

Summary of meeting outcomes

NSW Shellfish Committee

19 August 2026

The NSW Shellfish Committee met via video conference 20 May 2026. Issues considered by the Committee are outlined below.

Attendees

NSW Shellfish Committee members:

Prof. Shauna Murray - Chair
Mr. Anthony Zammit – A/NSW Food Authority A/CEO
Mr. Brandon Armstrong - Industry representative
Mr. Andrew Prowse - Industry representative
Mr. Phil Baker – A/NSW Shellfish Program Manager
Mr. Ian Lyall - NSW DPIRD Director Aquaculture

Invited guest attendees:

Mr. Simon Rowe - OceanWatch
Dr. Jeffrey Go – NSW DPIRD Aquatic Biosecurity
Dr. Angela Ashby - NSW DPIRD Aquatic Biosecurity

Apologies:

Dr. Emma Wilkie - NSW DPIRD Senior Policy Officer Aquaculture
Mrs. Melissa Walker – NSW DPIRD Aquatic Biosecurity
Mr. Steve Coxon - Industry representative
Mr. Shane Buckley - Industry representative

Declaration conflict of interest:

No members declared a conflict of interest on matters discussed

1. Matters raised relating to the Seafood Food Safety Scheme

Harvest area management report

Annual reviews for 29 shellfish harvest areas were conducted since the May 2026 meeting. 110 harvest area closures occurred since the previous meeting, with a total of 311 harvest area closures for the 2026 calendar year to date.

Sewage related water quality meetings

Three separate water quality working groups comprising of local government, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water have been established to address sewage related impacts to shellfish growing areas. These working groups include Central Coast Council, Shoalhaven Water and Eurobodalla Shire Council. The NSW Shellfish Program are supporting a process to identify, remediate and future proof sewage infrastructure to reduce impacts to shellfish growing area contamination and impost to industry.

Electronic Product Records

A working example of the electronic product record system was shown with industry feedback received being overall positive. NSW Shellfish Program will be seeking businesses

who wish to test the electronic product record system when a working model is ready for trial.

2. Non-food safety matters relating to shellfish

AquaDirect update

Currently there is 50% of all aquaculture permit holders signed up for AquaDirect. AquaDirect can assist with electronic online lease renewals, billing, lease transfers and access to documents such as aquaculture permits are available to download. Annual production returns are due for the 2025-26 financial year and can be submitted via AquaDirect.

Sydney Rock Oyster breeding program

The Sydney Rock Oyster breeding program is a priority initiative in the NSW [Aquaculture Vision Statement](#) and a key to achieving the target of \$300m by 2030. DPIRD is currently working with the oyster industry to transition the program to shared ownership with the private sector with a view to protect the long-term future of the Sydney Rock Oyster breeding program.

Blue Growth Strategy

The Blue Growth Strategy is a Marine Estate Management Strategy funded project that sets the framework and direction to grow inclusive, resilient and sustainable marine industries in NSW. The Blue Growth Strategy will be delivered as a cross agency, whole of government project overseen and governed by the Blue Economy Working Group. The strategy is being delivered in three phases. Phase 1 of developing a clear evidence based foundation is now complete. Phase 2 is current and entails targeted engagement with marine industries and stakeholders such as the aquaculture industry. The final stage is anticipated to be delivered by mid-2027.

Translocation project review and update

Aquatic Biosecurity have completed a detailed review to enable simplification and streamlining of the protocols for the interstate movement of Sydney Rock Oyster and Pacific Oyster spat. Draft revised protocols are expected to be completed by the end of September, at which time industry engagement on the updated draft protocols will also be undertaken.

The next meeting of the NSW Shellfish Committee is scheduled for 4 November 2026.