

Eric Wisner, shell containers



Eric Wisner, Remote Setting with Shell Containers

Eric and his partner Mike Lindemon have experimented with setting for seed to plant their leases in the Nanticoke area for two years. They participate in the Remote Setting Training program in 2011 using both the Deal Island and Horn Point sites. They quickly recognized that shell bags were costly to purchase, time consuming to fill and handle and created an undesirable waste stream when they were disposed of after a single use. They developed reusable shell containers made from vinyl coated wire formed into a basket to hold their cultch. The containers were durable and provided numerous settings and will be used again in 2012 when they get into production.

They voiced a lot of satisfaction about the program and worked steadily to produce seed for their leases. Since the systems were not totally booked this year due to applicants waiting for their leases to become finalized, they were able to fit additional settings into the lineup.

The partners have created a strong business using their well managed leases in an area that was known for oyster culture prior to the disease epizootics in the early 1980s that led to the decline of the entire industry. They recognize that using new methods can get these grounds back into production and lead to increases in landings in the state.

Always on the lookout for new and better ways to do things, they will continue to develop innovative ways to grow oysters better.