

Oyster farming environmental checklist – Oyster depots

Issued August 2019

EPA 1119/19: To facilitate compliance with the Code of practice for the environmental management of the South Australian oyster farming industry (2017), four checklists have now been developed to help oyster growers undertake audits of their facilities against the requirements of the code.

Introduction

To assist industry in meeting the requirements of environmental legislation, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) developed the *Code of practice for the environmental management of the South Australian oyster farming industry* (2017). The code identified potential environmental issues associated with oyster farming and providing management strategies to address these issues by specifying mandatory requirements that must be complied with and best environmental practices that are generally outcome-based to allow growers to continue their own individual methods of farming oysters.

Purpose of the checklists

Checklists have been developed for the four key components of oyster farming which are:

- 1 [Hatcheries](#) – facilities used to grow oyster spat.
- 2 [Marine farming sites](#) – Where oysters are farmed.
- 3 Oyster depots – where grading, packing, and equipment maintenance and storage takes place.
- 4 [Use of vehicles and vessels](#) – operation and maintenance of vehicles and vessels used on the farm.

These checklists are a tool to assist oyster growers to identify if they are meeting EPA requirements by undertaking a self-audit of their business. It can also be used by relevant government agencies to check compliance with environment protection legislation during site visits. The requirements specified in this checklist are referenced from the code.

You should note the checklist only reflects the operational practices of oyster farming and the mandatory requirements of the code ie the 'musts'. For further information on EPA requirements for construction of new facilities and how you can implement best practice to further demonstrate general environmental duty on your farm, please refer directly to the [Oyster Code](#).

Scoring the checklist

The checklist is scored based on the findings that are observed on the farm. The scoring system reflects a traffic like approach to identify areas that are compliant, require some improvement, or have resulted in a breach of legislation or environmental harm.

The following table provides an explanation of each scoring category and actions that you should be taking in response to the findings. The EPA adopts a risk-based approach to regulation and will support any oyster farmer who aims to take all reasonable and practicable measures to meet requirements and minimise the potential for environmental harm which may be caused by discharging, depositing or emitting a pollutant. The relevant sections of the code are referenced in the table (under 'Code ref').

		Action required
Compliant (C)	The farm meets this requirement.	Document evidence that demonstrates compliance. No further action.
Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)	Requirement is met however is not best practice. This may result in environmental harm or breaches of legislation if improvements are not made in the future.	Undertake risk assessment to identify potential for non-compliance. Identify and document opportunities for improvement if required.
Minor non-compliance (Minor NC)	Requirement has not been met however no environmental harm is evident or the potential for environmental harm as a result is low.	Action is required to make sure that requirement is met within a specified time period which is written on the checklist.
Major non-compliance (Major NC)	Requirement has not been met and there is a significant risk of environmental harm or environmental harm has occurred as a result.	Immediate action is required to rectify the situation. Re-analyse within four weeks to ensure the corrective action has been successful. The EPA must also be notified as soon as reasonably practicable if the harm is considered serious or material.

EPA checklist for oyster farming

Oyster depots – Where grading, packing, and equipment maintenance and storage take place

Farm:

Performed by:

Date:

Requirement	Code ref	Findings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence • Opportunities for improvement • Actions
		C	OFI	Minor NC	Major NC	
There is no environmental harm occurring at or adjacent to your site as a result of your activity. This may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of seagrass • black sediments • excessive algal growth • Increase in turbidity (water cloudiness) • significant odour (complaints) • excessive noise (complaints) • site contamination (eg fuels) • toxic or smelly fumes. 	2.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The waste management hierarchy is implemented on site for the management of waste and wastewater by aiming to avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle, treat waste and wastewater prior to choosing to dispose of it.	2.1.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste is prevented from being blown, washed or swept off site. Any waste off site is recovered as soon as possible.	2.1.4 2.4.16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Requirement	Code ref	Findings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence • Opportunities for improvement • Actions
		C	OFI	Minor NC	Major NC	
CCA-treated timber posts are stored in a manner to minimise potential for soil contamination, (eg) off the ground, or in a location where there is no runoff of rainwater from the storage area into the stormwater drain or marine and inland waters.	2.2.17 2.2.18	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Generators, fuel tanks, oils, lubricants and other similar equipment are housed or located in a manner that prevents leakage of these substances onto land or into marine and inland waters, groundwater or stormwater. (see EPA guideline Bunding and spill management).	2.1.2 2.1.5 2.2.19 2.6.15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Off-site noise impacts to neighbouring properties (predominantly residents) from graders and other noisy equipment is minimised.	2. 1.6 2.1.7 2.3.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollutants are not being discharged or deposited into any waters (including stormwater). This includes fuels, lubricants, sediment, washdown water, chemicals for cleaning, oyster shells, shell grit, biofouling and sludge.	2.1.2 2.3.2.2 2.4.1 2.4.27	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Requirement	Code ref	Findings ☑				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence • Opportunities for improvement • Actions
		C	OFI	Minor NC	Major NC	
Dead oysters and other organic matter (eg shell grit, biofouling and sludge) held on site do result in any off-site odours to neighbouring properties or attract of vermin (eg flies).	2.1.7 2.3.2.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Wastewater and waste from cleaning baskets, infrastructure and boats do not flow into stormwater or marine/inland waters or seep into groundwater.	2.1.2 2.4.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Only dispose of wastewater from washing sheds and baskets via a sewer or septic system if it has the capacity to accept the wastewater (Note: saline water and sediment can create reuse or mechanical issues).	2.4.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Basket-washing areas are designed, located and operated to minimise potential noise, odour or vermin impacts on neighbouring properties. Note: odour may be caused by stagnant water, decomposing algal and dead shell.	2.1.7 2.2.13 2.4.6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Requirement	Code ref	Findings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence • Opportunities for improvement • Actions
		C	OFI	Minor NC	Major NC	
Local council consent has been obtained prior to burning rubbish or other material on site if it is to be undertaken within a local township. Note: treated timber waste, plastics or tyres must not be burnt under any circumstances.	2.4.7 2.4.26	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Further information

Legislation

[Online legislation](#) is freely available. Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Service SA Government Legislation Outlet
 Adelaide Service SA Centre
 108 North Terrace
 Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: 13 23 24
 Facsimile: (08) 8204 1909
 Website: <https://service.sa.gov.au/12-legislation>
 Email: ServiceSAcustomerservice@sa.gov.au

General information

Environment Protection Authority
 GPO Box 2607
 Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8204 2004
 Facsimile: (08) 8124 4670
 Freecall: 1800 623 445 (country)
 Website: <https://www.epa.sa.gov.au>
 Email: epainfo@sa.gov.au