



# MINTERBROOK OYSTER COMPANY, WASHINGTON, U.S.A.

Minterbrook Oyster Gets The Performance And Cost Savings From Petro-Canada's  
**PURITY™ FG Grease And AW Hydraulic Fluids.**

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the PURITY FG Grease has superior water resistance”

– Erika Wiksten, Owner and General Manager,  
Minterbrook Oyster Company

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## Minterbrook Oyster Company

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Minterbrook Oyster Company, located in Gig Harbor, Washington on the Puget Sound had a specific challenge – they needed lubricant products that would meet severe weather and temperature conditions and still be environmentally sensitive.

Minterbrook is a processor, hatchery and nursery facility that grows and processes shellfish in the Pacific Northwest. The company was founded in 1931. Harold Wiksten, a biologist and one of the forefathers of the oyster industry in the state of Washington, purchased the company in 1954.

His daughter, Erika Wiksten, became general manager of Minterbrook in 1991. Since then she has expanded the company considerably and diversified the product offerings. They now offer oysters, geoduck, clams, mussels and salmon, which are exported to many destinations around the globe.

The Company's expansion includes products derived from growing grounds that stretch along the Pacific coast, up and down the Eastern seaboard and in the Southern United States.



### The Challenge

Wiksten spent years trying to find lubricant products that would be environmentally sensitive for use in the company's fishing vessels, trucks, tractors and production facility. She didn't have any success.

"The philosophy behind the other products was great but the performance was poor," she says. "When you work on the water you have a responsibility. You don't want to be in a position at any time that could have adverse effects on the ecosystem. It's the future that's where you derive your livelihood."



### The Trial

That's when Wiksten turned to Petro-Canada. She was not familiar with the products but given the company's reputation, she felt it was worth giving them a try. In 2003, she began using Petro-Canada's PURITY FG Grease and AW Hydraulic Fluids in her production facility, which depends on constant-use under high grit and grime conditions.

Petro-Canada's PURITY FG Grease is an advanced food grade lubricant specially formulated to deliver superior performance and food grade purity under the highly demanding conditions of food processing operations.

PURITY FG AW Hydraulic Fluids extend equipment life and reduce operational downtime. They are tough enough to handle wet food processing environments with acidic contaminants and wide temperature swings.



## The Result

She was delighted with what she saw. In fact, Wiksten was so impressed with their performance she approached the captains of her company's vessels and suggested they use the products on the hydraulic winches of the high-duty working barges that run seven days a week, often double time.

"There were a lot of disbelievers at first because it sounded too good to be true, an environmentally friendly product that would hold up under the most extreme conditions."

Minterbrook also began using the PURITY AW Hydraulic Fluids in its largest fishing vessels in May 2004 and six months later the hydraulic fluid exhibited no sign of breaking down. As a result, the company has switched to the PURITY AW Hydraulic Fluids and FG Grease products in its trucks and tractors.

## Product Benefits

"PURITY FG AW Hydraulic Fluid is one product that can be used in all of our equipment so there is a cost saving," said Wiksten. "Plus, there has been no downtime and no effect on productivity as a result of the change in product. The hydraulic fluid is simply terrific and the PURITY FG grease has superior water resistance; the bearings are constantly in salt water and exposed to high levels of grit; there has been no visible signs of moisture seeps into the bearings. It is a very durable product."

And, she is very happy with the protection it provides from wear and corrosion, especially since Minterbrook's equipment operates in salt water, sand and in a wide range of temperature and weather conditions.

## Minterbrook's Advice

"The product may be a little more expensive but it's an investment that's well worth it. Go with a company that has a solid, good reputation and stands behind its products. That's Petro-Canada," said Wiksten.

To learn more about how Petro-Canada Lubricants can help your business visit:  
**[lubricants.petro-canada.com](http://lubricants.petro-canada.com)**  
or contact us at **[lubecsr@petrocanadalsp.com](mailto:lubecsr@petrocanadalsp.com)**

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