

The SA Oyster Industry



POMS SITUATION UPDATE

Indeterminate Results

- ❖ On Friday 27th June 2025 Autumn POMS Surveillance from Coffin Bay produced six indeterminate results for OsHV-1.
- ❖ That same afternoon a Statewide Stock Standstill was issued by PIRSA until further testing was carried out
- ❖ Further testing showed one indeterminate result and the PIRSA Stock standstill was lifted
- ❖ SAOGA requested its members to respect an industry voluntary stock standstill for movement out of Coffin Bay until a heat trial was undertaken

POMS SITUATION UPDATE

Indeterminate Results

- ❖ Heat trials were undertaken by Coffin Bay growers at Yumbah hatchery and by SAOGA at Eyre Shellfish hatchery
- ❖ All samples were held at 21°C
- ❖ All samples tested negative for OsHV-1 after 21 days
- ❖ SAOGA engaged with Matt Landos to provide scenario advice pending the results
- ❖ Industry expressed caution to open Coffin Bay for movement

POMS SITUATION UPDATE

Indeterminate Results

- ❖ The industry voluntary closure which was coinciding with the current HAB closures significantly restricted oyster movement and business activity.
- ❖ The voluntary closure was lifted on 4th September. Movement is now allowed out of Coffin Bay
- ❖ Extra surveillance testing has continued with more indeterminates detected earlier this year. However, the latest PIRSA POMS Autumn surveillance has produced negative results in Coffin Bay.
- ❖ Industry is on alert and has been reminded to report any high mortalities to PIRSA.

POMS SITUATION UPDATE

Indeterminate Results

- ❖ There has been little discussion about changing biosecurity
- ❖ Even if POMS becomes evident, it is unlikely to change biosecurity
- ❖ The strain in the Port River appears to have diminished its ability to kill oysters.
- ❖ Biosecurity will potentially still be needed to guard against more pathogenic strains in the event of an outbreak.

HAB in SA – *Karenia* sp.

- ❖ The bloom was a multiple species of *Karenia*. While some species are harmless, the mix in South Australia was toxic to fish and other marine animals. Professor Shauna Murray and her team were able to identify the brevetoxin causing algae as *Karenia cristata*.
- ❖ This bloom has been caused by a combination of three events:
 - Floodwaters from the River Murray in 2022-23 brought extra nutrients into the sea.
 - A cold-water upwelling in summer 2023-24 lifted more nutrients to the surface.
 - A marine heatwave since September 2024 has lifted water about 2.5C warmer than normal.



HAB in SA – *Karenia* sp.

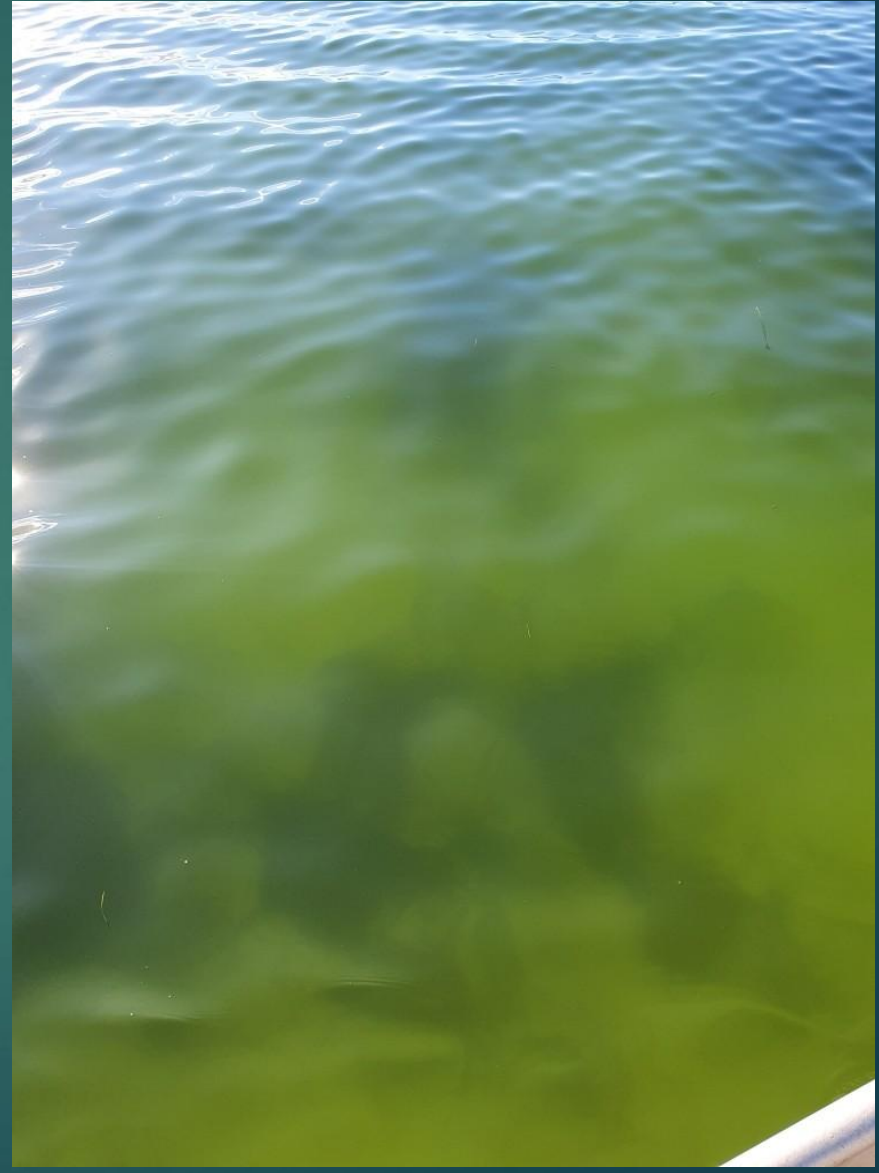
- ❖ Stansbury closed 5th May 2025 for eight months, Pt Vincent and Kangaroo Island closed 19th May 2025. Pt Vincent opened on 16th January with Kangaroo Island finally opened on 26th Feb. Cowell closed 30th July 2025 for four months.
- ❖ *Karenia mikimotoi* was identified as the main species of the bloom which later morphed into *Karenia cristata* which was the brevetoxin producing algae.
- ❖ *Karenia* cells reached a peak of 680,000 c/l at Stansbury on 4th July and Brevetoxin peaked at 20mg/kg at Stansbury on 28th July (FSAZNs limit is 0.8mg/kg)

