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Congratulations to Australia's Oyster Coast



The Honourable Katrina Hodgkinson, Minister for Primary Industries, along with Andrew Wales, Executive Officer of Australia's Oyster Coast, cuts the ribbon on 5 May 2013 to officially launch this new branding initiative. This brand is the outcome of a collaboration of South Coast oyster farmers working together to further promote local produce into a world market. <http://www.oystercoast.com.au/>

Contact: Andrew Wales AOC 8091 5353

Marine Finfish Research Lease

On 31 May 2013 the Department of Planning and Infrastructure approved a State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) application for the development of a 20 hectare Marine Aquaculture Research Lease in Providence Bay off Port Stephens. The research lease has been approved to operate for five years and will strengthen research currently undertaken at the Port Stephens Fisheries Institute.

The SSI approval requires that some 60 conditions relating to: administration; sea cage construction; maintenance and decommissioning; environmental protection; and environmental management and reporting are met. These conditions recognise issues raised by the community and agencies to safeguard the environment and assess the sustainability of the activity.

The project was also referred to the Commonwealth Government under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

The research will investigate and develop new technologies for the marine aquaculture industry. Key outcomes from the research will be: proving the suitability of species such as Yellowtail Kingfish and Mulloway; developing diets; validating equipment and technology; and doing environmental monitoring.

NSW DPI will now call for tenders for a research partner and seek research funding from fisheries funding agencies. For more information see http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=5149

Contact: Ian Lyall Fisheries 4916 3856



NSW Oyster Industry Dinner "Catch Up" Conference and Tradeshow

When: 31 July and 1 August 2013.

Where: Soldiers Point Bowling Club Port Stephens.

Cost: \$80 (includes lunch both days and dinner).

Who: 28 local, interstate and NZ speakers, Simon Marnie MC (ABC Radio and Oyster Judge), and John Stinker "Clarke" will talk at dinner on the history of the Port Stephens oyster industry.

Plus: Tradeshow (14 companies confirmed), oyster tasting event with a selection of recipes prepared by four local Chefs, fundraiser equipment auction.

With kind sponsorship from: FRDC (Silver), TTP Plastics (Dinner), Shellfish Culture (Bronze), Murray's Brewery Port Stephens - Whale Ale (Happy Hour), Broken Bay Pearls (Door Prize), Port Stephens



Department of
Primary Industries

Oysters, Endeavour Oysters and Auction supporters SEAPA, BST Oyster Suppliers and NSW Farmers Association.

Organised by: Fisheries NSW, NSW Farmers Association, Oysters Australia and the NSW Food Authority.

Meetings to be held concurrently: ARAC, ASQAAC, and a POMS Researchers meeting.

For information on registration, accommodation and the latest program and trade displays visit <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/info/nsw-oyster-conference-catch-up-and-tradeshow-2013>

Early Bird Discount of \$80 runs till 14 July - after that it is \$110.

Separate dinner tickets available for partners (\$40).

Contact: Joyce Paterson or Jo Pickles 4982 1232

Disastrous start to 2013 for the oyster industry

The POMS disease outbreak in the Hawkesbury River, multiple north coast floods, Shoalhaven and Clyde impacts and ongoing oyster mortalities in Port Stephens have severely impacted growers this year. Hawkesbury River oyster growers suffered complete loss of their triploid Pacific Oyster crop due to POMS. The virus struck in Mullet Creek and rapidly spread throughout the system, its impact was compounded by rainfall and discharge from Warragamba Dam. The virus was also detected in Brisbane Water which led to the quarantine of that estuary. The Brisbane Water movement restrictions impacted Sydney Rock Oyster growers many of whom have land bases in Port Stephens, Wallis Lake or the Manning River.

Floods impacted cultivation infrastructure and the freshwater inundation also struck down oysters on the north coast. Baskets and trays from the Hastings River even ended up on Stockton Beach at Newcastle. The department is also investigating the ongoing mortalities of oysters from Port Stephens.

