# Common Handling Practices

## Hanging Preparations for Mussel Grow Out Ropes in the Long Line Process

Coils should be uncoiled in an anticlockwise direction from the centre of the coil preferably into a bulk bag or container to ensure no twist is held in the rope. The rope should be placed as far away from the bulk container as possible when pulling out to allow the rope to settle prior to storage.

Coils can be joined via a simple recommended splice method to form a continuous length.
If the mussels are small or light, make sure that the rope is soaked well with water prior to use. This step is important to reduce buoyancy and allow rapid sinking of the seeded rope.

Once the rope has been thoroughly drenched, the seeding and socking process is completed in preparation to suspension from backline.

**Note:** Seeding rates are a localized science and are influenced by required harvest timing, sizing and local phyloplankton feed levels in the waters along with tidal flow. Seeding rate variances range from calm low tidal movement regions of 200-325 spat/mtr to open water 7kg + harvest rates in open water conditions of 350 spat/mtr. Where small shell harvest in less than 12mth cultivation is targeted, seeding rates of 450/550mtr of 20/25mm are common. It should be noted that over seeding can lead to poor settlement rate and spat loss. Seeding rates directly relate to surface area available, yield expectation and feed rates applicable to region.

SPAT ROPE HATCHERY ROPE CROP ROPE BACKBONE ROPE SPAT ROPE HATCHERY ROPE CROP ROPE

Attachment of the seeded rope is by looped lashing of soft construction. This soft construction is easy on hands, gives maximum surface coverage on backbone surface to minimize slippage, and least abrasion resistance to the backbone which is to be preserved for long lasting use.

The loop depths of seeded grow out rope must account for around 2m clearance and minimal tide conditions to avoid loss of crop growth and or gear damage.

## Ongoing maintenance of ropes

As the continuous long line system requires the ropes to pass through several handling processes, it is important from a farm management perspective to inspect the ropes regularly.
Twist can be imparted into the ropes over time; a simple inspection can check this and remove any twists as they appear. As the ropes are manufactured with a neutral bias any twist can be removed.

Place the rope in a bulk container on a platform which can be revolved, pull rope up into the air for at least 5 mtrs or as high as possible, then over a wheel then back down into another suitable storage container.

As the rope rises into the air any twists will be evident and show up as a pig tail or knot, revolve the base platform allowing the twist to turn out of the rope.

If needed the rope can be reconditioned during this process by passing through revolving brushes just prior to placement into the storage bag.

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