

Issue 10, June 2011

NSW DPI-Fisheries is back

Following the State election Dr Richard Sheldrake was appointed Director-General Primary Industries. Within Primary Industries, the Fisheries division has been re-established and incorporates aquaculture, commercial and recreational fisheries management, conservation, research, compliance and marine parks. The former Principal Director, Fisheries and Compliance, Mr Paul O'Connor has accepted a new position of Director of Policy and Strategy with the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing. The position of Principal Director, Fisheries has been filled by Dr Geoff Allan. Geoff will take on this role in an acting basis and will be based at Port Stephens. Best wishes to both Paul and Geoff in their new roles.

Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) update

A surveillance program to determine the distribution of POMS has nearly been completed for NSW, Tasmania and South Australia. This follows the detection of Pacific oyster mortalities in the Georges River (late November 2010) and Sydney Harbour (late February 2011).

NSW has completed POMS surveillance in the following estuaries: Wallis Lake, Hawkesbury River, Sydney Harbour, Shoalhaven/Crookhaven River, Port Stephens and Clyde River (an estuary which has a population of wild Pacific oysters and was sampled for comparative purposes). Sampling focused on the collection of farmed Pacific oysters but also included wild oysters. Farmed & wild Sydney rock oysters were also collected and archived. NSW samples were tested for POMS at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agriculture Institute. South Australia and Tasmania sampling is complete with specimens undergoing testing at the CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratories, Geelong.

The results of the surveillance program will help with future management options for the industry (eg inter and intrastate movements being one issue pending). Currently there are movement controls in place for the Georges River industry banning the movement of stock or equipment to other estuaries. NSW DPI has also sent letters to mooring contractors operating in the Sydney area requesting voluntary movement controls. These aim to further reduce the risk of spreading POMS and mirror controls in place for the oyster industry.

During the response stage to POMS in NSW, Peak Oyster Advisory Group (POAG) and Aquaculture Research Advisory Committee (ARAC) members (McAsh, Jones, Bulley, Troup) were consulted frequently and their assistance in managing this event is acknowledged by the department. Oyster farmers that assisted by reporting suspicious mortalities (Georges, Shoalhaven, Wallis), helped with surveillance sampling and undertook disease challenge trials (Jones, Drake, Barker) are also thanked for their efforts.

NSW DPI held meetings at the Hawkesbury River and Port Stephens in the early stages of the outbreak to update growers. Broken Bay Oyster Association also coordinated a risk management workshop with the department and relevant support agencies to review management alternatives and consider the implications of restructuring businesses. As a follow up to the workshop an application to undertake a cost benefit analysis for QX resistant Sydney rock oyster culture in the Hawkesbury River has been lodged.

National industry representatives and government will meet in July to discuss the POMS response and future management options. International experts have also been invited to support discussions (Tristan Renault, Isabelle Arzul, Ed Peeler, Angus Cameron).

Industry has organised a session at the 4th International Oyster Symposium at Hobart in September to discuss POMS and industry risk management. Industry has also submitted a Tactical Response Grant to FRDC to send an industry delegation to France (POMS detected in France in 1991) to better understand impacts and on-farm management practices.

The EMAI laboratory continues to support research into the POMS event with recent trials in Woolloomare Bay with selected lines of Pacific oysters. EMAI staff are to be congratulated for their efforts in establishing PCR testing capacity for POMS, managing an immense work load of samples and undertaking ground breaking research while POMS is still virulent in the Georges River.

