

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 27 February 2019

Summary of meeting outcomes

Final Meeting of Current Committee

The February 2019 meeting of the NSW Shellfish Committee was the final meeting of the current committee. NSW Department of Primary Industries wishes to thank the industry members who have represented the industry admirably and achieved numerous outcomes to streamline processes, strengthen industry connections and contribute to legislation and policy amendments. A call for expressions of interest to be a part of the Shellfish Committee for the next term has been completed with the 8 May 2019 meeting being the first meeting of the new committee.

Best Practice for Forestry Industry

Following the November 2018 Shellfish Committee meeting acting CEO of the NSW Food Authority Eric Davis contacted Nick Melham (Group Director Forestry) to discuss logging run-off impacting receiving waters and possibly shellfish growing areas. Mr. Milham advised that logging activities in NSW State Forests operate under a best practice guideline which can be viewed here http://www.forestrycorporation.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/457174/FNSW-ForestPracticesCode-2005.pdf

Shoalhaven River Cattle Impacting Water Quality

Following the November 2018 Shellfish Committee meeting a letter regarding cattle access to riparian zones impacting water quality was provided to the Shoalhaven City Council in support of a trial in the local area. The outcome of the court case can be viewed on the Shoalhaven City Council website here <https://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Home/ArticleType/ArticleView/ArticleID/3131>

Oyster Industry Strategy Update

An implementation group of 10 NSW oyster farmers was created in 2015 to progress the priorities identified in the NSW Oyster Industry Strategy 2015. They provided a scoping paper to Shellfish Committee to consider permits/licences/lease tenure/security bond/entry level knowledge and exclusive possession of leases. DPI have engaged a senior analyst to review current NSW legislation associated policies and fees charged. The work will also consider the status of these issues in other Australian states.

Aquaculture Production Report

NSW DPI Fisheries Aquaculture Administration has released the 2017/18 Aquaculture Production Report. Oyster production has continued to increase in value and production. A copy of the 2017/18 Aquaculture Production Report can be located here. https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/851342/Aquaculture-Production-Report-2017-2018.pdf

Ebusiness development – AquaOnline

An update on this project was provided to Shellfish Committee – see https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/871737/AquaOnline-Stakeholder-Update-February-2019.pdf

NSW Oyster Industry Conference

Keep the 6-8 August 2019 free for the NSW Oyster Industry Conference at Forster