



aquaculture news

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Land based aquaculture recovery

Following extended drought conditions across NSW there has been a noted increase in production volumes and farm gate prices for the hatchery and food fish/prawn sectors. It is hoped that permit holders in flood affected areas are coping with wet conditions. See attached **Provisional 2009/10 Aquaculture Production Report**

NSW Aquaculture Steering Committee

The Aquaculture Steering Committee met 29 November 2010. Chaired by Richard Sheldrake, the Committee includes representatives from I&I NSW (Fisheries, NSW Food Authority, and State Regional Development and Tourism), Department of Premier and Cabinet and Division of Local Government, Department of Planning, Department of Environment Climate Change and Water, NSW Maritime and the Land and Property Management Authority.

The Committee endorsed a draft Terms of Reference and addressed the following issues:

- Improving NSW's competitiveness to attract aquaculture investment with discussion centred on a report on developing marine aquaculture in NSW,
- Progressing a NSW Marine Waters Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy using two current development proposals (one shellfish and one finfish) to guide the process,
- Communicating with the Commonwealth to promote the opportunity for aquaculture industry development in Commonwealth Waters,
- Coordinating agencies to assist with the review of the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy (OISAS),
- Developing a project to address water quality issues impacting oyster harvest areas, in particular on-site sewage management systems (OSMS), and
- Addressing issues raised in a letter from NSW Farmers Association (Oyster Section) identifying industry priorities that include: OSMS, Lands leases in OISAS, estuary openings, climate change and structural adjustment.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2011.

Contact: Ian Lyall I&I NSW 4916 3856

Promotional videos

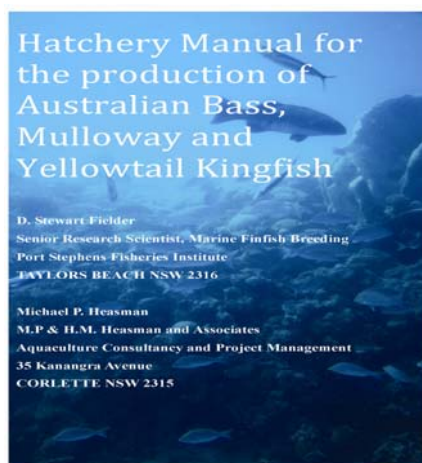
Three successful aquaculture farmers are highlighted as part of a series of videos to promote the NSW aquaculture industry. The videos feature Nick Arena (Port Stephens Barramundi) and oyster farmers Bob Drake and Rob Moxham. See

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/starting-up/innovation>

Food Regulation 2010

The NSW Food Authority has completed a remake of the Food Regulation which became effective as of 18 June 2010. An updated NSW Shellfish Industry Manual was also implemented. This manual contains the requirements for businesses harvesting or collecting bivalve shellfish for human consumption. The new manual and regulation can be found on the NSW Food Authority website at: <http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au>

Contact: Anthony Zammit NSWFA 1300 522 406



Hatchery manual for marine fish

I&I NSW has documented information on successful techniques for culturing juvenile Australian bass (*Macquaria novemaculeata*), mulloway (*Argyrosomus japonicus*) and yellowtail kingfish (*Seriola lalandi*). This manual provides specialised instruction on: how to collect and reproductively condition these species to spawn; how to induce them to spawn; and how to hatchery-rear their young through the larval stages suitable for on-farming or for stocking.

Contact: Stewart Fielder I&I NSW 4916 3902

Shed talks - Batemans Bay and Port Stephens

Farming profits took centre stage at the Shed Talks put on by the Australian Seafood CRC, I&I NSW and NSW Farmers Association in November with 70+ growers attending. A few tips were given from the Seafood CRC benchmarking project that considered financial and production data from 32 Australian oyster growers.

- Net profits are greatest when production is between 100,000 and 250,000 dozen,



Industry & Investment

- Reducing labour costs is critical, eg a double barrel grader costs \$0.09/dozen to unload, grade & reload versus \$0.27/dozen for hand grading, and
- The need to look after and keep good staff.