Contact: Ian Lyall Fisheries 4916 3856 or Melissa Walker 4916 3911

Dr Stuart Rowland retires



On 1 February 2011 family, work colleagues and friends met at Nick Arena's new restaurant Cook-a-Barra at Port Stephens to recognise Stuart's career and outstanding contribution to the aquaculture industry of Australia. An extract of Geoff Allan's speech follows:

Stuart joined fisheries in 1978. He has published nearly 200 research and technical papers and presented approximately 150 invited papers at conferences and workshops. Those are measures of a highly productive international expert and indicate his tremendous contribution to our field. However, they do not do sufficient justice to his accomplishments and I want to summarise some of the highlights here:

- In his early days at Narrandera Fisheries Centre, Stuart developed the technology for breeding and rearing Australian native freshwater fish, Murray cod, golden perch and silver perch. These are our unique freshwater fish fauna and Stuart's work provided the basis for the multi-million dollar freshwater fish hatchery business for restocking, aquaculture and conservation.*
- Stuart studied the biology and ecology of Murray cod, Australia's most famous freshwater fish, and, for the first time, demonstrated the link between river regulation and the decline in abundance in Murray cod and other native fish. This understanding underpins a lot of our approach to river management.*
- Stuart pioneered new techniques for fish taxonomy and described a new species, the Eastern Freshwater cod, *Maccullochella ikei* and a new sub-*

*species, the Mary River cod, *Maccullochella peellii mariensis*. Stuart named the Eastern freshwater cod after his grandfather Isaac (Ike) Morgan Rowland, a great admirer and angler of inland fish, particularly Murray cod.*

- Stuart initiated one of the first breeding projects designed primarily for conservation, for Eastern Freshwater cod. He designed and built Grafton Aquaculture Centre for that purpose. He developed technology for breeding the species and helped re-establish populations of this fish in the wild.*
- Stuart remains the foremost authority on Australian native freshwater fish, particularly Murray cod. He is consulted on a regular basis by all Murray Darling Basin states.*
- Many people in Australia only know of Stuart through his work on silver perch. He is rightly called the father of silver perch aquaculture. Firstly he pioneered hatchery technology, and then when there was a developing hatchery industry, he demonstrated the excellent aquaculture potential of this species.*
- Stuart had worked on understanding the major ectoparasites and fungal diseases of Australian fish and he used that knowledge to develop culture practices to minimise disease problems. He worked to develop cost-effective diets and feeding practices for the industry. Stuart evaluated genetic strains and initiated the science needed for a breeding improvement program. He developed cage culture technology and was working on implementing cage culture of silver perch as a complimentary industry for irrigation farmers.*
- Stuart was first and foremost a biologist but he recognised that industry development needed more than biology. He led policy development on the NSW Silver Perch Taskforce for freshwater aquaculture and created a fledgling extension service.*
- Stuart remains committed to this industry. He has been the greatest advocate for silver perch farmers, for the species and for the industry.*

Stuart is a scientist of the highest integrity and personal ethics. He is an inspiration to young and old scientists everywhere.

Stuart has built many close relationships with very many people and the flood of emails and phone calls we have received from people who wish him well are a testament to how many people Stuart has influenced. Stuart, you have mentored many of our best scientists, technicians, fisheries officers and farmers. On behalf of them all, I want to thank you. Your legacy will outlive you. So, Stuart, have a great time in retirement.

Good luck and best wishes from all of us.

WHATS NEW

Where will seafood come from? Food for thought!

- In Australia we currently import some 70% of the seafood we eat.
- The 925,000 tonnes of seafood imports CSIRO forecasts for 2050 (based on predicted demand here) now seems unlikely to be met due to international competition especially from the rising affluent classes in India and China, as well as traditional western customers. Currently some 200,000 tonnes is imported.
- China is now a net importer of seafood even though they are the world's biggest seafood producer major seafood suppliers appear to be targeting emerging markets with Australia slipping to a lower priority.

Gaol for oyster thief

In January 2011, a 44 year old Forster man was arrested after stealing six dozen oysters from oyster racks in Wallis Lake. The man was brought before Forster court in front of magistrate Shaughan McCosker who said in sentencing, *"a clear message needed to be conveyed to the community that oyster theft will not be tolerated"*. He told the court that oyster farmers were sick of oyster theft and the cost to their businesses. The thief was **sentenced to ten months gaol** with an eight month non-parole period. He was also fined \$2,000 and \$96 court costs. In February 2011, a 38 year old Taree man was arrested after stealing twenty dozen oysters from leases in the Manning River. The thief was fined \$900 and given an 18 month good behaviour bond in Taree local court. This financial year Fisheries and Police Officers have jointly conducted 17 "Trident" operations mainly during peak holiday periods over Christmas and Easter to detect oyster theft along the NSW coast.

