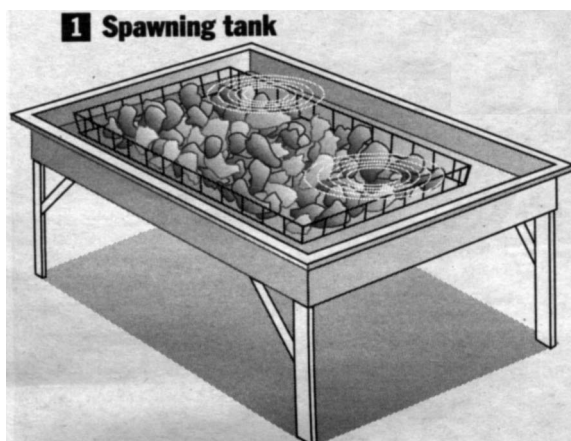
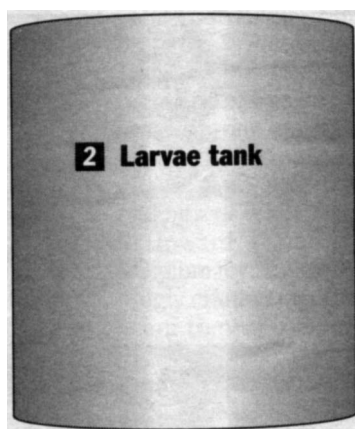


## How one hatchery raises a single oyster:

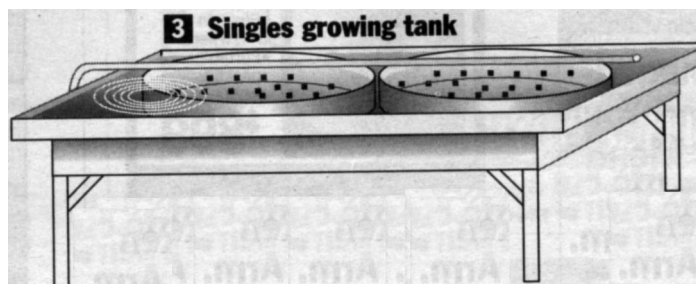
1. To force reproduction on demand, oysters are "conditioned" by heavy feeding and a gradual warming of the water. In this way, they are tricked into believing that it is the summer spawning season. They are then "shocked" into actual spawning when the water temperature is raised very quickly.



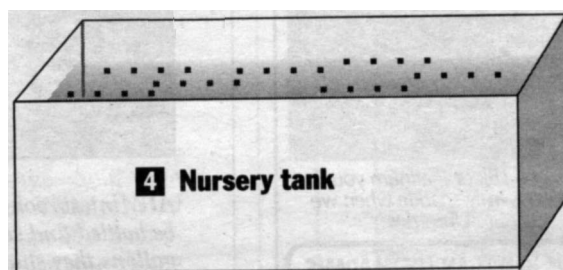
2. The larvae, which in the wild would swim free for about 15 days before attaching themselves to shells and transforming into seeds, are placed in 10,000-gallon tanks of sea water and fed algae raised by the hatchery. A single hatchery may grow over 1.2 billion Pacific oyster larvae each year.



3. The larvae are separated out through a strainer, then placed in a tank where technicians hope they will attach themselves to microscopic pieces of shell and be transformed into single seeds.



4. The seeds are placed in outside nursery tanks until they reach about two to three millimeters.



5. The seeds are transplanted first to a float system, then later to the beach or in racks, where they grow to harvest size in 18 months to three years.

