Oyster rearing is potentially one of the most lucrative of the aquaculture businesses. Demand for the tasty mollusk is growing at a rate that practically guarantees a price-stabilizing market. As consumers throughout North America discover the culinary appeal of this humble mollusk, aquaculturists who can grow high-quality oysters efficiently and economically will reap their rewards.

Bouctouche Bay Industries Ltd. (BBI), a long-established supplier of aquaculture equipment and supplies, has collaborated with Serge LeBlanc, B.Sc., biologist and designer of the original concept. Serge and several oyster growers in the area started experimenting with this new concept. They soon realized that they had a winner. This system could substantially reduce the labour involved in oyster growing and, more importantly, place the burden of labour on fine-tuned equipment rather than on the backs of the oystermen.

For over a decade, the ideas and designs were put to work in the tidal waters of New Brunswick. The success with this new method for rearing oysters led to the commercialization of the OysterGro® system.

There’s no getting around it — aquaculture is labour intensive. OysterGro® significantly reduces the labour and time you must invest in oyster farming. Designed as an efficient operation, OysterGro® simplifies every aspect of the business, from setting out equipment to tending and harvesting.

OysterGro® is designed to reduce the physical labour associated with tending systems throughout the growing season. It addresses every labour-intensive aspect of the process: setting out, antifouling, sorting, feeding, stabilizing, and wintering.

Reduce the cost. Increase the revenue.

Based solely on labour cost savings over other methods, your additional investment in the OysterGro® system will pay for itself in three to five years.*

Get the System™ and the know-how

OysterGro® makes aquaculture more of a science than an art, but actual experience and know-how still provide valuable insight, especially for the aquaculturist who may be new to the business. Bouctouche Bay Industries Ltd. can offer consulting services with the purchase of the OysterGro® system. Since aquaculture success is highly dependent on timing, BBI can provide guidance on when key actions should be taken. In addition, BBI consultants can provide analysis and advice to optimize your OysterGro® system for yield, quality and profitability.

Visit www.oystergro.com for more information regarding the OysterGro® system.

* Results may vary.

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OysterGro™ consists of a compact housing with floats that provides the versatility, efficiency and effectiveness on which business success depends. Every component is designed for strength, durability and convenience. OysterGro™ creates an ideal environment for oyster feeding, growth, cleaning, sorting, protection, and survival. As a result, OysterGro™ helps you produce the highest quality oysters at an extremely competitive cost.

Benefits of OysterGro™ from Bouctouche Bay Industries

- Cost-efficient operation
- Durable and rugged construction
- Significantly reduced mortality rates
- Easy wintering procedure
- Greater ease and more efficient than other methods
- Produces high-quality oysters
- Superior system that has been tried and proven over the last 10 years

Designed to Perform

With the unique OysterGro™ design, the familiar floating bag becomes state of the art. It has been proven under commercial oyster farming conditions where it consistently exceeded predicted labour savings, produced a top-quality oyster and established the basis of a viable seafood aquaculture business with attractive profitability.

THE COMPLETE FARMING SYSTEM

Feeding Position

The stability of the OysterGro™ system optimizes conditions for continuous feeding and maximum profit each year. In the feeding position, the float lines are maintained at a desired depth (usually 6" to 12") and when plankton is plentiful. Since the cage is held securely to prevent shaking and sliding, the distribution of oysters within the bags remains constant, contributing to a higher quality oyster.

Prescribed exposure to sun (UV) and air controls secondary spat, competitors, predators and contaminants.

Wintering Position

OysterGro™ is specially designed for stations where a tidal range of 3' or more occurs (outside of mud and salt marsh areas). As illustrated above, the float lines, when the system is not in use, are extended to the highest level of the water as far away from the ice as possible. Wintering keeps the oysters off the cold ocean floor, substantially reducing winter mortality rates. OysterGro™ is the ideal wintering system for shallow waters inside of bays. It requires a clearance of only 18" (45.7 cm) between the ice and the sea bed. As illustrated above, the floats keep the oysters off the ocean floor, thus substantially reducing winter mortality rates.

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