



Figure 1 : Pearls from the first ever harvest of Hawaiian Black Pearls™, taken from oysters at our pilot-scale grow-out sites on Oahu and the Big Island, February, 2002



Figure 2 : Hawaiian seeding technician trainee Gary Aldrich watches over the shoulder of master seeding technician Berni Aquilina as Berni harvests and reseeds a Hawaiian pearl oyster. The Hawaiian seeding sessions focused on familiarizing Gary with all aspects of pearl seeding. Kawaihae, Hawaii, February, 2003.



Figure 3 : Hawaiian seeding technician trainee Gary Aldrich sacrificing selected pearl oysters for use as mantle donors. Oahu, Hawaii, February, 2004.



Figure 4 : Berni taught Gary the criteria for selecting good mantle donor tissues, and the techniques for excising and preparing the “saibo” or graft pieces. Oahu, Hawaii, February, 2004.



Figure 5 : Berni conducted the seeding in a temporary seeding shed set up on the deck of the R.V. Wailoa. Oahu, Hawaii, February, 2004.



Figure 6 : Once seeded, the large Hawaiian pearl oysters were placed in panels, and returned to the water. Oahu, Hawaii, February, 2004.



Figure 7 : Part of Gary's training also involved care and maintenance of seeded and juvenile oysters. Here, Gary and a R.V. Wailoa crewmember pressure-wash a panel of oysters on the pilot-farm. Oahu, Hawaii, February, 2004.



Figure 8 : Master seeding technician Berni Aquilina instructs the first cohort of trainees in correct mantle-cutting procedure. Bikirin, Majuro, February, 2002



Figure 9 : Master seeding technician Berni Aquilina walks the trainees through the intricacies of pearl oyster biology, and the bewildering array of tools. Bikin, Majuro, February, 2002



Figure 10 : The next step was for master seeding technician Berni Aquilina to guide the trainees through the steps involved in the pearl seeding operation itself. (L-R) Sha Longtak, Brandon Jim, Amon Hiram, Redley George. Bikin, Majuro, February, 2002



Figure 11 : Master and protégé: Berni watches as trainee Sha Longtak inserts the nucleus in an oyster, Bikirin, Majuro, February, 2002



Figure 12 : Farm workers watching Joban Reimers seed in Arno, February, 2004



Figure 13 : Trainee Dial, cutting mantle in Arno, February, 2004



Figure 14 : Trainee Amon, seeding in Arno, February, 2004

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