BARREL GRADERS

Barrel graders are great for working larger numbers of juvenile spat. They are simple to use and do an effective job of grading spat. Barrels are set an angle that allow the oysters to move down the barrel as it rotates. There are different holes along the barrel, with the smallest at the top and then increasing in size as you move down the barrel. As the spat moves through the barrel, they will fall through the smallest hole they can, allowing even grading of similar sized spat. Larger spat will only be graded towards the end of the barrel, or if they are too large they will exit at the bottom of the barrel.

Operation

Most barrel graders operate on the same principles.

1. Place containers under the grading shoots.
2. Turn grader on.
3. Begin feeding spat into the barrel. Larger graders will have a mechanical feed system, but you may have to feed smaller barrels by hand.
4. Replace containers as they become full.

Maintenance

Simply ensure all spat has been removed from the grader and grease moving parts as required.

These factsheets have been funded through the Early Needs Recovery Program. The Early Needs Recovery Program is part of the $150 million Primary Industry Support Package which is co-funded by the Australian and NSW Governments.