CLAIMS

1. A method of growing shellfish comprising the steps of:

a) taking a support having a plurality of recesses wherein at least some of the recesses each incorporate a region of discontinuous contour with respect to the recess overall, such region being adapted to create a deliberately formed alphanumeric, written or pictorial mark on an exterior of a shell of each shellfish as it grows;

b) attaching shellfish spat to at least some of the recesses respectively; and

c) placing the support in water such that the spat grow into substantially mature shellfish within the recesses such that the shellfish are each generally in the shape of their respective recess and such that the mark is created as an indentation in the shell of the shellfish as it grows.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein each region of discontinuous contour comprises a raised part within the respective recess.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the shellfish comprise oysters.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the oysters are removed from the support when they are substantially mature.

5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the support has one or more channels running between at least some of the recesses.

6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the support comprises a tray which has the recesses.

7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the recesses are arranged in rows.

8. A method according to any one of claims 5-7, wherein each recess has at least one opening to the channel to allow air and water to enter and leave the recess by way of the channel.

9. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the support has walls and corresponding spaces that enable the support to be stacked with other supports.

10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the mark comprises a symbol.

~~**11.** A method of growing shellfish substantially herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.~~

~~**12.** A method of growing shellfish according to claim 1, substantially as herein described.~~

~~**13.** A shellfish when grown or growing according to the method of claim 1.~~

~~**14.** A support for growing shellfish having a plurality of recesses arranged in a series of parallel rows wherein at least some of the recesses incorporate means adapted to create a deliberately formed alphanumeric, written or pictorial mark on the shellfish as it grows, each recess having at least one opening to a channel adapted to allow air and water to enter and leave the recess when the support is in use with shellfish growing.~~

~~**15.** A support according to claim 14, wherein the support is a tray with walls and corresponding spaces that enable the tray to be stacked with other similar trays.~~