

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 28 February 2018

Summary of meeting outcomes

Stepping Down of Member

NSW Shellfish Committee member and Clyde River oyster farmer Steve Feletti has stepped down from his position on the committee due to increasing work commitments. The committee wishes to thank Steve for his input into the committee by bringing a marketing and financial focus to discussions and decisions.

As only three meetings remain under the current committee's tenure it was agreed to not fill the position full time. Instead it was agreed to have the position open for interested licensees/permit holders to attend meetings on an ad hoc basis and gain exposure to the committee. Expressions of interest to fill this role can be submitted to the committee secretary at nswsp@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Boater, Fisher and Farmer Lease Interactions

A series of videos funded through the Recreational Fishing Trust were created to highlight the interactions between fishers, boaters and oyster farmers around aquaculture leases. Key messages included: no wash near leases, protecting water quality, respecting farmers, not damaging leases, not tying up to leases and reporting theft/black market sales. These videos are available on the DPI Youtube site and provide important messages for the general public. You can view the videos here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GbsNGCTntss>

NSW Oyster Industry Strategic Implementation Group

The NSW Oyster Industry Strategic Implementation Group, consisting of industry members to promote the priorities of the NSW Oyster Strategic Plan 2015 has provided a report to the NSW Shellfish Committee outlining its achievements and ongoing priorities. Industry priorities include:

- The breeding-hatchery-nursery system is commercially viable
- Acceptance & use of the grading standards widespread in industry
- Expand EMS to all estuaries
- Improve ability to secure bank & other sources of finance
- Reinvigorate linkages within & between industry & representative structures
- Review & improve shellfish program, biosecurity arrangements and NSW OISAS

It was agreed that the NSW Shellfish Committee will follow on with these priorities and will work with members of sub-group on an as needs basis. The NSW Shellfish Committee acknowledges the high level of work provided by the sub-group and thanks them for their time and commitment to the industry. A copy of the Implementation Group report will be loaded to the NSW Food Authority website for industry information.

NSW Shellfish Industry Manual Update

A revision of the NSW Shellfish Industry Manual was proposed and endorsed by the committee which updated the building requirements for oyster sheds following recommendations from the federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (formally AQIS). The committee commented that the amendments are sensible and not overly onerous on businesses. An updated copy of the NSW Shellfish Industry Manual will be uploaded on the NSW Food Authority website and circulated to industry members.

Oyster Theft – Call for Information

NSW DPI Fisheries Compliance unit have highlighted the ongoing issue of theft of oysters either from the general public or within the industry. Industry members are urged to report all shellfish theft to the NSW Police and NSW DPI Fisheries unit through Operation Trident. The more information that is collated may assist in stamping out this ongoing issue.

Remaining Meeting Dates for 2018

May 9th

August 15th

November 14th

All meetings are due to be held at the NSW Food Authority Offices in Newington.