

Kate's Family Oyster Farm

Read the story and fill in the blanks using the words below!

Kate is 12 years old and plays a big role in _____. She helps her Family on their American oyster farm. Their farm is on the Damariscotta River in mid-coast Maine, where the river empties into the ocean. This is called an _____, because it is an area with both salt and fresh water. Let's take a closer look at their farm.

An _____ is called a bivalve because it has a soft body inside two shells connected by a hinge. Scallops and mussels are bivalves too. Hatcheries raise oysters from microscopic larvae. Kate's family buys small oysters or _____ from the _____. On the farm these small oysters are placed in _____ that are made out of mesh bags, or screen boxes. Each grow bag can hold up to 100 oysters. Kate's family has to check on their grow bags every _____ to make sure the lines are _____ and the oysters are clean! Kate and her family keep the bags clean by scrubbing or _____ them.

When the oysters are big enough they will be transferred to a sandy area on the ocean bottom until the time when they are ready to be _____ by hand and brought to _____.

Aquaculture	Market
Day	Oyster
Estuary	Seed
Grow bags	Tight
Harvested	Pressure
Hatchery	Washing

