

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 10 August 2022

Summary of meeting outcomes

QX in Port Stephens - Update

The QX Working Group held its 10th meeting in July with key issues discussed including access to select lines of QX resistant spat, access to Pacific Oyster spat, flood support packages and targeted QX research being undertaken. DPI Aquatic Biosecurity audited three Tasmanian hatcheries and endorsed all three hatcheries to import Pacific Oyster spat providing adherence to biosecurity protocols. Regular updates can be located here

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquaculture/permit-holder-information>

QX Funding Secured

Funding has been secured to conduct research into known gaps in QX infection. Field and laboratory work is underway. The project is titled "*Understanding of spatial extent, infection window and potential alternative hosts for the oyster disease QX in Port Stephens*".

Water Quality Initiatives

Numerous water quality initiatives have been completed or are currently underway and in order to prevent duplication and to seek a collaborative approach a meeting was established between Dept. Primary Industries, Local Land Services, University Technology Sydney, Dept. Planning & Environment and Environment Protection Agency to discuss synergies between the agencies and universities involved. It is hoped that this collaborative approach can expand the studies to mutually benefit a wider audience, reduce regulatory burden and streamline expenditure.

The Shellfish Committee is engaging with CommFish and RecFish to form a joint aquaculture, commercial fishing and recreational fishing partnership on estuarine water quality. Anthony Zammit and Ian Lyall presented to both groups on oyster industry water quality initiatives in August, both groups indicated support for the oyster industry's initiatives to improve water quality. A further joint commercial and recreational fishing meeting is scheduled for November.

Sensor Network Update

The NSW Water Quality Sensor Network has moved into phase 2 and seen a transition to a lower cost sensing network which is approximately 20% the cost of the previous system. This phase will continue until 2023 when fund expires. At this point each local shellfish program must decide if the ongoing cost of the sensor system is going to be funded by the local shellfish program or removed.

Dates for 2022 NSW Shellfish Committee Meetings

- 9 November 2022

Industry members with matters to raise are to be made aware that they should consult the Shellfish Committee industry representatives to raise the item on their behalf, contact details can be found here <http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/shellfish/nsw-shellfish-committee>. If items are raised after the deadlines above, they will be held over until the following meeting. If industry members wish to attend the meeting as an observer, an expression of interest can be sent to food.nswsp@dpi.nsw.gov.au