



**STUMP COVE**  
**OYSTER COMPANY**

**Seed, Spat on shell, and Market sized adults**

# Our Operation

- Working the same hard bottom in Stump Cove since 1985, we take pride in offering large, healthy, and locally grown oysters to a range of markets.
- Using remote setting and upwellers, to support our on and off-bottom culture systems we continually experiment with techniques to find the most efficient and cost-effective grow out methods.
- Operational Components:
  - Remote Setting
  - Upwelling Care and Maintenance
  - Grow-out
  - Sorting/Grading/Tumbling
  - Sales



# Remote or On Site Setting



- On site setting allows for cost effective spat on shell production
- After obtaining larvae, bags filled with clean oyster shells are placed into the tank.
- River water is then added and kept at the setting temperature of 30 C.
- Larvae are then released into the tank where they attach to the shells. This process takes 2-3 days.
- After settlement has occurred, water from the Little Choptank river is continuously pumped through the tank until the newly settled spat are moved into the grow-out system.

# Upwelling Systems



- Upwelling seed allows for optimum growth in young oysters
- At Stump Cove a small fiber glass tank, PVC, masonry bricks, and pool pumps have been retrofitted to make this upwelling system.
- Boxes are made from PVC planks and vinyl screen ranging from 2mm-10mm.
- Seed is cleaned once a day to prevent silt build up

# Grow Out

## Off Bottom Culture

- Off bottom floats are used to culture oysters within the water column. We suspend Vexar bags in the Little Choptank using a PVC ring.
- Floats need to be flipped often to prevent heavy buildup biomass.

## On Bottom Culture

- On Bottom containers cultures can be carried out in numerous ways:
- Shell Bags from remote setting are opened and spread on hard bottom to be harvested later.
- Cages are also sunken in the Little Choptank to hold larger oysters before sale.

# Cleaning, Grading and Sorting



- Our rotating drum type washer is used to:
  - Clean oyster shells prior to use in remote setting
  - Clean and break up clumps in our cultchless grow-out system
  - Clean and grade market oysters





**PRODUCTION  
PROBLEMS  
ISSUES  
AND  
LESSONS LEARNED**