

GEAR IDENTIFICATION

The shellfish aquaculture conditions of licence* specify measures that must be taken to protect fish and fish habitat, including identifying gear. Licence holders must adhere to all of their conditions of licence. There are new requirements to help trace lost gear and equipment.

MARKING YOUR EQUIPMENT



ORDER PRE-MARKED GEAR

from the wholesaler or manufacturer.



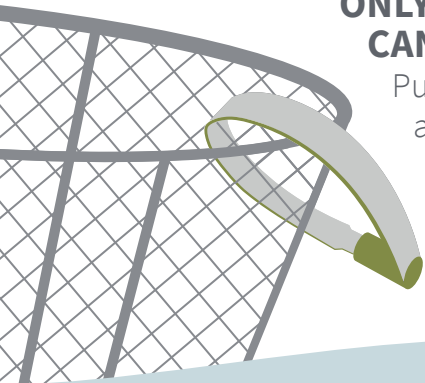
USE A CUSTOM PLASTIC HEAT BRANDING IRON

created with your licence holder and facility information.

ONLY USE TAGS WHEN GEAR CANNOT BE IMPRINTED

Purchase highly durable tags from a DFO-approved tag supplier.

Contact shellfish.aquaculture@dfo-mpo.gc.ca for a list of DFO approved tag manufacturers.



START MARKING GEAR AND EQUIPMENT NOW

All applicable gear must be appropriately marked by **APRIL 1, 2023**.



Mark equipment at convenient times, when gear is out of the water or not in use.

IMPACT ON WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT

Licence holders are still accountable for their gear, even if it travels off their tenure or facility.

Lost gear can end up in sensitive fish habitat, causing harm.

Lost gear is a hazard to navigation and marine wildlife.



ENFORCEMENT

Failure to comply with a condition of licence can result in an \$863 ticket or charges resulting in a formal court process.

*see reverse



SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE CONDITIONS OF LICENCE (2021) RELATING TO GEAR IDENTIFICATION

11. Gear and equipment identification

11.1 Starting April 1, 2023 and for the remainder of the term of this licence, the licence holder shall ensure all gear and equipment listed in Appendix VII, be identified in a manner that is:

- (a) legible, block letters without ornamentation, durable, long lasting and waterproof; and
- (b) branded or other imprinted with identification. If the nature of the gear or equipment makes this impossible the licence holder shall use a fishery tag; and
- (c) maintained to ensure legibility.

11.2 Identification shall include:

- (a) licence holder name; and
- (b) DFO Facility Reference number or BC Land File number

11.3 Starting April 1, 2023 and for the remainder of the term of this licence, all netting stored or in use at a facility shall be identified with a minimum of:

- (a) one (1) fishery tag when the length of netting is less than 12 metres; or
- (b) two (2) fishery tags when the length of netting is 12 metres or greater.

11.4 Unless otherwise outlined in a DFO approved equipment identification plan, any identification on gear or equipment transferred between facilities shall:

- (a) be updated to reflect the current licence holder name, and the current BC Land File number or current DFO Facility Reference number; and
- (b) only have the current licence holder and current facility information visible.

11.5 Fishery tags shall be produced by a DFO approved tag supplier for Canadian commercial fisheries; or by an approved aquaculture industry association as outlined in Appendix VII.

Appendix VII: Equipment or Gear Identification

Starting April 1, 2023 and for the remainder of the term of this licence, the following types of shellfish aquaculture equipment or gear must be clearly identified:

1. Plastic containers used for culturing shellfish:

- oyster trays and baskets (both sections of two piece gear types, if applicable)
- pouches, including vexar pouches and floatation pouches
- mesh or vexar bags used for the growing of shellfish or used in the collection of oyster spat
- pearl, scallop, lantern nets

2. Types of floatation materials:

- air-filled billets/floats
- foam filled or encased foam billets/floats
- plastic buoys
- round plastic floats

3. Bivalve predator exclusion

- netting, all forms and types

Format for identification

All equipment and gear identified in this appendix shall be clearly labelled with: "Licence Holder Name" followed by the "BC Land File number" or "DFO Facility Reference number", unless otherwise outlined in a DFO approved equipment identification plan attached to this licence.

Example:

GENERAL SHELLFISH CO LF#555555

GENERAL SHELLFISH CO FACILITY#1111

Licence holders are not eligible to become a DFO approved tag supplier. Aquaculture Associations may request approval to become a DFO approved tag supplier by contacting: shellfish.aquaculture@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Refer to the Shellfish Aquaculture Licence for all of the conditions of licence:

<https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/licence-permis/docs/licence-cond-permis-shell-coq/index-eng.html>

For more information, please contact Shellfish.Aquaculture@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.