Contact: John Timmins NSW DPI 5524 0604

Broken Bay Oysters launch EMS

On 14 April 2011 OceanWatch Australia and Broken Bay Oysters launched the NSW Oyster Environmental Management System (EMS) Project and Broken Bay Oysters EMS. A good turn out of media, chefs, oyster farmers and officials were shown a very professional industry. Official proceedings included an opening by the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Rob Moxham and Brad Warren (Chairman of OceanWatch). Thanks to Simon Marnie from ABC radio for being MC and oyster taste testing commentator. Congratulations to John Stubbs and the rest of the Broken Bay farmers for such a polished performance and stylish presentation.

Contact: Andy Myers OceanWatch 9660 2262

Funds available for the oyster industry

OceanWatch Australia (in partnership with the NSW Farmers Association) and Southern Rivers CMA, have received funding through the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Initiative to develop, review and implement Environmental Management Systems (EMS) for the NSW oyster industry. EMS have already been created in the Hastings, Camden Haven, Hawkesbury, Clyde, Wapengo, Merimbula, Pambula and Wonboyn Lake. Other estuaries developing EMS include Nambucca, Tilligerry Creek, Shoalhaven, Tuross and Wagonga Inlet. To complement the development of EMS, a total of **\$350,000** of incentive funding is currently available to oyster farmers and land-holders to improve water quality and environmental conditions in oyster producing estuaries and their catchments. See attached flyer. Contact: Andy Myers OceanWatch 9660 2262



Shoalhaven/Crookhaven growers at an EMS workshop

Land Based Aquaculture Permit Conditions

Land based aquaculture permit conditions have been condensed into three levels. The first level are those that relate to legislative/administrative functions, second level conditions are generic matters relating to farm type or species, the third level relate to a specific farm situation. The revised conditions are currently being reviewed within the department prior to consultation with industry.

Contact: Graeme Bowley NSW DPI 4916 3845

Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre – Eden

Congratulations to the Centre for their promotion of aquaculture at the Food for Thought Science Forum 2011 and "Grow your own oysters" student educational project sponsored by the Southern Rivers CMA.

See www.sapphirecoastdiscovery.com.au

March storms on the south coast - Relief Grant

Approval for Natural Disaster Relief for up to \$15,000 for clean up and recovery for affected primary producers (Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega areas + inland) was

announced 8 June 2011. This follows representation by Premier O'Farrell to the Commonwealth.

Contact: Rural Assistance Authority 1800 678 593
For Financial Counsellors: Cath Carter 4832 0070 (Illawarra to Batemans Bay), Leanne Jardine 6452 5059 (south of Batemans Bay). Growers with non-financial issues could contact Dick Kearins 0427 781 514

Initiatives to improve the management of septics

A guideline for CMAs, Councils and developers to protect and improve water quality in oyster farming estuaries is being prepared by NSW DPI. The oyster industry has identified on-site sewage management systems (OSMS) as the most significant water quality risk. An EOI to fund a project to address OSMS issues was lodged with the Environmental Trust in April 2011.

The Division of Local Government has also agreed to include oyster industry specific information in the revised version of the 'Environmental and Health Protection Guidelines – On-site Sewerage Management for Single Households', the NSW standard for consistent management of on-site systems. NSW Maritime is also including information in their 'Boating Handbook' on the Shellfish Program and the importance of not discharging effluent from boats near classified harvest areas.

Contact: Tim Gippel NSW DPI 4916 3823

They are on again - Oyster Industry Field Days

The NSW Oyster Industry Field Days are on again so mark the following dates in your diary.

