

SYDNEY ROCK OYSTER GRADING SYSTEM

SIZE SPECIFICATIONS (top shell length)

LARGE	90 - 100mm
STANDARD	75 - 90mm
PLATE	65 - 75mm
BISTRO	55 - 65mm
COCKTAIL	45 - 55mm

GRADE (minimum)

BODY & MANTLE CONDITION (this grading system applies to all size ranges)

SHELL FULLNESS (minimum)

A SUPREME

Very good condition oyster with full fat cover across the body and mantle, oyster fills shell and may rise above shell perimeter, consistent across shipment.

No B or C Grade oysters are acceptable.



Body 0 Mantle 0 Body 0 Mantle 1

0



A Grade:
0 only
1 not acceptable
2 not acceptable

B PREMIUM

Noticeably plump, the condition cover extends across the oyster and preferably extending out into the mantle. Some stomach may be visible, limited variability across shipment.

Any A Grade oysters are acceptable.



Body 1 Mantle 0 Body 1 Mantle 1 Body 1 Mantle 2 Acceptable at spawning time only Body 2 Mantle 0
-----Any number acceptable-----

1



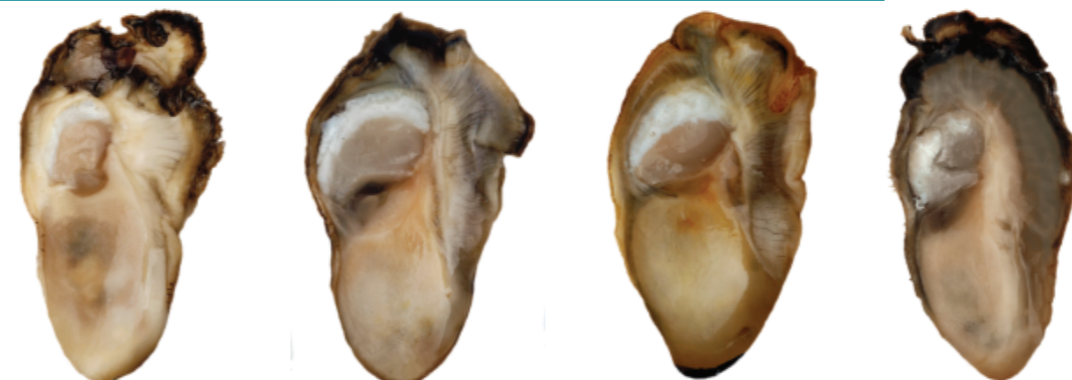
B Grade:
0 acceptable
1 acceptable
2 max 2 in sample* acceptable

C THRIFTY

Generally a poorer condition oyster with less coverage over the body and mantle resulting in greater visibility of the stomach, poor shell fullness and greater variability in shipment.

Any A Grade oysters are acceptable.

Any B Grade oysters are acceptable.



Body 2 Mantle 0 Body 2 Mantle 1 Body 2 Mantle 2 Body 2 Mantle 3

2



C Grade:
0 acceptable
1 acceptable
2 max 4 in sample* acceptable

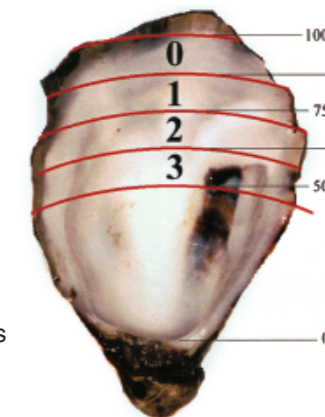
SHELL SHAPE (preferred)



MINIMUM BREADTH/LENGTH RATIO OF 45%.

Shell shape of stick-grown Sydney Rock Oysters will vary considerably depending on the amount of time they have been left to grow on the stick. This grading system acknowledges the shape variation that can exist in Sydney rock oysters grown on sticks for most of their life.

The size grading specification is to be applied where practicable during grading operations on the basis of best endeavours to obtain as uniform product as possible. The product must be represented accordingly. Body and mantle condition can be assessed using the above criteria.



* sample size 12 oysters

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This grading system applies to all size ranges and is one part of the criteria to be assessed when packing oysters.