The Shellfish Committee met on 23 May 2013 and discussed the issues of industry preparedness for natural disasters and disease events and also reviewed the assistance available to industry under the Natural Disaster Assistance Scheme or through agency support. Following the 2005 Hawkesbury River QX \$3.1 million assistance package, industry was advised that the government was no longer in a position to provide such financial support. While north coast growers had access to \$130,000 low interest loans and a Category C grant to support recovery (based on proof of expenditure) this year, Hawkesbury River growers were not eligible for support under the Natural Disaster Assistance Scheme. Subsequent approaches to the Treasurer by the Minister on behalf of the Hawkesbury River

growers to access or estuary-wide recovery loan or individual \$130,000 loans failed.

At both a State and Commonwealth level the new emphasis is for natural disaster and disease management pre-event preparedness, rather than post-event financial support.

Contact: Ian Lyall Fisheries 4916 3856

Oyster mortalities in Port Stephens – update

NSW DPI has been investigating reports of mortalities in oysters in Port Stephens since late January 2013. The mortalities have been reported predominantly in Pacific Oysters (diploid and triploid), and to a much lesser extent in Sydney Rock Oysters. Losses have been very high and uniform over multiple leases in some areas of Port Stephens, while patchy in others. The department has received some 15 submissions to the EMAI laboratory, and tests undertaken have included histopathology, PCR (genetic-based test), bacteriology and electron microscopy. The laboratory findings from all tests to-date conclude that there is no evidence of disease in any of the oysters submitted. In summary:

1. All submissions tested negative for Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome
 2. Inflammation +/- ulceration affecting surfaces (gut and external)
 3. Gut filled with undigested food and haemocytes
- The finding of gut filled with undigested food may indicate an abundance of a poorly-digestible food source.

NSW DPI has also accessed and analysed water quality and algal monitoring data for Port Stephens between January and April 2013. Analysis of this data indicated that although conditions may have been stressful at times, including high air temperatures and reduced salinity, no one environmental factor adequately explained the losses observed. Unusual concentrations of some toxin producing algal species were observed concurrently with some of the losses, however, these algal species are not known to kill shellfish, but could be a cause for irritation and possibly poor food quality. Port Stephens oyster farmers are encouraged to report mortalities to the department.

Contact: Aquatic Biosecurity 4982 1232

Risk Rankings for QX positive estuaries in NSW

In order to change the QX risk ranking of an estuary by one level (i.e. from high to medium, or medium to low) three years of surveillance is required with no detection of QX. In late 2012, NSW DPI consulted with the NSW Shellfish Committee and developed agreed responsibilities of both NSW DPI and oyster farmers, including the financial contribution required from industry members for a review of the QX risk ranking of a QX affected NSW waterway.

Contact: Aquatic Biosecurity Unit 4982 1232

Jervis Bay Commercial Shellfish Leases

Stakeholder consultation has commenced for the proposed development of 50 hectares of commercial shellfish leases in Jervis Bay.

A State Significant Infrastructure application is being prepared by Fisheries NSW and includes an EIS and draft Environmental Management Plan. Issues raised in consultation are being addressed in the EIS. The EIS is expected to be lodged with Planning by August 2013.

Further consultation will be undertaken during the public exhibition period for the EIS which will include "drop-in" information days where Fisheries NSW will be available to discuss any issues associated with the proposed leases. The project was also referred to the Department of Defence and the Commonwealth under the EPBC Act with positive outcomes. If the proposed leases are approved by Planning they would be offered by tender to industry.

See: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture>

Contact: Graeme Bowley Fisheries 4916 3845



Proposed 10 ha and two 20ha leases Jervis Bay

Pacific Oyster Closure Review update

The new Pacific Oyster Management System, developed to replace the existing Section 8 Fishing Closure for the management of Pacific Oysters in all NSW estuaries, is now being drafted in readiness for Parliamentary approval. It is proposed the new management system will be implemented in September 2013 as permit conditions specified in the *Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation*.

Contact: Ben Rampano Biosecurity 4916 3907

NSW Aquaculture Industry Directory 2013

The NSW Aquaculture Directory 2013 has been compiled from over 100 permit holders who registered their details for publication. See

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture>.

