

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 19 August 2015

Summary of meeting outcomes

Oyster Industry Strategy Implementation Group

The NSW Oyster Industry Strategy has been completed and delivered to industry members at the recently held oyster industry field days. An Implementation Group is being established to progress the recommendations made in the Strategy. Interested industry members are encouraged to contact Ian Crisp (0418 693 805) and Kel Henry (0477 054 590)

On-land Oyster Polishing and Maintenance Project

The Shellfish Committee were contacted by Southern Cross University - National Marine Science Centre who are trialling an on-land oyster polishing and maintenance project on the Bellinger River. The project involves placing oysters into a closed recirculating system and feeding a specific algal paste diet to increase condition prior to sale. For more information contact Joe Pearce (joe51pearce@gmail.com)

Oyster Lease Clean Up 2014/15

During the 2014/15 financial year the DPI Fisheries derelict oyster lease clean up project included the clean up of 64 leases with an area of over 55ha. The cost of cleaning up expired or derelict leases is recovered from the lessee or when it is irrecoverable, from the Aquaculture Lease Security Trust. Recently a former lessee was invoiced over \$100,000 in clean up costs.

Oyster Industry Management Policies - Draft policy endorsed

New policies on the management of Pacific Oysters on oyster leases and best practice standards for "Tidy" leases have been drafted by NSW DPI Fisheries with the Shellfish Committee endorsing the policies for wider industry consultation. NSW DPI will disseminate the policies and seek comments in October.

Winter Mortality Sample Submission

Winter Mortality remains a notifiable disease in NSW and remains prevalent on the NSW South Coast, particularly over winter and early spring. The specific cause of the disease remains unknown and further studies are required to better understand the disease. In order for research to continue, fresh sample material is required. Researchers at Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI) have received very few submissions recently and are seeking fresh sample material to study. Industry members noticing pustules, abscesses, ulceration, etc are urged to contact DPI Aquatic Biosecurity team on 02 49163911.

Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Advisory Committee Meeting

The Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Advisory Committee (ASQAAC) will meet on Friday 18th September 2015 in Victoria for the annual general meeting. High on the agenda is the re-write of the Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (ASQAP) Manual. The aim of the re-write is to produce a manual that streamlines industry requirements and provides flexibility whilst also protecting Food Safety and facilitating market access.