The Seafood CRC is looking for more NSW farmers to participate in the benchmarking study. If you want to know which parts of your operation could be targeted to improve profitability, please call Shane Comiskey on 07 3217 6466. All information is confidential and participants receive a confidential business performance report.

Sydney rock oyster an export gold mine? In modelling the growth of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in Pacific and Sydney rock oysters in a Seafood CRC project, it was shown that *Vibrio* does not grow in Sydney rock oysters. *Vibrio* is one of the giants in international food safety risks. Food safety related shelf life was modelled for Pacific oysters so that growers can tweak storage and transport temperatures to reduce product losses. Final results for bacteria growth in Sydney rock oysters may trigger a move to change refrigeration regulations.

Taste test! Sydney rock and Pacific oysters from regions around Australia were tasted according to a CSIRO taste 'descriptor' language. The language and its related 'biochemistry' will be used in the breeding program and marketing work.

Fine tuning oyster breeding. Having focussed on fast growth and disease resistance (QX and Winter mortality), attention has turned to breeding oysters for 'climate change resistance (pH and temperature)' and for condition.

What do consumers think of oysters? The Seafood CRC also conducted research into seafood consumption. They will now trial a chilled prepacked range of seafood in a supermarket to address the issues consumers have raised in buying seafood. Contact: Rachel King rkoyster@yahoo.com.au or 0425 237 566



The World Oyster Society, in conjunction with Oysters Tasmania, has recently announced that the fourth International Oyster Symposium will be held in Hobart from the 15 September, 2011. The meeting which attracts leading oyster scientists and industry representatives will focus on "Embracing the Future through Innovation". Industry issues will be covered and oyster farmers from all states are encouraged to attend. See www.worldoyster.org/index_e.html or Oysters Tasmania www.oysterstasmania.org

Tender of aquaculture leases

I&I NSW offered eighteen lease areas in various estuaries by way of tender in September 2010. Eleven tenders were received for five of the areas offered. The department is in the process of progressing applications for the successful tenderers. The next scheduled tender of aquaculture leases is March/April in 2011. You may submit an application for an aquaculture lease at any time during the year and are not required to pay the application fee at that time. Only the successful tenderer/applicant pays the application fee. Lease application forms and the aquaculture lease allocation policy are available on the I&I NSW website. See www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture
Contact: Aquaculture Administration 4982 1232

Hawkesbury River – AQIS export approved

In October this year AQIS approved the Hawkesbury River for export to Asia Pacific. This is a great opportunity for the growers and is testament to the works they have completed with Hornsby Council. Significant influences in AQIS determining this approval included:

- the installation of toilets for river users at Marra Marra;
- implementation of the Hawkesbury oyster industry EMS;
- real time salinity and chlorophyll monitoring;
- the expansion of the reticulated sewage system in the local townships of Brooklyn and Mooney Mooney;
- several user friendly boat pump-out facilities that are complemented with 'boater floater' signage;
- Council communication and education programs with residents in regards to OSMS and inspection regimes; and
- clean up days removing rubbish and derelict oyster lease infrastructure

Contact: NSW Food Authority 1300 522 406

Ornamental fish - NSW Noxious Fish List

After implementation of a six month advisory period, and distribution of 1,000's of brochures to industry and hobbyist stakeholders, compliance with the NSW Noxious Fish List was required from 1 October 2010. Following consultation with NSW ornamental fish stakeholders and additional risk assessment work the NSW Noxious Fish List in 2011 will include an additional 67 species and family groups. See www.industry.nsw.gov.au and search for "noxious fish".

Contact: Melissa Walker I&I NSW 4916 3911



NSW oyster industry history project

Thank you to all oyster farmers who responded to the call for archival material. I&I NSW intends to attend the 2011 Oyster Industry Field Days with a scanning device so that farmers can bring materials for scanning and archiving on the day.
Contact: Steve McOrrie I&I NSW 4916 3921

Pacific oyster survey now complete

In August 2010, two I&I NSW field teams began a survey program that targeted 30 NSW oyster-farming estuaries. The survey was developed to collect information on the distribution and abundance of Pacific oysters. The survey is complete, and the data is currently being analysed. The information from this survey will be used in a risk-based review of the existing Pacific oyster control closure which has been in force since the 1980's. Consultation with industry will occur during the review of the closure. Thank you to the industry members who helped the survey teams, your assistance and local knowledge has been invaluable to the process.