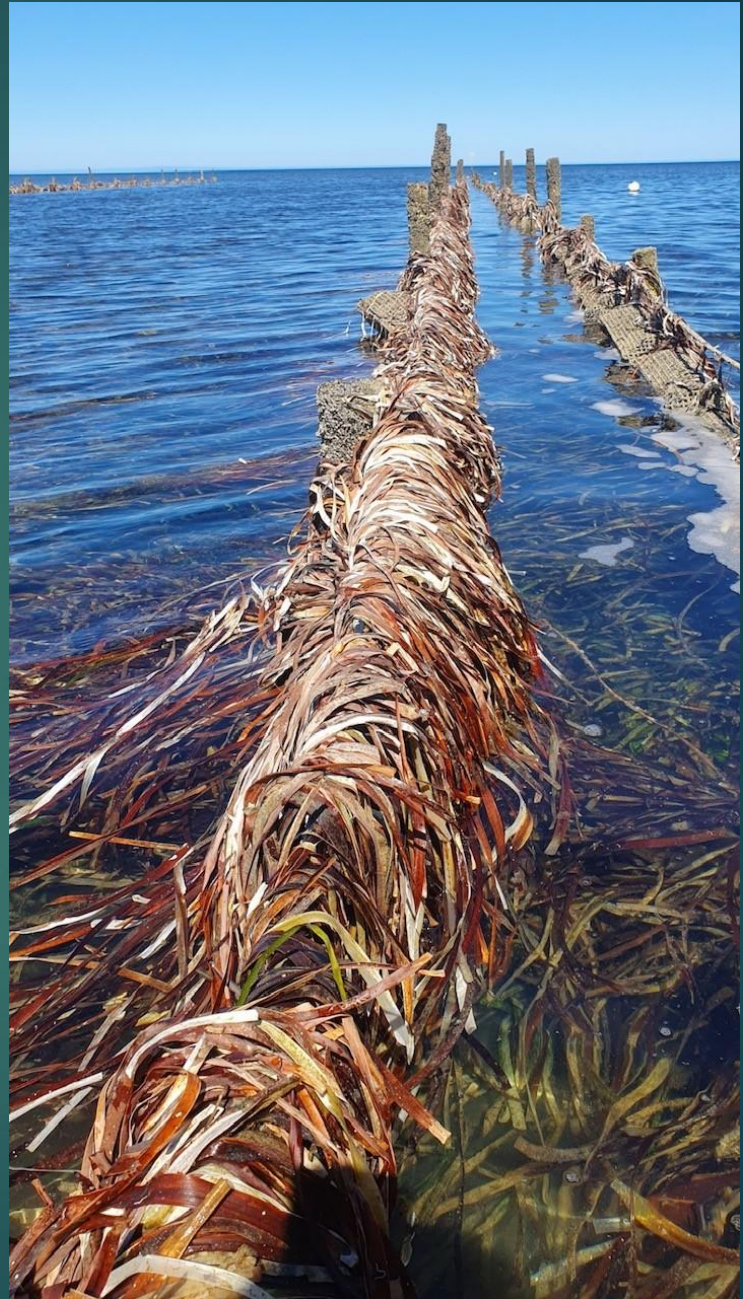
Cowell (Franklin Harbour) during the HAB