The other considerations are:

- consistency of shipments to the same customer in different weeks,
- size - top shell length,
- meat weights,
- level of overcatch to industry standards,
- shell cleanliness to meet customer expectations

Size	Top shell length	Number of dozen per Tasea bag	Quality Index	Meat Weight (grams)		Meat to Shell Ratio % (meat weight divided by shell length)	
Cocktail	45 - 55mm Target Ave: 50mm	TBA	A	Ave ≥ 7	Min 6	Ave ≥ 14	Min 10.9
			B	None < 6	None < 6	None < 14	1-2 under 14
			C	None < 6	None < 6	3-5 under 14	3-5 under 14
Bistro	55 - 65mm Target Ave: 60mm	TBA	A	Ave ≥ 9	Min 8	Ave ≥ 15	Min 12.3
			B	None < 9	None < 9	None < 15	1-2 under 15
			C	1-2 meats under 9	3-5 meats under 9	1-2 under 15	3-5 under 15
Plate	65 - 75mm Target Ave: 70mm	TBA	A	Ave ≥ 11	Min 10	Ave ≥ 15.7	Min 13.3
			B	None < 11	None < 11	None < 15.7	1-2 under 15.7
			C	1-2 meats under 11	3-5 meats under 11	1-2 under 15.7	3-5 under 15.7
Standard	75 - 90mm Target Ave: 82mm	TBA	A	Ave ≥ 13	Min 12	Ave ≥ 15.8	Min 13.3
			B	None < 13	None < 13	None < 15.8	1-2 under 15.8
			C	1-2 meats under 13	3-5 meats under 13	1-2 under 15.8	3-5 under 15.8
Large	90 - 100mm Target Ave: 95mm	TBA	A	Ave ≥ 16	Min 15	Ave ≥ 16.8	Min 15
			B	None < 16	None < 16	None < 16.8	1-2 under 16.8
			C	1-2 meats under 16	3-5 meats under 16	1-2 under 16.8	3-5 under 16.8

OTHER FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

- Shell shape – oyster shell shape should be as uniform as possible. The preferred shape is an oyster meeting a ratio of:
1 (cup depth) : 2 (width) : 3 (length).
- As a minimum the width of the oyster divided by the length should not be less than 0.45 (45%).
- Consistency of quality and size across the consignment – it is preferable to not have major variation through a consignment.

QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

Prior to harvest, a representative sample of oysters must be randomly generated from differed locations along the rack/long-line to be harvested. The sample should represent the size of the stock to be harvested.

The required sampling rate is for one sample to be submitted for each size and grade of oyster to be harvested From each lease. It is assumed additional informal sampling will be done to validate stock quality.

An assessment form is required and it is essential that the data recorded on each line of the form represents information for a single oyster. Therefore, care must be taken in relation to the sequence followed in the quality assessment procedure.

Assessment process: sample size = 12 oysters

- 1 Prepare the necessary equipment – drying rack (if available), scales, splitting knife, gloves, assessment form. Use check weight to confirm scale accuracy .
- 2 Remove top shells placing them in a line, cut and turn the oyster, place the oyster in the shell next to its top shell.
- 3 Whilst splitting and if applicable, note the presence of blistering, spawning condition, re-absorption, gut exposure, discolouration on the form as indicated.
- 4 If there is any uncharacteristic discolouration or shape to the oyster meat/shell, note it on the form.
- 5 Undertake the body and mantle condition inspection and record the results on the form for each oyster. Refer to the photo chart if required.
- 6 Remove the oyster from the shell and place the oyster on a plastic mesh drying rack. Align the top shell with each oyster on the rack.
- 7 Measure the top shell length (mm) for each oyster and record the measurement.
- 8 Weigh the meats taking care to ensure it is in a sheltered area, as fluctuations in air circulation can give inaccurate weight readings. Record the results. Be sure to re-zero the digital scales and ensure there is minimal water on the oyster, as failure to recalibrate the scales and excess water will also give inaccurate readings.
NB: The top shell, body and mantle cover measurements for each oyster must be noted before weighing starts.
- 9 Review the results and assess which size and grade specifications it meets.