Port Macquarie 20 September 2011

Venue: Port Macquarie Panthers (corner Bay & Park Streets)

Batemans Bay 22 September 2011

Venue: Katalina Golf Club (154 Beach Road)

"Most Beautiful Unopened Oyster Contest". Ever wondered why NSW DPI collects data from this contest. Bring along an entry to the Field Day and find out. Prizes will be awarded in the following classes, "The Most Beautiful Unopened" Sydney rock oyster, Pacific oyster and Flat oyster. Entries are to comprise six unopened oysters. Give your entry a bit of thought.

Preserving your industry's heritage. Thank you to all those farmers who have so far provided material for the "NSW Oyster Industry Heritage Project". If you have any old pictures of farming practices or people in the industry please bring them along to either Field Day and NSW DPI will scan them and record the details.

Contact: Steve McOrrie NSW DPI 4916 3921

Oyster Information Portal

At the University of Wollongong, Shoalhaven, an FRDC-DCCEE funded project is addressing an Australian oyster industry priority for managing climate variability and changes. Researchers are collating available environmental and oyster information for four NSW oyster estuaries (Camden Haven, Hawkesbury, Shoalhaven and Pambula) and integrating it through a web-based portal as a Stage 1 prototype. This will demonstrate how farmers can access and make use of this information for the management of their businesses and responding to environmental change. Stage 2 of the project will look at how to apply this concept nationally. As part of this project we are also trialling some oyster monitoring programs using automated oyster graders so that industry can start collecting information on growth and mortalities at certain locations.

Information workshops on the Oyster Information Portal will be held at the following locations:

- NSW Industry workshops at Camden Haven, Hawkesbury, Shoalhaven and Pambula in the week of 15-19 August 2011.
- Industry workshop prior to the 4th International Oyster Symposium in Hobart, Tasmania. Wednesday 14th September 2011 at the Hobart Function and Conference Centre - 1:00 to 4:30pm.

To register for any of the workshops or for information contact: **Ana Rubio arubio@uow.edu.au 0427 285 999**

FW Trust funded Habitat Action Projects 2010-11

For a list of habitat projects from the recreational fishing trust that have oyster industry benefits see:

http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/366368/freshwater-trust-habitat-action-projects-2010-11.pdf

UPDATES

Derelict oyster lease clean up

A \$45,000 grant from the Hunter Central Rivers CMA has resulted in the clean up of 26 hectares of derelict lease area in Port Stephens. The clean up area included a popular tourist and boating area near the Singing Bridge at Tea Gardens. The Oyster Lease Clean Up Project has now resulted in the clean up of more than 260 hectares of derelict lease area. NSW DPI will continue this work through clean up projects funded by government grants; legal action against lessees and debt recovery for those who do not comply with clean up legislation. We are also using administrative policy to improve clean-up outcomes. For example, lease transactions will not be progressed if a lessee has outstanding lease clean up responsibilities on a terminated lease.

Contact: Katie Sachs I&I NSW 4916 3913

**NSW OYSTER INDUSTRY
CONTRACTOR REGISTER**

NSW DPI is calling for expressions of interest from oyster farmers and other interested parties to be included on a Contractor Register to carry out work for the remediation and clean up of oyster lease areas and other related work.

When NSW DPI identifies oyster lease areas that require remediation or clean up, contractors on the register will be invited to submit a quote for the work.

Those who have already registered do not need to reapply.

Contact: Katie Sachs 4916 3913 or Steve McOrrie 4916 3921

Aquaculture Research Advisory Committee (ARAC)

Your ARAC, comprising six members of industry and representatives of NSW DPI meets regularly to investigate and evaluate the requirement for aquaculture research and development in NSW. Following consultation with NSW Aquaculture Industries and with reference to national and overseas experience, ARAC developed a five year R&D Strategic Plan (2007-2012).

Later this year the R&D plan will undergo major revision and the Committee will seek submissions from aquaculture permit holders for research initiatives, giving you an opportunity to convey your ideas and advise of the issues that may be constraining the growth of your business. We will write to all aquaculture permit holders later in the year. ARAC meets again on 21 July 2011. ARAC last met in Sydney on 10 March 2011. For a meeting summary and the current R&D plan see: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/committees.

