

Strategy relating to escape of stock (oysters)

Licence Number(s): _____

Structures on an oyster site generally comprise of wooden posts secured in the seafloor, with “rack and rail” or “longline” systems.

In the case of rack and rail systems, rails are connected to the posts using galvanised nails, with oyster units made from timber with plastic mesh baskets secured to the rails with rubber rings.

In the case of longline systems, lines are run between the wooden posts with plastic baskets attached to the line by (4) clips per basket.

The escape of oyster stock from a site or farming units is unlikely, however losses may occur due to a number of reasons including inappropriately sized mesh on baskets, baskets that are damaged or not properly maintained or loss of baskets containing stock. For the purposes of this strategy these types of scenarios will be considered “escape of stock”.

In order to prevent escape of stock the following actions are undertaken:

- Stock is contained within appropriately sized mesh so as not to allow stock to fall through the mesh.
- Except in the case of hazardous weather conditions, each site is attended throughout the year at least once per [].
- Additional inspections are made within [] days following a storm event.
- During these site visits a visual inspection is made to ensure the structures and equipment are maintained on the site, and in good working order.
- All baskets are collected from the site on at least a [] monthly rotating cycle for grading, at which time dead stock are removed and baskets are inspected. Any baskets no longer in a condition suitable for farming are replaced or repaired.
- If a loss of baskets occurs and cannot be recovered immediately upon discovery (either because of hazardous weather conditions or the location of the baskets is not known) a report is made to Fishwatch within 12 hours on 1800 065 522 and a written record made of the loss, actions to recover and outcome is recorded and maintained on business records and made available for inspection by PIRSA Aquaculture or PIRSA Fishwatch staff upon request.

In order to ensure all staff are aware of the procedures for stock losses or escapes, training is provided at induction and employees are required to report losses of any nature (suspected or actual) to their supervisor upon return from a site visit.

In the event of pacific oysters being located on the site but not contained within a basket, the following actions are undertaken within [] days:

- Farmed stock are collected and returned to baskets.
- Feral oysters are collected, destroyed and disposed of legally.

Licensees Name

Licensees Signature