Contact: Graeme Bowley Fisheries 4916 3845

New PhDs for oyster research

Fisheries NSW has teamed together with Macquarie University in a successful Australian Research Council grant that will see three new PhD students and a Post Doctoral Fellow working on Sydney Rock

Oysters. The \$2.1 million grant, titled "A molecular technology platform for enabling the next revolution in the food industry" and led by Professors Paul Haynes and David Raftos, will focus efforts in three areas: nutraceuticals, single cell foods, barley and oysters. For oysters, the grant will see the latest in molecular genetic technologies being used to assess methods to reduce impacts of QX and Winter Mortality.

Contact: Wayne O'Connor Fisheries 4916 3906

Lease Renewals – Please note

The *Fisheries Management Act 1994* provides leaseholders 30 days preferential right from the date of lease expiry in which to renew an oyster lease. If a renewal application is not received within this 30 day period the expired lease will become available.

This means that if a leaseholder wishes to regain an expired lease outside the 30 day preferential right period, they will need to submit a new lease application for the area, which will then be offered by competitive tender.

Leaseholders will still receive a renewal reminder letter 90 days before their oyster lease is due to expire and a second reminder letter on or around the date of expiry.

Contact: Raelene Trenaman Fisheries 4916 3843.

Integrated Aquaculture

Urban Ecological Systems Pty Ltd has developed the first stage of a large scale commercial aquaculture and hydroponics development at Cobbitty on the outskirts of Sydney. This integrated facility produces Barramundi and green leafy crops in a "state of the art" green house complex.

http://www.urbanecologicalsystems.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=65&Itemid=123



Urban Ecological Systems at Cobbitty

Grants of up to \$1.5 million are now available to help farmers prepare for the future by developing and adopting innovative practices and technologies.

The [Innovation Grants](#) under the Caring for our Country Sustainable Agriculture stream are available for agriculture, fishing, aquaculture and farm forestry industries.

A range of projects may be eligible, including:

- projects that promote the uptake of new and innovative practices;
- projects that use new technology including digital information systems such as smart phone and notepad applications to deliver timely information to farmers to facilitate informed natural resource decision making; and
- institutional and market based approaches that involve the whole supply chain and will increase the adoption of sustainable production practices.

Applications close at 2pm on 4 July 2013. See <http://www.nrm.gov.au/funding/agriculture/innovation/index.html>

Diary Date - 21-22 September 2013

Intensive Recirculation Aquaculture Workshop planned at Soldier Point Bowling Club:

- Speakers Tom Losordo and Dennis DeLong
- Sponsored by Pentair Aquatic Systems
- Hosts NSW Aquaculture Association

See <http://nswaqua.com.au/>

Challenges for breeding Sydney Rock Oysters

The POMS outbreak in the Georges River in November 2010 and the subsequent outbreak in the Hawkesbury River in 2013 have not only impacted Pacific Oysters in these estuaries but also the latest generation of disease resistant Sydney Rock Oyster (SRO) broodstock.

Although unaffected directly by the disease, these SRO broodstock could no longer be used to breed the next generation of QX and winter mortality (WM) disease resistant stocks for industry. Backup 5th generation QX and WM resistant broodstock held in other estuaries have now been used to replicate the QX and WM resistant broodstock lines and temporary shortages of broodstock available for commercial production have now been overcome.

NSW Fisheries is returning to the Georges River so that the impacts of POMS to the breeding program can be assessed and resistance to both diseases can be progressed. Fisheries NSW and SOCo are carefully considering any further impacts of the spread of POMS to other NSW estuaries.

Contact: Michael Dove Fisheries 4916 3807

Oyster lease clean-up program

The department is currently case managing issues with 40 derelict and untidy leases. These include current leases as well as leases left by farmers who have exited the industry. The majority of these cases are resolved after final warnings are issued, but a number of cases have proceeded to NSW DPI engaging contractors to do the work then recovering costs. For example, quotes from the local industry have been requested for the clean up of two untidy

current leases in Wagonga Inlet and three cancelled leases in the Macleay River.

Derelict leases are currently being cleaned up by contractors in:

- Manning River, four leases funded through Aquaculture Lease Security Trust);
- Hawkesbury River, two leases (costs to be recovered from former lessee);
- Brisbane Water one lease (costs to be recovered from former lessee);
- Tuross Lake, one lease to be marked correctly (cost recovered from lessee).