Contact: Jo Pickles NSW DPI 4916 3901

Nutrients in aquaculture pond waters

Sampling was undertaken from late April to early May 2011 to obtain information on the nutrient values of the waters within freshwater pond based aquaculture facilities. To date NSW DPI has supplied State and local government agencies with estimated figures based on modeled nutrient values. The initial analysis reports appear to support the department's view that aquaculture waste waters contain low levels of nutrients. The final report shall be provided with the next newsletter.

Contact: Graeme Bowley NSW DPI 4916 3845

Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy

An inter agency OISAS review working group was established under the State Aquaculture Steering Committee. POAG will be the key industry liaison group

for the review. Direct grower consultation at the estuary level (similar to 2006 consultation) is being planned.

Industry issues that have been added to the review include: estuary entrance management, OSMS management, land base leases added to OISAS, climate change adaption, signs and the rafts best practice guidelines. It is also proposed to use this opportunity to identify research needs to improve policy or inform this policy platform.

Contact: Tim Gippel NSW DPI 4916 3823

Hatchery Quality Assurance Scheme (HQAS) update

The HQAS has been amended to reflect new research relating to the genetics of Australian bass and a review of HQAS zones. Australian bass fingerlings produced from genetic stock from one region may now be stocked into an adjoining region, ie Zone AB1 to AB2 but not AB1 to AB3. Research is ongoing for the far north and south of the State as some genetic differences in these areas have been detected. The HQAS Zone 7 (Murray) will be realigned to include the lower portion of the Darling River catchment downstream of the Menindee Main Weir and the Murray River west of the Darling River confluence to the South Australian border. The Menindee Main Weir forms a barrier to fish movements. Fish stocked into this region have restricted access to the rest of the Darling catchment but can freely move into or from the Murray River catchment.

Contact: Graeme Bowley NSW DPI 4916 3845

Extension to complete Pacific oyster closure review

In March 2011 the department gained POAG support to extend the existing Pacific oyster control closure until December 2013 due to the POMS response. This will allow adequate time to develop the revised closure in consultation with industry.

Contact: Melissa Walker NSW DPI 4916 3911



NSW DPI staff standardising counting methods for the Pacific Oyster Survey

Marine Waters Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy

The Aquaculture Management team is preparing a strategy to guide marine aquaculture development. This builds on the success of the NSW Oyster Industry and Land Based Aquaculture Sustainable Aquaculture Strategies. Zoning marine waters has been successful in attracting significant marine aquaculture industry development in Tasmania and South Australia. Queensland and Victoria have completed or are close to completing similar marine waters zoning projects. The NSW strategy will target offshore finfish and mussel farming in Jervis and Twofold bays.

Contact: Tim Gippel NSW DPI 4916 3823

South Coast Pacific oyster control efforts

On 28 May 2011 a working bee was held in the Clyde River to target identified Pacific oyster 'hotspots' along the River's foreshore. The local growers were joined by volunteers from the Nature Coastal Marine Group and Southern Rivers CMA staff. Growers and the Batemans Bay Aboriginal Lands Council's Koori Work Crew also found a 'hotspot' near the Nelligen Bridge. So far 11,571 Pacific oysters have been culled along this stretch of foreshore which extends for only a few hundred metres. The oysters appear to be favouring granite boulders which form an artificial rock wall constructed several years ago to stabilise the riverbank. The Wagonga Rangers are also working with the local oyster growers to control Pacific oysters from foreshore areas in Wagonga Inlet for the fourth winter running. The partnership between the growers and the Koori Work Crews in these two estuaries has proven to be an effective model. It not only helps to improve the sustainability of the oyster industry but also provides employment opportunities for the local Aboriginal community to continue their work as coastal custodians.

Contact: Jillian Keating SRCMA 4475 1000

Aquaculture Administration services

The Aquaculture Unit continues to streamline procedures to reduce processing times for permit and lease applications. Since 2006/2007 we have been working steadily to reduce the turn around time for transfers as shown below:

Av. No. of Work Days to Complete – No. transferred		
2006/2007	96 days	125
2007/2008	66 days	141
2008/2009	24 days	146
2009/2010	24 days	84
2010/2011	22 days	99

This financial year, 16 lease based permits have been granted and 8 land based permits have been granted with two permit applications pending.

