

# Disinfection for Used Shellfish Equipment

When purchasing used shellfish production equipment, thorough disinfection before use is strongly recommended, to limit the risks of introduction of disease or invasive species. An easy-to-use process is as follows:

1. Transport of ropes is discouraged; they are more difficult to disinfect and should be replaced or avoided wherever possible in terms of moving equipment between water bodies.
2. Clean all equipment of attached organisms, such as mussels, barnacles, seaweed, bryozoans, etc. A power washing or hand scrubbing can be effective, especially if the equipment is allowed to soak in fresh water first for several hours or overnight. Do not dispose of removed/waste material in waters of the State; compost it on land or send to a landfill.
3. Let the clean equipment dry for 24 hours.
4. Soak the equipment in a bleach solution (1 tablespoon of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite solution per gallon of water) for at least 30 minutes. The solution used to soak equipment should be allowed to off-gas for 24 hours, before disposal, and should not be discharged into coastal waters (including storm drains that lead to coastal waters).
5. Give the equipment a fresh water rinse and allow to air dry; this continues to clean the equipment of any living hitchhikers, and permits the chlorine in the bleach to dissipate. Sunny days help with this process, as opposed to overcast or rainy conditions.
6. Equipment can be put into production.

Updated 18 April 2018