Contact: Katie Sachs Fisheries 49163913

Clyde River triploid Pacific Oyster approval

Members of Clyde River Shellfish Pty Ltd were granted approval to import and cultivate triploid Pacific Oysters in the Clyde River on 30 May 2013. The approval follows detailed assessment of the Review of Environmental Factors submitted with the application that included the outcome of consultation with the local industry, Council, CMA and Batemans Bay Local Aboriginal Land Council.

This is the fifth NSW estuary approved for full commercial production of this species. Trials of triploids also continue in Lake Wapengo and Wallis Lake. Any other estuary or group of estuaries that are considering applying for a species variation should consult Section 8.8 of the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy and contact Aquaculture Management.

Contact: Tim Gippel Fisheries 4916 3823.

Oyster industry policy update

The Aquaculture Management Unit is making final edits to the revised version of the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy and will have it ready for final industry and public comment in August 2013. The Aquaculture Permit conditions are also being reviewed and will be released to the Shellfish Committee for comment once internal and legal advice has been finalised. The February and May meetings of the Shellfish committee endorsed the preparation of a "Use it or lose it" policy for aquaculture leases and a discussion paper will be presented to the August meeting. This policy will require significant industry consultation to prepare so you can expect to be asked for your input later in the year. **Contact: Tim Gippel Fisheries 4916 3823.**

Oyster shipment log book system to be replaced

A new telephone based Oyster Shipment Notification System developed by Fisheries NSW is being rolled out in NSW. The Voice Recognition System (IVR) which is similar to a phone banking system and will replace the current paper based Oyster Shipment Log Book used to report and track all oyster shipments between estuaries in NSW. The IVR

system is currently being trialled by oyster farmers at the Hastings River in order to identify any improvements that need to be made. It is planned that the IVR system will be rolled out to oyster farmers in other NSW estuaries by the end of 2013. The system will be on display at the Oyster Conference at Port Stephens at the end of July. If you wish to trial the system for yourself you can sign up for a system password at the display desk at the Conference Tradeshow. Early feedback from farmers is that it is easy to use and that it takes about two minutes to process a normal oyster shipment.

Contact: Phil McCarthy Fisheries 6331 9490 or Steve McOrrie Fisheries 4916 3921

Marianvale Blue Murray Cod farm

On 12 June 2013 Katrina Hodgkinson, MP, Minister for Primary Industries officially opened the Marianvale Blue Murray Cod farm near Goulburn. The farm is one of the largest recirculating aquaculture system facility of its kind in NSW. It is expected to produce 200 tonne of Murray Cod annually. See

<http://www.marianvaleblue.com.au/sustainability>



Minister inspecting cultured Murray Cod

Shellfish Committee

Meeting summary see:

<http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/industry-sector-requirements/shellfish/nsw-shellfish-committee/>

Quick Response from Council

In October last year a number of food borne illnesses were linked to shellfish from one harvest area in the Camden Haven. The industry faced the prospect of a lengthy closure while all potential sources were

investigated and ruled out. However, prompt action by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council resulted in the problem being quickly identified and remediated. The area was cleared for re-opening within three months; this is a fast turnaround for an area linked to illnesses. Council is to be commended for their prompt action to find and fix the problem, as well as their excellent communication with industry throughout the event.

Contact: Anthony Zammit NSWFA 9741 4749

Environmental Management Systems rollout

OceanWatch have initiated EMS meetings with Brisbane Water, Tilligerry Creek and Manning River oyster farmers. A feature of the meetings has been the number of Council, Catchment Management Authority and water authority staff in attendance.

Contact: Andy Myers OceanWatch 0488 656 366

Select Oyster Company news

The results of the recruitment to fill three vacant positions on the Board of the Select Oyster Company Pty Ltd (SOCo) Board are now available. Congratulations to: Dr Matthew Wassnig, a Nambucca River grower, Shellfish Committee and ARAC member; Dr Ana Rubio, who brings with her 11 years of oyster research experience in NSW and strong project management and research skills honed by her work with Fisheries Research and Development Corporation; David Barker, an oyster farmer and hatchery and nursery operator in the Georges River with twenty five years experience in scientific fisheries based finfish and mollusc aquaculture research; and Jane Clout, a previous Board Member and Chair and oyster grower from Moreton Bay with an accounting background and a comprehensive understanding of SOCo operations to date.