Contact: **Melissa Walker I&I NSW 4916 3911**

Aquaculture production report – with thanks

Many thanks to the permit holders who returned their annual aquaculture report by the due date. Your efforts are much appreciated and this allows the Aquaculture Administration team to focus on completing your permit and lease applications/transfers.

Oyster theft – Operation TRIDENT

A total of nine reports of oyster theft have been recorded in the Fisheries data base during the last twelve months. Value of stolen oysters ranged from \$200 to \$20,000. A recent theft of about \$5,000 worth of oysters from Port Stephens was reported to the Rural Crime Squad and detectives at Nelson Bay. Local radio also highlighted the danger of buying oysters from disreputable sources. During the last twelve months Fisheries Officers have conducted covert and overt patrols, some jointly with police targeting oyster theft. A total of 31 Trident patrols were carried out totalling 151 patrol hours. Two persons were detected in possession of oysters that were commercially cultivated and did not hold an aquaculture permit. There are now three ways to report illegal activity and oyster theft in NSW: 1) contact your local fisheries officer, 2) leave a report on the Fisher's Watch phone line 1800 043 536; and 3) fill out the new on-line reporting form on our fisheries compliance webpage.

To access the illegal fishing reporting form go to: <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/compliance/report-illegal-activity>

Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) shipment reporting

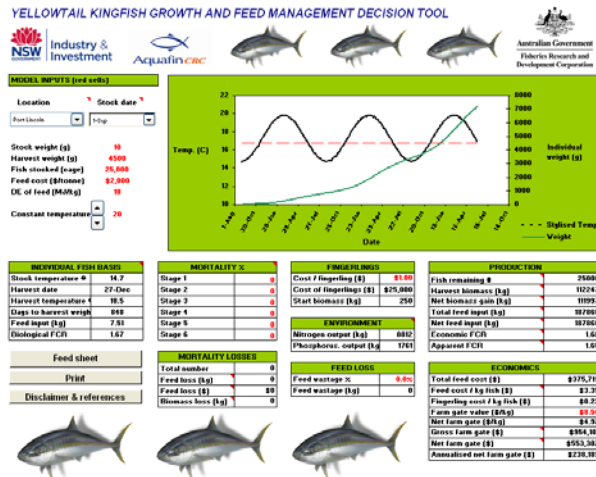
Compliance Planning and Reporting Coordinator Philip McCarthy has progressed the IVR program to allow for reporting oyster shipments via telephone. He has completed preliminary telephone trials. An update will be provided at the next POAG meeting.

Contact: **John Timmins I&I NSW 5524 0604**

Hatchery Quality Assurance Scheme (HQAS)

Following compliance audits in 2010 the HQAS was reviewed and amendments made to ensure effective operation of the scheme. The changes included: clarification on the number of larvae to be used from each successful spawning to make up a batch prior to stocking a fingerling pond; a requirement to keep breeding records; and an amendment to the Hatchery Dispatch and Health Statement form to make recording of parent pit tags optional as they are still traceable through breeding records. Information regarding approved marking techniques for fingerlings was also included.

Contact: **Graeme Bowley I&I NSW 4916 3845** or see <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/publications/general>



Interactive growth and feed management tool

The Aquaculture Nutrition Research Unit has developed two interactive growth and feed forecasting models for yellowtail kingfish and mullet. Each model is based on a blend of scientific and farm based research conducted during the Aquafin CRC Project known as Feed Technology for Temperate Fish Species. Both models are largely constructed using bio-energetic principles that incorporate data on growth rate at different temperatures, digestibility of feeds and nutrient utilisation. Model outputs such as biological or economic feed conversion ratio (FCR), feed requirement and environmental outputs of nitrogen and phosphorus can be estimated by altering inputs such as water temperature, stocking size and stocking location. Each model also estimates simple economic measures of production based on the price of feed and fingerlings and the expected farm gate price of fish. Contact: **Mark Booth I&I NSW 4916 3816**

Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (SRCMA)

For several years the SRCMA has been working with the oyster industry and I&I NSW on the south coast of NSW. Projects include habitat rehabilitation (stock fencing), infrastructure replacement, development of EMSs, clean up work of industry related debris as well as other litter, road works, noxious fish control and industry promotion. The beneficial work has been very ably coordinated by Jillian Keating, Kirsti Sampson and Helen Davies. At the recent National Coastal Conference David Maidment (Wagonga grower) supported the SRCMA's presentation on "SPAT – Southern Producers Achieving Together". Many of the south coast estuaries are now looking fantastic with most rubbish including industry debris removed from foreshore areas, and 'trouble spots' have also been identified and flagged for future work. The local oyster industry and the SRCMA are to be commended for the fine effort they have put in with great results which the benefit of the whole community.

Contact: **Matt Proctor I&I NSW 6496 8200**

Winter Mortality study - Georges and Shoalhaven rivers

Sampling has involved the collection of oysters every three weeks from March to November and was completed at the end of November 2010. The results to date have yet to determine the role of any causative agent, however, examination of oysters from both estuaries have identified what appears to be a disease event starting in late September through to and including November. Further investigations are underway on these oysters to determine the nature of this event and the possible cause(s).

Contact: **Melissa Walker I&I NSW 4916 3911**

Far South Coast 2010 lease inspections completed

Fisheries Officers from the far south coast district have responsibility for approximately 350 oyster leases spread across seven oyster growing estuaries being Wonboyn Lake, Kiah River, Pambula Lake, Merimbula Lake, Bega River, Nelson Lagoon and Wapengo Lake. This year the inspections commenced in May and were concluded by July. Fisheries Officers are pleased to report that, generally speaking, the oyster leases of the far south coast are in good condition with notices issued for typically minor matters. The local officers would like to commend the far south coast oyster industry on their professional and responsible approach to managing their leases and would encourage them to keep up the good work!

Contact: Matt Protcor I&I NSW 6496 8200

Broken Bay Oysters Association hosts Wallis Lake growers

On 19 October 2010 Hawkesbury growers hosted Wallis Lake growers for a field day on how they culture triploid Pacific oysters. Contact: John Stubbs BBOA 0404833194



Steve Jones, Rob Moxham and Bruce Alford BBOA

Environment Management System (EMS)

An application submitted by OceanWatch Australia in conjunction with the NSW Farmers Oyster Committee has been funded by the national Caring for Country Program. The project worth \$400,000 will focus on the production and review of Oyster EMSs for NSW. The project has \$200,000 of incentives to implement actions with a kick off early in 2011. This is an industry led project. If you would like to be involved in the project or have any thoughts on EMS, future field days or industry environmental opportunities we encourage you to take part in the project. Contact: Simon Rowe OceanWatch Australia 9660 2262 simon@oceanwatch.org.au

Climate Change

The National Climate Change Adaptation Research Network for Marine Biodiversity and Resources has completed an analysis of the Australian oyster industry following a series of meetings with growers and government agencies. The focus was to scope stakeholders needs to prepare for and manage the risk associated with climate change. Issues considered included: constraints to whole of catchment management, engagement within the industry and with government, efficiency in coordinating public sector management and maintaining and developing skilled staff. An additional meeting focusing on marine biodiversity and resources was attended by I&I NSW and Tony Troup (ARAC). See www.nccarf.edu.au/marine/

Wonboyn River entrance management

The Wonboyn River growers organised a meeting with State Government agencies, Bega Valley Shire Councillors and Council officers as well as SRCMA to better manage entrance openings. The meeting concluded that an entrance opening strategy would be prepared by Council as part of a program looking at the management of several estuaries in the area. This strategy may include provisions for emergency openings on the basis of high water levels threatening community infrastructure and/or water quality triggers for when oyster survival is threatened. This is similar to the approach taken by Greater Taree City Council with the Old Bar entrance to the Manning River. On-going maintenance dredging to keep the entrance permanently open was not seen as a viable, sustainable or desirable option.

