

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 26 February 2020

Summary of meeting outcomes

Review of Floating Basket and Raft Best Practice Guidelines

With the evolving technology and rapid adoption of floating basket culture and modifications to raft culture occurring across industry a review of the existing best practice guidelines for floating basket and raft culture is required. Recent lobbying by a community group against floating basket culture further supports a need to ensure best practice guidelines are current with new technology. Shane Buckley (Wapengo) and Stephen Verdich (Wallis Lake) have been nominated as industry contacts to work with DPI Aquaculture team to update the raft guidelines and Sally Ritchie (Wagonga Inlet) and Ian Crisp (Manning River) to assist in updating the floating basket guidelines.

OISAS Review

Following on from the reasons for the review of the floating basket and raft best practice guidelines a review of the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy (OISAS) is required. This provides an excellent opportunity to revise a key document for the oyster industry which was last updated in 2016. DPI will host some estuary information meetings later in the year.

Removal of Fee Reduction for Spat Farmers

Under the NSW Food Regulation 2015, if a business pays the full local levy in one estuary and catches spat in another estuary they are eligible for a 50% reduction in the second estuary. An item raised at the meeting was to remove this reduction. The *NSW Food Regulation 2015* is due to be repealed and remade. The committee is seeking feedback from the wider industry on this topic. Any industry members or local shellfish programs wishing to provide feedback on this issue should send their correspondence to:

NSW Shellfish Committee
PO Box 232
Taree NSW 2430

Email: food.nswsp@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Bushfire and Flooding Impacts

The devastating impacts from the recent bushfires and flooding has been felt significantly by the shellfish industry. While the full impacts of these disasters may take time to be fully known, any farmers with stock losses (mortalities) and facility or building impacts are encouraged to advise DPI. Other matters such as estuary opening management plans, access to water quality data and extension of grants were also raised. OceanWatch coordinated two oyster assistance meetings (Merimbula and Batemans Bay) with the DPI Rural Resilience Program and representatives from Oysters Tasmania. Information on assistance available to aquaculture producers is available at: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquaculture/natural-disaster-assistance>.

Help Us to Help You – Reporting damage/stock loss

Please report aquaculture damage and stock loss to DPI online at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/nda Under the “Is there damage” category, tick “Fisheries” and you can report stock loss and infrastructure damage. It takes a few minutes only. This information helps Government understand the extent of impact in the oyster/mussel/land-based sectors helping to target resources to your area

Review of commercial activities supporting industry adoption of elite genetics from the Sydney Rock Oyster breeding program

During 2019, Shellfish Committee worked with the Select Oyster Company and NSW Farmers Association to undertake the review. External consultants and the DPI Business Development and

Innovation group reviewed the pathways to commercial adoption. Shellfish Committee have recommended that an EOI now be offered to attract a partner or partners from the private sector to improve industry availability of elite Sydney Rock Oyster families produced yearly by DPI selected for QX disease resistance and faster growth without impact to their meat condition. DPI will work with Shellfish Committee to develop an EOI that meets the needs of the NSW oyster industry to maintain access to improved broodstock and spat whilst establishing a self-funding model. The Select Oyster Company are supporting interim arrangements and have been invited to participate in the EOI.

Dates for remaining 2020 NSW Shellfish Committee Meetings

- 27 May 2020 (Items deadline 4 May 2020)
- 12 August 2020 (Items deadline 20 July 2020)
- 4 November 2020 (Items deadline 12 November 2020)

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