



## Marine Farming Association (MFA)

### Standard Operating Procedures, Marlborough Sounds, Golden Bay and Tasman Bay

---

#### **Long Term Objectives**

These standards have been developed by the MFA Environment Committee to set standard operating procedures (SOP) which when adopted by members will;

- Minimise common non compliance issues, and
- Eliminate generic concerns which from time to time may be expressed by other stakeholders and users of the Marlborough Sounds, Golden Bay and Tasman Bay in respect of marine farming

The Standards have been adopted by the Executive committee of the MFA (July 2011, reviewed September 2013 and February 2015). In adopting these SOPs the MFA acknowledges that its members are operating marine farming ventures using individual resource consents granted by the Marlborough District Council and the Tasman District Council in areas which are jointly shared with other members of the community.

#### **Short/Medium Term Objectives**

- There will be no coloured ties in use within the marine farming industry (black or black with no more than a 10% fleck will be the standard)
- All damaged “dead” floats will be repaired or recycled in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner, with no floats being disposed of to landfill

#### **Recommended Administrative Procedures**

- Members are encouraged to participate in the MFA’s Environmental Strategy
- Members are encouraged to participate in the Aquaculture New Zealand A+ Sustainable Management Framework
- Members are encouraged to participate in industry run environmental surveys
- Members are encouraged to have all farm contractors contracted into these Standard Operating Procedures

#### **Standard Operating Procedures**

- Except where otherwise specified in resource consents, black floats are to be used
- Where permissible unused buoys stored on farms are to be bundled in tight bunches using >24mm rope
- Regardless of the ownership, free floating buoys and damaged buoys are to be retrieved immediately and either removed from the water or beaches, lashed to a marine farm using sound >24mm rope or disposed of in an approved manner
- All damaged floats should be repaired or recycled in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner, and not sent to landfill
- Spare anchor blocks may only be stored at sea in an approved marine farm site or in other approved areas.
- All lashings are to be removed from back bones using proven cutting methods (i.e. those that allow for easy lashing recovery) when spat lines and growing lines are lifted or harvested. The recommended practice for cutting lashing is cut the lashing on one side only, therefore ensuring the lashing remains firmly attached to the backbone whilst float is removed from backbone, cut one frapping turn and the stopper knot remove all lashing, cut only one strand of the remaining hitch left on the backbone. If due

to adverse weather conditions long/full length ties are left on the lines, these must be removed as soon as possible.

- It is recommended that floats are untied rather than cut wherever possible
- Only proven and reliable knots are to be used on mussel farms. The recommended practice for float tying is to use a frapping turns and a stopper knot.
- Only Black ties to be used for intermediate and nursery ties (1, 2 or 3mm ties). Black or black with less than 10% coloured fleck to be used for final ties. No full coloured ties other than black.
- Equipment (i.e. scoop nets) to recover any debris lost overboard is to be within reach of the person removing the lashing on all marine farming vessels
- Equipment to securely store marine farm debris (rubbish bags/bins) are to be available on all marine farming vessels and should be fit for purpose and emptied regularly
- All marine farming debris is to be returned to an approved land based refuse facility for appropriate disposal
- Back bones without crop/spat equipment are not to be left without floatation.
- All dead floats are to be removed from lines, including current unharvested lines
- All one ender floats are to be remedied as soon as possible by relashing both ends of the float to the line (one ender floats are defined as those floats which have come loose on one side)
- On the inside and outside lines the maximum distance between floats on surface longlines must not exceed 25 metres
- The following minimum rope specifications are recommended to be used on marine farms

Marine Farming Activity	Minimum Recommended Rope Specifications	Notes
Bundling of floats	24mm	Only bundle floats where permissible
Final seeding ties	5mm-9mm	Suitable for the conditions/area of the farm
Backbones	28mm	
Warps	32mm	
Drop rope	16-20mm	Suitable for the conditions/area of the farm Not old crop rope

### **Biosecurity**

Farm structures should be monitored for the presence of any unwanted organisms. All vessels should have a copy of the MPI – ‘New Zealand Marine Pest ID Guide’ and follow the guidelines for reporting suspected marine pests contained in this Guide.

### **Marine Mammals**

All vessel crews should be aware of the Department of Conservation ‘rules around marine mammals’.

### **Health & Safety**

MFA Members and all MFA line leasees will maintain a high standard of workplace satisfaction and health and safety standards. Members will adhere to the New Zealand Health & Safety Legislation and will do all acts necessary to comply with the Health & Safety at Work Act.

### **Review**

These standard operating practices will be reviewed annually by the MFA Environment Committee.

### **Other Documents**

The Standard Operating Procedures should be used in conjunction with the AQNZ A<sup>+</sup> Sustainable Management Framework.