Contact: Tim Gippel I&I NSW 4916 3823

OISAS review

OISAS was gazetted in December 2006. The strategy has a five year review trigger and is due to be reviewed in 2011. A joint agency review working group will be convened. Industry consultation for the review will be through POAG. Estuary level meetings similar to those held in 2006 will be undertaken if necessary. Any industry member who has an issue they want addressed in the review should submit their ideas to POAG members. Contact: Tim Gippel I&I NSW 4916 3823

Nutrient levels in freshwater aquaculture discharges

For a number of recent Development Applications lodged for freshwater aquaculture facilities, local Councils have been very cautious on how to classify and assess freshwater aquaculture discharge water. This has led to significant delays in the approvals process. Unfortunately, there is limited information on water/nutrient budgets in aquaculture discharge water and culture ponds from typical commercial aquaculture farms in NSW. With the financial assistance of ARAC it is proposed to undertake a sampling/monitoring program in March/April 2011 for intensive/extensive freshwater farms in NSW. The department will be contacting selected farms in the New Year seeking their participation in the project.

Contact Graeme Bowley I&I NSW 4916 3845

Oil Spill - Hunter leases impacted

On 25 August 2010 a 21 year-old Liberian-flagged coal carrier, the Magdalene, accidentally pumped "bunker crude" oil mixed with ballast water into the south arm of Hunter River while de-ballasting to take on coal at Kooragang Island. It was estimated that in excess of 12 tonnes of oil may have been discharged. The spill had a significant downstream impact on mangroves, saltmarsh areas, birdlife and the rivers intertidal zone and breakwalls. While the nearest oyster leases are in the north arm of the river and are some 4.5 km away, prevailing tidal and wind conditions caused a significant amount of oil to pass through the leases on the high tide. Subsequent testing of the oysters by the NSW Food Authority revealed evidence of oil contaminants within the oysters. Clean up efforts to remove the tar-like oil from the environment have been underway for a number of months. Compensation is being sought from the ship's insurance underwriters by affected oyster farmers. Following a meeting with Newcastle Port Corporation 16 December 2010, I&I NSW and industry will contribute to an incident response review and a working group will be established to oversee recovery plans for the oyster industry.

Contact: Steve McOrrie I&I NSW 4916 3921

Derelict oyster lease clean up

The Oyster Lease Clean Up Project is continuing to reduce the number of derelict leases in NSW estuaries. Actions include: I&I NSW administrative policy (see below); legal action (actions underway to recover clean up costs against former lessees); work funded via Catchment Management Authority grants; and I&I NSW initiatives such as the derelict lease offer. More than 200 terminated leases have been cleaned up over the past three years. The latest success is a \$45,000 grant from the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority which will be used to clean up some more non-Priority Oyster Aquaculture Area lease areas in Port Stephens.

Contact: Katie Sachs I&I NSW 4916 3913

Refusal of oyster lease transactions

A number of growers have not had an oyster lease transaction (application, renewal, transfer) progressed because they have outstanding clean up responsibilities on terminated lease(s). This administrative policy forms part of the department's effort to reduce the legacy of derelict leases in NSW. The transactions have been refused because "the applicant has, in the Minister's opinion, a poor record of managing one or more other leased areas" (Clauses 31(3)(e), 39(3)(d) and 45(4)(e) of the *Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2007*).

Contact: Katie Sachs I&I NSW 4916 3913

Development Application referrals under SEPP 62

I&I NSW continues to provide responses and preliminary advice for proposed developments which may have an impact on oyster aquaculture. Thirteen proposed developments were reviewed between July and December 2010, ranging from rural subdivisions to individual on-site sewage management systems.

Contact: Tim Gippel I&I NSW 4916 3823

Peak Oyster Advisory Group - what's on the agenda?

