

Reports

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Enhancement of Seed Oyster Recovery and Redeployment: Final Report

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Final Progress Report for Enhancement of Seed Oyster Recovery and Redeployment Project #
FRG 99-07

- 02/06/00 Workers: Bill Magann and George Lambert
Manhours worked this day: 6 Total
Today's task involved loading harvesting bag with 1,220 lbs of ballast stone and hanging in test frame. This test will test support straps for fraying or unraveling and test overall for bag durability. Also, hanging scale was tested for accuracy using a Toledo Floor Scale to check hanging scale.
- 02/11/00 Worker: Bill Magann
Manhours: 3 Total
Harvest bag has been hanging with 1,220 lb load for 5 days. I will check straps for damage at this time. No damage reported. Also, today we will raise bag up and down approximately 3' totally relaxing load 100 times. After lift test still no damage to bag.
- 02/20/00 Worker: Bill Magann
Manhours: 3 Total
Harvest bag continues to hang since February 6th still showing no signs of stress. The harvest bag was raised and lowered 200 times today, still no signs of stress.
- 02/29/00 Worker: Bill Magann
Manhours: 2.5 Total
Today harvest bag was lifted 194 times and inspected for stress and thread damage around pickup points. Still no sign of damage.
- 03/18/00 Workers: Bill Magann, George Lambert, Wilson Hodges
Manhours: 24 Total
Today we removed 30' boom on vessel Mobjack and loaded Cat mini-excavator (for lifting bags). Also, loaded 201 harvest bags, 2 each scales for weighing oysters and secured equipment to deck of boat. We Fastened 8 sheets of 3/4" plywood to deck to protect from wear and tear from Cat excavator. Fueled boat with 150 gallons of fuel.
- 03/19/00 Workers: Bill Magann, George Lambert, Wilson Hodges
Manhours: 27
Wind: NE 20, Seas 3 td/4'
Leave West Norfolk at 0900 bound for Gwyns Island. Arrive approximately 1700 hours. Sea conditions were very rough.
- 03/24/00 Workers: Bill Magann, Henry Dixon Sr., Henry Dixon Jr.
Manhours: 36 Total
Start Work @ 0700. Start loading seed oysters at 0900 and load 1,008 bushels using harvest bags loaded by 1400 hours (5 hours loading time). All thumbs secure loaded boat at Gwyns Island at 16:30 hours.

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The watermen were reluctant to use bags at first, but as the day went on and they learned how to load using the bags and not overloading bags then the idea became more popular. So day one with bags went fairly well, all equipment including scales seem to work well.

The loading from small dredge boats to buy boats went as planned, however, after the small boats had run several trips, the larger boats worked better because of available work space.

After loading 1,008 bushels, determined by weighing bags and dividing total weight by 80 lbs. per bushel, we were able to determine total bushels on board being 1,008 bushels or 40 tons of seed.

We secured the boat at Gwyns Island for the night to leave.

03/25/00 Early next morning bound up the Rappahannock River. A 5 hour trip from the dock at Gwyns Island.

Once reaching oyster grounds approximately 15 miles North of Grays Point Bridge we started discharging seed. 1,008 bushels were unloaded in approximately 3 hours. Unloading went well but slow. Possible washing shells off will be performed in half the time.

Travel time approximate and unload time approximately 13 hours
 $13 \times 3 = 39$ manhours.

It became apparent that using the bags to load buy boats and washing shells off with jet water was new and fast procedure and cut down on waterman fatigue.

Conclusions are drawn from discussions with Mobjack crew, local watermen and VMRC Officials.