

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 14th November 2018

Summary of meeting outcomes

Traceability Project

In 2017 a joint Australian / State Government project to product a national traceability plan was initiated. The traceability plan is a two-stage process with stage 1 being publicly released on 24th October which outlines existing traceability systems in use throughout all agricultural industries. Stage 2 is now progressing which will develop a national framework and implementation plan. Industry members wishing to provide input can do so on the link below. For more information on the national traceability project and to provide input please click here <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/market-access-trade/traceability-project>

Insurance coverage for Local Shellfish Program Committees and Samplers

NSW Food Authority have received legal advice on the insurance cover for local shellfish program committees and approved samplers. A fact sheet

http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/Documents/industry/shellfish_personal_liability_coverage_members.pdf has been created to assist industry. In order to ensure local program samplers are covered they must be listed on the official local program committee form as an approved sampler. A copy of the local program committee form will be issued to local programs to ensure formal insurance coverage.

Moored Vessels Impacting Shellfish Growing Areas

Following the August 2018 NSW Shellfish Committee a meeting was held with NSW DPI and NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) to discuss to explore the risk posed by vessels to shellfish aquaculture leases including pollution of vessel discharges (both effluent and fuel/oil) and boating etiquette around shellfish aquaculture leases. Outcomes from the meeting were that RMS are to review notification procedures for pollution events to ensure DPI are notified in a timely manner, inclusion of shellfish aquaculture leases and shellfish harvest areas in the mooring risk assessments, promote and support installation of vessel sewage pump-out facilities where service gaps are identified and educational material for recreational boaters regarding appropriate behaviour in proximity for shellfish aquaculture leases.

Review of the commercialisation of the Sydney Rock Oyster breeding program.

Shellfish Committee supported a review of the program to commercialise the selected lines of Sydney Rock Oysters. This follows a request from NSW Farmer's Association to the government to secure ongoing funding for this program. The review will not focus on the technical aspect of the program which is well established. A terms of reference will be offered to four experienced consultants. The successful consultant will work closely with the Select Oyster Company, NSW Farmers' Association, NSW DPI and Shellfish Committee with a report due April 2019.

Oyster Extension Officer

Shellfish Committee has supported funding expenditure from the Aquaculture Trust to continue the part-time Oyster Extension Officer position held by Andy Myers of OceanWatch. This will extend the position for another three years commencing May 2019. During this period the position will: continue with the www.nsoysters.com website and newsletter; extend research and selected breeding line information; support travelling workshops, beach and oyster lease clean ups; facilitate initiatives for farm-level biosecurity plans; and support EMS initiatives.

Oyster Industry Public Good Award

At the recently held National Coastal Management Conference the NSW Oyster Industry were presented with a "Public Good Award" recognising the positive impact oyster farming has in a coastal management and environmental areas. The award was presented to Sue McIntyre, Greg Carton & Brett Weingarth and will reside with Sapphire Coast Wilderness Oysters for the time being.

The Yield App – Download Instructions

The roll out of the remote sensor trial in select estuaries in NSW has been supported by the industry with a large number of industry members wanting to know how to download the application to view the sensor data to obtain real-time information. NSW Oyster Extension Officer Andy Myers has created this helpful video to assist industry in the uptake of this technology. Andy's video can be viewed here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4FrpkTijwYo>

Forestry Logging Run-off

Recent logging activity was noted on the NSW Mid and North Coasts as having the potential to impact oyster growing areas. Run-off and sediment control measures must be in place to prevent impacts of the receiving waters and ultimately oyster harvest areas. A letter to the Group Director of Forestry will be sent requesting best practice in the logging industry be followed to prevent water quality impacts.

Final Meeting of Current Shellfish Committee

The next meeting scheduled for the NSW Shellfish Committee in February 2019 will be the final meeting of the current committee. From that point onward a new committee is required to be established. A general circular to all businesses will be issued in January requesting a call for expressions of interest to sit on the NSW Shellfish Committee. Requirements for appointments to the Shellfish Committee can be found under section 145 of the NSW Food Regulation 2015 which can be found here <https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/regulations/2015-622.pdf>