For those new to the oyster industry the Peak Oyster Advisory Group (POAG) is the key oyster industry consultative body for NSW. It comprises representatives from the oyster industry nominated by the NSW Farmers' Association (Oyster Section) and representatives from I&I NSW, the NSW Food Authority (NSWFA) and other agencies. It meets three times per year to discuss issues relating to the management and future development of the industry. It is a non-statutory committee (unpaid members) with an independent Chair (Mr Terry Healey, Barrister-at-Law). Should you have an issue that you believe needs to be discussed at POAG you can contact an industry member or I&I NSW to discuss having the issue placed on the POAG meeting agenda. POAG met on 6 September 2010 and discussed a number of issues including: recent changes to legislation and Policy affecting the industry; the forthcoming review of OISAS; progress in the implementation of the Diffuse Source Water Pollution Strategy; and OSMS. See: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/committees/

Raft construction guidelines finalised

A document "Best Practice Guidelines for Oyster Raft Construction" is being prepared for publication and will soon be available on the I&I NSW website. These guidelines were developed in cooperation with POAG and were circulated in draft form for industry comment in October 2010. The Guidelines seek to address concerns raised by industry following the north coast floods as to the standards of raft construction and raft mooring. Key components of the Guidelines will be considered for inclusion in OISAS. Farmers are reminded that approval is

required from I&I NSW prior to establishing drum or pontoon rafts on an oyster lease area. Where approval is granted the lease will be endorsed for "Raft Cultivation".

Contact: Steve McOrrie I&I NSW 4982 1232

Land Based Aquaculture Consultative Group (LBACG)

The LBACG group met in Sydney on the 26 July 2010. Key agenda items included:

- NSW LBACG member Andrew Carroll (Palmers Island Mulloway) was congratulated on receiving **NSW Young Farmer of the Year Award**.
- Following advice from the National Aquaculture Council that it was reluctant to hold Minor Use Permits (MUPs) for aquaculture chemicals, industry will seek assistance from private sector chemical company/s to manage MUPs issued by the APVMA.
- I&I NSW advised that the harmonising native fish disease screening consultancy between Vic, NSW & Qld was completed. Industry raised issues relating to interim batch testing requirements, disease prevalence within States, ongoing disease research and sought an implementation date for recommendations by July 2011.
- Industry noted the lack of a dedicated aquaculture extension position which they considered a priority to support industry development.
- The department provided an overview of the recreational fish stocking \$4\$ program. Industry requested an opportunity for commercial Hatchery Quality Assurance Scheme hatchery representatives to speak to the Recreational Freshwater Fishing Trust Expenditure Committee.
- Industry were asked to review and provide comments on a draft document outlining broodstock issues to be included in a Species Impact Statements for the Darling and Lachlan Endangered Ecological Communities.
- An item to consider the formation of a NSW Aquaculture Industry Peak Body was not supported by Industry.
- Industry representatives outlined the difficulty that some new entrants were experiencing in progressing aquaculture developments through the relevant consent authorities in NSW. The department detailed how it had streamlined applications to a single agency for oyster leases and extensive aquaculture. I&I NSW advised that in future it would assist by participating in planning focus meetings with the proponent and Council.
- Industry endorsed the [NSW Land Based Aquaculture Consultative Group – Operational Guidelines](#)
- The department provided information on: the Hatchery Quality Assurance Scheme; amendments to aquaculture penalty provisions; the land based aquaculture permit conditions review; the administration transaction report, Narrandera Fisheries Centre Open Day 9 October 2010; a Compliance update; proposed discharge water quality project; energy audits of aquaculture farms and an ARAC update.

Contact Graeme Bowley I&I NSW 4916 3845

Monosulphidic black what???

For a number of years there have been unexplained oyster mortality events in the Macleay River. The impact of surrounding land use practices on water quality in the oyster growing areas has been suspected as a contributing factor to these mortalities. In response to concerns by local oyster growers DECCW

conducted a survey of oysters, water and bottom sediments in affected areas. The samples were tested for a broad range of pesticide and fungicide residues, however no residues were found. The analysis did however indicate sulphide levels that in some instances were sufficient to cause oyster mortality. The report suggested that these sulphides were likely the product of acid sulphate soil oxidation products being mobilised following heavy rains. Deposits of these iron rich sulphides often occur in tributaries and man-made drains in acid sulphate soil areas and are called Monosulphidic Black Ooze (MBO). An investigation is now underway in the Macleay River to investigate the possible link between MBO and oyster mortality in oyster growing areas. The report is due to be completed early in 2011.

