

Appendix A: Descriptions of Oyster Practices in Chesapeake Bay

Oyster practices in Chesapeake Bay include intensive or extensive off bottom, near bottom, and on bottom aquaculture and oyster reef recovery activities in areas where harvesting is and is not permitted. Intensive practices are those activities that cultivate natural wild stocks and extensive practices are those that cultivate hatchery-produced oysters. Spat-on-shell refers to oyster larvae that have settled onto shell and then planted.

These practices are further described below:

Category	Oyster Practice	Description
1	Intensive Off Bottom Suspended Aquaculture	Hatchery-produced, cultchless oysters reared in floating cages near the surface for harvesting purposes.
2	Intensive Near Bottom Cage or Rack-and-Bag Aquaculture	Hatchery-produced, cultchless oysters reared in cages or bags near the bottom for harvesting purposes.
3	Intensive Spat-on-Shell Bottom Aquaculture	Hatchery-produced spat-on-shell planted on bottom leases for harvesting purposes.
4	Intensive Spat-on-Shell Bottom Public Fishery	Hatchery-produced, spat-on-shell planted on public shellfish fishing areas (PFSAs) for eventual harvest.
5	Intensive/Extensive Spat-on-Shell Bottom Restoration	Hatchery-produced, spat-on-shell planted to promote natural reproduction in areas where harvesting is not permitted (e.g., sanctuaries).
6	Extensive Shell Planting Aquaculture	Planting oyster shells on the lease bottom to attract recruitment of natural (wild) oysters for harvesting purposes.
7	Extensive Shell Planting Public Fishery	Planting oyster shells on public shellfish fishing areas to attract recruitment of natural (wild) oysters for harvesting purposes.