A recent achievement for Jane is the successful Fisheries Cooperative Research Centre grant application which secures funds for SOCo to employ a fulltime business manager.

Contact: Jenny Brown NSW Farmers 9478 1035

Aquaculture News is a newsletter for the aquaculture industry in NSW.

Editor: Joyce Paterson

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www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/publications/aquaculture-newsletter

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (June 2013).

However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of NSW DPI or the user's independent adviser.

NSW Oyster Conference 'Catch-up' and
Tradeshow 2013 – Draft Program 19/6/13

Wednesday 31 July 2013 – Registration open from 8AM

SESSION	TIME	TITLE	SPEAKER
Opening	1000-1005	Welcome to Country Official Opening	John Ridgeway Traditional Owner Simon Marnie ABC Radio
Innovation in Industry	1005-1030	Innovation in Agriculture – What the Oyster Industry can learn from the Pork Industry	Andrew Spencer - CEO Australian Pork
	1030-1050	NSW oyster industry update	Mark Bully Hastings River
	1050-1110	SA oyster industry update	Jedd Routledge SAOGA
	1110-1130	TAS oyster industry update	Hayden Dyke Giles Fisher Ian Duthie
	1130-1150	Old oyster industry update	Paul Cahill QOGA
	1150-1210	NZ oyster industry update	TBA
<i>Lunch</i>			
Looking Forward	1310-1330	Australian Shellfish Industry perspective	TBA
	1330-1350	NSW Environmental Management Systems (EMS) - What's in it for Oyster Farmers	Andrew Wales - Southern Rivers CMA
	1350-1410	A Newcomers Perspective on Entering a Challenging Industry	Mathew Wassnig - Nambucca Oyster Farmer
	1410-1430	NSW Farmers Association - Industry succession planning - training needs - future directions	Kevin McAsh - Chair NSW Farmers' Oyster Committee
<i>Break - Four local chefs presenting oysters for a tasting event</i>			
Research and Development	1530-1550	Breeding for fast growth and condition – Can it be done?	Michael Dove - Fisheries NSW
	1550-1610	Seagrass and oyster farming is there an issue?	Mitchell Burrows - University of Newcastle
	1610-1630	Zooplankton as an indicator of estuarine stress	Iain Suthers - NSW University

Wednesday 31 July - Evening

Oyster Conference - Evening Dinner Event 6.30pm

Thursday 1 August 2013

SESSION	TIME	TITLE	SPEAKER
Selling oysters	0900-0920	Bega Coast Oysters – Benefits and Pitfalls of Developing a Grower Group	Greg Carton - Oyster Farmer
	0920-0940	Winning oyster awards – can this benefit you?	Gary Rodely Tathra Oysters
	0940-1000	Oyster retail experiment	Miles Toomey
	1000-1020	The market place certification race	Mark Boulter - Sydney Fish Market
<i>Break</i>			
Business Development	1100-1120	Oyster productivity and benchmarking business across states	Carlyn Sheriff - Rural Directions P/L
	1120-1140	Training opportunities to support student entry to the oyster industry	Bob Combes - Cowell Area School SA
	1140-1200	EMS - Giving oyster farmers a stronger voice	Andy Myers OceanWatch
	1200-1220	Learning from agriculture to build stronger oyster businesses	Dick Kearins - NSW DPI
<i>Lunch</i>			
	1320-1340	What do oysters eat?	Ana Rubio
	1340-1400	Pre-emptive oyster harvest policy	Anthony Zammit – NSW Food Authority
	1400-1420	Oysters Australia update	Rachel King
<i>Break</i>			
Oyster Health	1450-1510	Aquatic Animal Health Program – POMS work	Richard Whittington - University of Sydney
	1510-1530	Genetic selection and POMS resistance	Peter Kube - CSIRO
	1530-1550	Laboratory model for challenging Pacific Oysters with OshV-1 infection	Paul Hicks - NSW DPI
	1550-1610	New Zealand – POMS Experience	Mark Camara Cawthron Institute NZ