Contact: Steve McOrrie I&I NSW 4916 3921

Trial of triploid Pacific oysters proposed for Wapengo

An application to conduct a Triploid Pacific oyster growth trial on leases in Wapengo Lagoon has been lodged by a consortium of Wapengo oyster farmers. The application was accompanied by a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) prepared by an environmental consultant. I&I NSW invited written comment on the proposed trial and the REF from local oyster growers and the Bega Shire Council. I&I NSW will consider all written submissions to be lodged by 14 January 2011 prior to making a decision on the proposal.

Contact: Tim Gippel I&I NSW 4916 3823

Accumulation of algal biotoxins in oysters

Paralytic shellfish toxins (PSTs) are produced by certain algal species. Shellfish feeding on these algae is the primary means of PSP poisoning in humans. Shellfish species however differ greatly in their capacity to accumulate and depurate PSTs. A recent study of toxin uptake in Pacific oysters found that the factors such as metabolic rate and reproductive condition greatly affected the uptake of PSTs. Researchers from NSW and Sydney universities and I&I NSW have been successful in getting funding from the Australia Research Council to determine the temperature-dependent uptake and depuration of PSTs in Sydney rock oysters and diploid and triploid Pacific oysters, and to look at the mechanisms responsible for the oysters resistance to PSTs themselves. **Contact: Wayne O'Connor I&I NSW 4916 3906**

Oysters Australia

After talking to growers in each state, the Seafood CRC Oyster Consortium and the Shellfish Industry Council of Australia (SICOA) agreed to move toward forming the new oyster industry body "Oysters Australia". A draft constitution and operational budget will be available to all Australian oyster growers from January 2011.

Oysters Australia is to replace SICOA and the Oyster Consortium. The reason Oysters Australia is to be formed is to resolve: the lack of Australian oyster industry identity and agri-political resource, uncertainty of future R&D Government co-funding and low R&D investment in some states; uncertainty of how research projects would be co-ordinated by the industry between states after the Seafood CRC finishes in 2014; and lack of marketing and promotional capacity. The current draft constitution is to set up a not for profit Company with six directors from each of the state bodies of NSW, South Australia and Tasmania, with Queensland to have an observer on the board. We look forward to receiving any comment via your state bodies.

Contact: Rachel King 0425 237 566 rkoyster@yahoo.com.au

Weed spraying - Hastings

Weed control spraying at Hastings River by NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service in close proximity to oyster growing areas was raised by industry at POAG. In future, notification will be provided to oyster farmers prior to any spraying. If there are complaints or concerns oyster farmers can contact the **Enviro Line on 131555**

Energy efficiency evaluation of electricity use in aquaculture

The increasing cost of electricity was nominated as a priority in a survey of R&D initiatives by ARAC. One pond and one intensive tank land based facility were recently audited. Minor efficiency saving options recommended, testament to the skills of the operators. ARAC will continue to review efficiency options and work conducted by CSIRO in this area and keep industry informed. **Contact Geoff Allan I&I NSW 4916 3909.**

Super Salty Slush Puppy (SSSP)

Fouling and overcatch are a major problem for oyster farmers and the methods we use for control are awkward and expensive – there has to be a better way! One option that is showing promise is dipping oysters in saturated salt solutions at very low temperature (-16 to -20°C). Research has shown that oyster overcatch can be safely controlled and that a number of other fouling organisms are killed (mussels, barnacles, flat worms etc). Marine Culture P/L have built the SSSP to treat oysters and with support from the Seafood CRC are undertaking sea trials in Port Stephens with input from I&I NSW.

Contact: Wayne O'Connor I&I NSW 4916 3906



***Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year to all in
the NSW aquaculture
industry***

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

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