat maintenance. A spill kit is required to be maintained on all vessels. Water quality testing and invasive species recordkeeping are also required.

Common Associated Practices

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control (Code 400) is commonly applied with other conservation practices such as NRCS CPSs Combustion System Improvement (Code 372), Access Control (Code 472), Integrated Pest Management (Code 595), and Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.