

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 18 May 2016

Summary of meeting outcomes

Oceanwatch Extension Officer Appointment to Shellfish Committee

Andy Myers of Oceanwatch, the recently appointed Shellfish Industry Extension Officer has been appointed to the NSW Shellfish Committee as a permanent observer to facilitate information dissemination to the wider shellfish industry and provide valid input into discussion from a broader perspective on the industry/government dynamic.

Tasmania POMS Shellfish Movement Restrictions

In February, NSW DPI implemented formal movement restrictions to minimise the further risk of spread of the POMS virus from Tasmania into NSW estuaries. This includes a prohibition on the movement of shellfish and oyster equipment from Tasmania into NSW waters. NSW DPI Biosecurity received a request to allow movement of Tasmanian hatchery reared Triploid Pacific Oysters into NSW estuaries already declared as POMS affected. Genetic sequencing has revealed that the strain of POMS virus found in Tasmania is identical to the strain identified in NSW. NSW DPI will consider this request and provided final outcomes to industry once completed. The movement of shellfish into non-POMS affected estuaries remains too high and will not be considered.

Oyster Shipment Logbook Records

Recent incidents involving oyster farmers processing product from other estuaries resulted in a clarification of the reporting requirements surrounding stock movement:

- An oyster farmer selling product to another farmer for grading/processing/on-selling must complete a Food Authority Harvest Product Record for that sale. The receiving farmer processing the product does not need to complete a separate Harvest Product Record for that same product but rather must ensure that traceability is maintained.
- An oyster farmer receiving product from another estuary and intends to place it in an estuary to improve condition or to depurate must comply with oyster movement closures and complete an Oyster Shipment Logbook record (hardcopy or IVR)
- An oyster farmer that ships oysters to a land base at a different estuary for grading/handling purposes only and will return the oysters to the original source estuary or any other estuary must comply with oyster movement closures and complete an Oyster Shipment Logbook record (hardcopy or IVR)

Country of Origin Labelling Laws

Recently, Australian Consumer Law surrounding Country of Origin Labelling has changed. The changes will commence on 1 July 2016 and will have a two year transition period until the new requirements are mandatory. Under the new requirements most Australian food sold in Australia must now contain the familiar "Kangaroo Triangle Symbol" and an accompanying bar chart showing the proportion of Australian ingredients in the product. For more information please visit

<https://www.accc.gov.au/consumers/groceries/country-of-origin>.

Export Assistance and Grants

The Australian Trade Commission and the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet have instigated a NSW Export Support Service for businesses seeking access to export markets and building export capabilities. Export Market Development Grants are available for businesses that meet certain set criteria. More information on the criteria for eligibility of the grants and export assistance can be found here <http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/> and here <http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/export-from-nsw/export-assistance/export-capability-building-program>.