Contact: Janine Sakker NSW DPI 4916 3847

Ornamental fish – NSW Noxious Fish List

NSW has now adopted both Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 of a Nationally Agreed Noxious Fish list, bringing the number of listings to 140. Compliance with the changes is required from 1 July 2011. Search for "noxious fish" – www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or **contact the Aquatic Biosecurity team on 4982 1232**

Oil/chemical spill emergency response

Recent emergency responses in Tuross Lake and the Hunter River have highlighted a failure to notify the oyster industry, NSW DPI and the NSW Food Authority in a timely fashion. The Hunter River spill resulted in significant crop losses and hardship for farmers. Changes have been made to notification protocols so that agencies receive text messages which will help early industry notification. Recommendations were also made for changes to response protocols to recognise the aquaculture industry and its role in an estuary.

Contact: Ian Lyall NSW DPI 4916 3856

Land Based Aquaculture Consultative Group update

Actions arising from the July 2010 LBACG meeting will be discussed via a telelink with members in July 2011. Key issues include Minor Use Permits for aquaculture chemicals, harmonising native fish health management, HQAS, broodstock collection issues, and research proposals looking at nutrients in aquaculture waters. See www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/committees/land-based

Contact: Graeme Bowley NSW DPI 4916 3845

Peak Oyster Advisory Group what's on the agenda?

POAG met on 19 May 2011 to discuss a number of key oyster industry issues including: waste discharge from vessels; proposed research into the interaction between oyster cultivation methods and seagrass; the review of the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy; on-site sewage management in oyster farming estuaries; oyster lease clean up initiatives; proposed Biosecurity disease preparedness workshops; POMS and Winter Mortality research; oyster lease compliance; and NSW Shellfish Program issues. See www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/committees/poag **Contact: Steve McOrrie NSW DPI 4916 3921**

Winter Mortality study in Sydney rock oysters

A study launched in February 2010 to gain a better understanding of Winter Mortality and its causes is nearing completion. This study has been undertaken by NSW DPI researchers at PSFI and EMAI in collaboration with oyster farmers in the Shoalhaven and Georges rivers. Sampling involved the collection of oysters every three weeks from March to November 2010.

DNA testing has been completed which confirmed the presence of two protozoan parasites *Bonamia* and *Haplosporidium* in oyster specimens. Results show that *Haplosporidium* is very prevalent in Sydney rock oysters from both the Georges and Crookhaven rivers and is present from March through to November, with a peak occurring in April, July and September 2010. *Bonamia* was not detected in any of the Crookhaven oysters, but was detected in the Georges River oysters with a peak occurring in August to September.

Additional micro-cell like structures (similar to *Haplosporidium* or *Bonamia*) were discovered in oysters from Georges River around September 2010. During this time, changes in the gut of the oysters have correlated with a winter kill event during which approximately 25% of oysters were affected. EMAI researchers will continue to process the samples to determine if there is a specific window of infection; whether fluctuations in water salinity at the sampling sites can be correlated with the prevalence of either or both parasites.

Contact: Melissa Walker NSW DPI 4916 3911

Annual Production Reports - reminder

Production returns will be forwarded to all permit holders in the last week in August 2011. Please submit forms by the 30 September 2011. Your co-operation is appreciated. For past years' production see <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/publications/aquaculture-production-reports>

Contact: Janine Sakker NSW DPI 4916 3847

Fish Health Screening

Aquaculture Managers from Vic/NSW/Qld have been working to progress the recommendations arising from the *Harmonising Native Fish Health Management and Screening between Victoria, NSW and Queensland* project. Agreement has been reached to adopt the Qld Fish Health Certification Program or equivalent to streamline disease testing between states as an alternative to batch testing. It focuses on improving hatchery systems to prevent disease entry, thorough farm-based disease investigation and documentation, and encompasses known and emerging diseases. The program is flexible and diseases of concern can be added as required.

