



**Figure-1.** Map of Deer Island Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture Project – Expansion.

## Gulf Coast Off-Bottom Oyster Farming Gear Types



### Adjustable Long-line System

The adjustable long-line system (ALS), developed in Australia, is made of a tensioned monofilament line strung between pilings with riser posts placed at uniform intervals allowing adjustment of the basket's position in the water column. Lines are installed in tandem (often termed a 'run'). There are at least two manufacturers of ALS equipment: SEAPA and BST, both with US distributors.

Mesh baskets are 28" long with a grow-out capacity of approximately 75 oysters. Baskets can be strung parallel to the line or cross-wise. To control fouling of the baskets and oysters, baskets are routinely (e.g. weekly) lifted out of the water for approximately 24 hours by placing the line on the top riser clip. Baskets are easily handled by people of all abilities and, with regular maintenance, have a life span of approximately 5 years.



For oyster farming  
info & pictures visit

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Figure-2. Diagram of a suspended basket or longline, off-bottom aquaculture design (diagram courtesy of W. Walton, Auburn University).

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### Floating Cage System

The floating cage system (FCS), developed in Atlantic Canada, is made of an outer housing and interior shelves made of heavy gauge vinyl-coated wire mesh. Cages may have four or six compartments into which Vexar™ mesh bags, containing oysters, are placed. A door on one side of the housing allows for easy access. At final grow-out density, each bag can hold approximately 150 oysters. Cages are tethered on each end to an anchored long-line. The FCS is supported by two air-filled pontoons. Routinely, the cage is flipped over onto the pontoons (top picture) to allow for control of fouling on both the gear and oysters. OysterGro™ and Go Deep International both manufacture floating cage systems.

The FCS can be shipped flat and assembled on-site. In preparation for hurricanes, this system can be sunk by flooding the pontoons and re-floated after the storm passes.



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**Figure-3.** Diagram of a floating basket, off-bottom aquaculture design (diagram courtesy of W. Walton, Auburn University). The 3 baskets on the left are submerged in grow-out mode, while the basket on the right is emergent in desiccation mode to remove biofouling