

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 8 November 2017

Summary of meeting outcomes

Financial Audit of Local Shellfish Programs

At the end of each financial year the NSW Food Authority is required to assess the local shellfish program financial records and statements to ensure funds are being used in accordance with legislation. The Audit Generals Office overseas this assessment and has advised that a more thorough evaluation of a few select local programs will occur from 2018 onwards. Local shellfish programs will be reminded of the requirements to ensure spending of funds is able to be fully accounted for down to individual line items.

Salinity Sensor Network Update

The NSW Department of Primary Industries (including NSW Food Authority and Fisheries) have partnered with University Technology Sydney and The Yield to utilise Food Agility Cooperative Research Centre funding to deploy a salinity sensor network across select estuaries in NSW to obtain a greater understanding of mortality issues, harmful algal blooms and possibly improve harvest area management plans. The first sensors have been installed and are reporting data in the Hawkesbury and Georges Rivers.

ASQAAC Meeting

The 39th meeting of the Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Advisory Committee (ASQAAC) met in Adelaide on 2 November 2017. Major items discussed were the proposed controls for imported shellfish, alignment of biotoxin regulatory levels with international standards, phytoplankton laboratory proficiency and relay controls for biotoxin management.

Phil Baker of the NSW Food Authority was elected as the new Chair of the committee and will see a two year term in this position.

State Planning Reforms

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment have released proposals to improve the operation of the NSW planning framework which applies to primary production and rural development. The provisions relating to oyster and land based aquaculture (SEPP62) are being carried over to the consolidated state environmental planning policy unamended.

Healthy Estuaries Healthy Oysters Guidelines

The Healthy Estuaries Healthy Oysters Guidelines were launched at the NSW Oyster Conference in Merimbula on 23 August 2017. These guidelines have been placed on the DPI Aquaculture website and can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquaculture>

Dates set for 2018 Shellfish Committee Meetings

The dates for the 2018 meetings of the NSW Shellfish Committee have been approved with meetings to occur on the following dates

February 28th

May 9th

August 15th

November 14th

Meetings are scheduled to be held at the NSW Food Authority offices in Newington.