

Tests verify enhanced yield

Up to 25% more yield per metre for a comparable purchase price...

Because Donaghys Xmas tree rope delivers significantly more surface area per metre of rope, yield is dramatically enhanced through higher settlement rates. Please refer to our cost comparison table to compare annualized costs per metre.

In fact independent research was recently conducted in South Australia and it was found that **Donaghys standard Xmas tree rope had the highest mean settlement for any rope type group** with a score of 528 Spat/Metre, substantially above all other competing brands on the market.

"It was noticeable in cumulative spat analysis that the performance of the (Competitor Named) product appeared to reach a Spacial Settlement Limitation or Capacity prior to the Donaghys product for all results".

Donaghys Xmas tree rope's higher performance factor was even more evident on ropes with previous use and abrasive wear".

Timing & density recommendations to maximise yield

Spat collection

Optimal seed catching (spat collection) occurs when water temperatures fall from summer highs. At around 17-18

Deg C competing organisms are minimized and present less threat of fouling.

Hatchery transfers

Low spat density and poor survival rate appear to be correlated to transplanting in times of high marine growth (where natural fouling occurs).

It is recommended that hatchery transfers take place during lower settlement periods ie: late autumn through winter, to allow establishment, migration and growth of spat before competition occurs with naturally occurring marine settling organisms.



Seeding density

Seeding density is critical. Excessive densities may impede growth hence efficiencies are dramatically enhanced with a culture rope of substantial surface area. An historically promoted seeding rate is around 200/metre. In the pristine calm waters of the Marlborough Sounds in NZ seeding rates vary from 150-200 spat/metre and complete the maturation period between 15-24 months, yields are typically around 7kg metre. In the Coromandel where open water farms contend high current and tidal movement, seeding rates are higher

ranging between 195-260 spat/metre and yielding up to 13-14kg metre within 9-12 months.

Extra surface area per metre dramatically enhances yield

Mussels are best seeded at a small size, less than 20mm long as mortality from Bysuss withdrawal is minimized, growth rate is increased as the mussels spread out.

"Heavy mussel spat settlement definitely reduces the ability to settle other marine organisms as their larvae are either consumed or unable

to secure settlement space on the mussel ropes".

In Pt Lincoln SA, least competition is during Winter from May to September. By contrast maximum settlement in New Zealand is generally achieved on Donaghys spat rope mid winter when larval & fouling levels were low. Densities of up to 3000 spat/metre are achieved and although summer fouling becomes evident September - December, Mussel spat survival remains high right through to transfer time in Mid to Late February.