

# General Circular

## ***General Circular 01/2015***

An important update from the NSW Food Authority (Food Authority) for all licensed NSW Shellfish farmers.

### **NSW Shellfish Program's new Harvest and Hold Policy**

The *Harvest and Hold Policy* was developed to allow shellfish farmers to harvest product in the period **between** sample collection for a harvest area opening and the reporting of results by laboratories.

Sometimes during extended wet periods, microbiological samples have been collected and meet the required standard but the harvest area is not opened due to bad weather conditions between sample collection and result reporting. The *Harvest and Hold Policy* can expand the window of opportunity to harvest product.

### **How does the policy work?**

Once samples have been collected and tested, if the final results meet the necessary criteria, the harvesting of product may proceed as normal. If the results do not meet the criteria, the product must be returned to the water.

Eligibility is based on:

- confirmation of satisfactory compliance above 90% for each local program
- participation in a workshop by the Food Authority prior to commencing the scheme
- submission of an application to the Food Authority to have individual licenses updated to include the permission for Harvest and Hold.

Implementation of the Policy will occur on an esturay by esturay basis as part of the annual review process.

For details on how to apply for Harvest and Hold see the policy document [here](#).