This approach would result in a decrease in the rate and cost of testing over time should hatcheries continue to return negative test results. NSW accredited HQAS facilities are well placed to take advantage of the Fish Health Certification Program as they already have Health Management Plans implemented and mandatory disease surveillance recording standards in place.

Contact: Graeme Bowley NSW DPI 4916 3845

Upcoming events

The 7th Sydney Fish Market, NSW Seafood Excellence Awards will be held in the Centennial Hall of Sydney Town Hall on Saturday, 30 July 2011.

www.seafoodexcellenceawards.com.au

Australian Prawn and Barramundi Farmers Association Conference 3-5 August 2011, Darling Harbour Sydney

Oyster Information Portal industry workshops at Camden Haven, Hawkesbury, Shoalhaven and Pambula 15-19 August 2011 (see below)

NSW Oyster Industry Field Days 20 September Port Macquarie, 22 September Batemans Bay 2011

4th International Oyster Symposium 15 September



The meeting will address topics related to "Embracing the Future through Innovation" with leading oyster scientists and industry representatives. Speakers will include: Dr Stan Allen discussing developments with triploid oysters and Dr Qi Li discussing oyster breeding in China. An update on POMS will be provided. Farmers from all states are encouraged to attend. More information at (www.worldoyster.org/index_e.html) and Oysters Tasmania (www.oysterstasmania.org)

Contact: Wayne O'Connor NSW DPI 4916 3906

Australasian Aquaculture 2012 announced



See <http://www.australian-aquacultureportal.com/>

New legislation to protect marine vegetation

The grazing or movement of stock on marine vegetation (mangroves, salt marsh) is now recognised as a harmful activity following amendments to legislation. The definition of a "protected area" was also amended so now any stock grazing on marine vegetation on Crown Land below the astronomical high tide is an offence.

Contact: Sarah Fairfull NSW DPI 6626 1369

Call for membership - NSW Land Based Aquaculture Consultative Group

The NSW Land Based Aquaculture Consultative Group (LBACG) is a non- statutory group with an independent chair appointed by the Minister.

Following adoption of the NSW Land Based Aquaculture Consultative Group (LBACG), Operational Guidelines, NSW DPI is seeking expressions of interest for membership.

The membership of the LBACG is structured to provide representation for the various NSW land based aquaculture species sectors, associations, supporting industries and officers from NSW DPI and other relevant government agencies. Members of the LBACG are required to:-

- Negotiate to achieve the best outcomes for NSW land based aquaculture industries,
- Contribute to the ongoing development of a viable, sustainable aquaculture industry in NSW,
- Put forward views clearly, concisely and with respect,
- Actively seek solutions that result in the best possible outcomes for NSW land based aquaculture industries through consensus-based discussion, notwithstanding issues that might not directly benefit their interest group, organisation or region,
- Observe confidentiality, and exercise tact and discretion when dealing with the Group's business,
- Make the necessary commitment of time to ensure they have an understanding of the background to issues being discussed by the Group, and
- Consult with the relevant industry sector through the appropriate regional and industry associations.

A member of the LBACG may hold office for a term of three years and is eligible for re-appointment.

It should be noted that no sitting fees are paid to members and all expenses incurred in attending meetings are met by the individual or the organisation the individual represents. There is generally one meeting per year in Sydney with any other meeting held by teleconference if pressing issues arise outside the meeting.

Applications should be written by the person applying for membership and must address the following criteria:

1. Experience with the NSW land based aquaculture industry or supporting industries.
2. Understanding of issues facing the NSW land based aquaculture industry.
3. Ability to communicate effectively with NSW aquaculture farmers and government
4. Capacity to contribute to NSW land based aquaculture industry and industry development

Applications should be marked 'Confidential' and sent to:

**Mr Graeme Bowley
NSW Department of Primary Industries
Locked Bag 1
Nelson Bay NSW 2315**

Nominations close on **29 July 2011** and for further information on the operation of the LBACG please contact the Graeme Bowley on (02) 4916 3845 or refer to the department's website at:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/committees/land-based

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