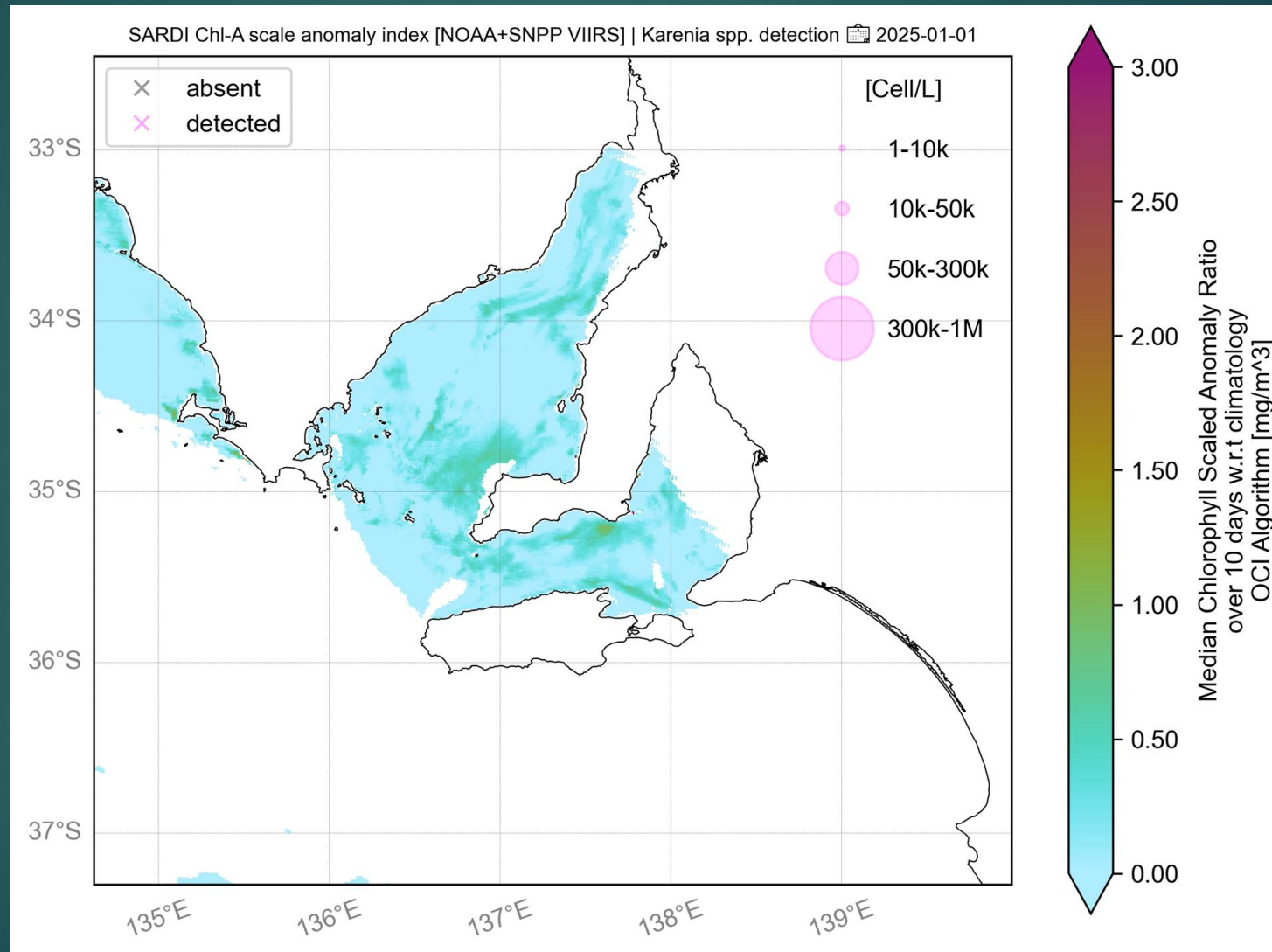


Stansbury during the HAB





HAB in SA – Karenia sp.



Time laps
courtesy of
SARDI

HAB in SA – *Karenia* sp.

- ❖ Current research – Translocation trials being undertaken by SARDI to investigate potential transfer of *Karenia* spp. and brevetoxins during oyster relays from HAB impacted farms.
- ❖ Brevetoxin is still present months after zero *Karenia* detected. Five shellfish harvesting areas (including oysters and pipis) are still reporting brevetoxin in weekly SASQAP meat sampling (all under the regulatory limit for safe human consumption).
- ❖ Native Oyster Reef development. Plan to build 26 x 1 ha community built recycled shell reefs and a large-scale limestone reef (approximately 16ha) is planned for the Gulf of St Vincent off the Yorke Peninsula coast.

Still of video by Manny Katz, Eyrelab, reef deployment at Tumby Bay



Other news from South Australia



- ❖ A slow start to the year. Lack of food in the water has contributed to slow conditioning with sales down.
- ❖ SAOGA and SAORC are developing new Strategic Plans which will align with the new Oysters Australia Strategic Plan.
- ❖ What else???

SA OYSTER INDUSTRY SEMINAR

22nd and 23rd OCTOBER, 2026

SMOKY BAY





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