



# Alternative Oyster Culture Obtaining Seed & Larvae



**O**YSTERS GROWN 'OFF BOTTOM' ARE TYPICALLY SINGLE SEED OYSTERS purchased from an approved hatchery, grown in hanging baskets or floating cages instead of directly on reefs or other water bottoms. Once you have obtained an Alternative Oyster Culture Permit, you are ready to move forward with setting up your site, including buying seed and larvae.

## PURCHASING AND IMPORTING OYSTER LARVAE AND SEED

Seed and larvae may be purchased from shellfish suppliers across the Gulf.

To learn more about stocking seed in containers, including counting larvae and seed, review the LSG manual online: <https://www.lafisheriesforward.org/oysters-using-remote-setting/>



## TRANSPORTATION

Once approved, LDWF will notify you (by phone, email and/or mail), and 48 hours notice must be given to LDWF before transport into state. Pathology reports for oysters are required. Hatcheries do these routinely and can supply to LDWF, but any additional expense is the responsibility of importer.

Permit and application must be present on you at time of transport. Applications may take one to three weeks to process (expediting is possible but not guaranteed).

Seed and larvae can be safely transported out of water, provided they are kept damp and cool, out of the sun. Larvae are wrapped in damp paper towels, and can be placed in an ordinary ice chest. Seed are put in breathable sacks; they too can be placed in a cooler with ice, though there should be NO direct contact with ice. LSG recommends a layer of ice, then a layer of burlap, with oysters on top.



## ONLINE ORDERING PROCESS WITH LDWF

- Complete and submit an online oyster larvae order form.
  - Select oyster larvae or seed (very limited). There is an order limit per person; orders are filled on availability, first come/first served, with Louisiana residents getting priority, to ensure the needs of all local growers are met.
  - Select pick-up or delivery (fee for shipping).
  - Select diploid or triploid oysters.
- LDWF will first contact you by phone about one to two weeks before your order is ready, then send an official email request for payment.

## OYSTER IMPORTATION APPLICATION

If you plan to import oyster larvae from out of state, you must complete and submit an oyster importation application. Note that this is not a blanket permit approval; each is handled on a case by case basis. Key details needed include:

- Source of seed or larvae, life stage/size, approximate number of oysters.
- Location and time of year for deployment to LA waters.
- Number of times you plan to import in one calendar year; keep in mind you must let LDWF know of each importation event.
- Justification for using imported oysters, how they will be contained, how you will work to prevent release of exotic species/diseases.

## A list of Gulf-wide seed suppliers, compiled by

Alabama Extension, can be found online at

[http://masgc.org/assets/uploads/publications/1312/shellfish\\_seed\\_suppliers\\_gulf\\_2019.pdf](http://masgc.org/assets/uploads/publications/1312/shellfish_seed_suppliers_gulf_2019.pdf)



Both the ordering form and the importation application can be found online at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/fishing/commercial-oyster>