

Field Trip	Meeting Time	Meeting Location	Return Time	Notes
1.Baysalt Shed Tour – Automation of an oyster farm	8:30am	Bale Brothers Oysters, 91 Sandfly Alley (Shed 9), Port Macquarie NSW 2444	10am	You will have to make your own way to the location. Please see travel notes on ferry and allow for possible wait times. Please bring closed shoes and a life jacket. Please follow all instructions as outlined in the <i>Field Trip Safety Information</i> .
2.Hastings River on-water tour	8:30am	Hibbard Ferry Terminal, End of Boundary Street, Port Macquarie NSW 2444	10am	You will have to make your own way to the Hibbard Ferry Terminal at the end of Boundary Street. Please arrive on time, as the punts cannot wait. Please bring closed shoes and a life jacket. After the tour, you will be dropped off at the Hibbard Ferry Terminal where you started by 10am. Please follow all instructions as outlined in the <i>Field Trip Safety Information</i> .
3.AOC Hatchery Tour	Slot 1 – 8:30am Slot 2 – 9:30am	Shed 6, 59 Sandfly Alley, Port Macquarie, NSW 2444	Slot 1 – 9:30am Slot 2 – 10:30am	You will have to make your own way to Sandfly Alley. Refer to travel notes on ferry and allow for possible wait times. Please bring closed shoes and a life jacket. Please follow all instructions as outlined in the <i>Field Trip Safety Information</i> .
4.Armstrong Oysters Shed Tour	8am	Armstrong Oysters, Lot 1 Short Street, Laurieton NSW 2443	10:30am	You will have to make your own way to the meeting location (refer to the travel notes). Please make sure you arrive 10min before the start to allow time for a short walk from where you park your car to the oyster shed and to sign on before commencing the field trip. Please bring closed shoes and a life jacket.
5.Guided Coastal Walk with Sea Acres Aboriginal Culture Tour	9am	Sea Acres Rainforest Centre	10:30am	You will have to make your own way to the Sea Acres Rainforest Centre in Sea Acres National Park, which is a short drive from Port Macquarie town centre (10min). Please bring appropriate footwear for walking.

Field Trip Information for the 2024 NSW Oyster Conference

If you have booked one of the field trips as part of your conference registration, please read on to find detailed information about each field trip. Please note, the conference sessions begin at 1pm, registration will be open from 9am, and you need to arrive before 1pm to register (get your lanyard and conference bag) so please allow enough time for travel between the field trip and conference venue (Port Panthers). Please note, lunch will not be supplied but you can purchase food and drink at the club. Please dress appropriately and we ask that you bring your own life jacket for all on-water tours. Please contact us at laura@oceanwatch.org.au if you do not have a life jacket.



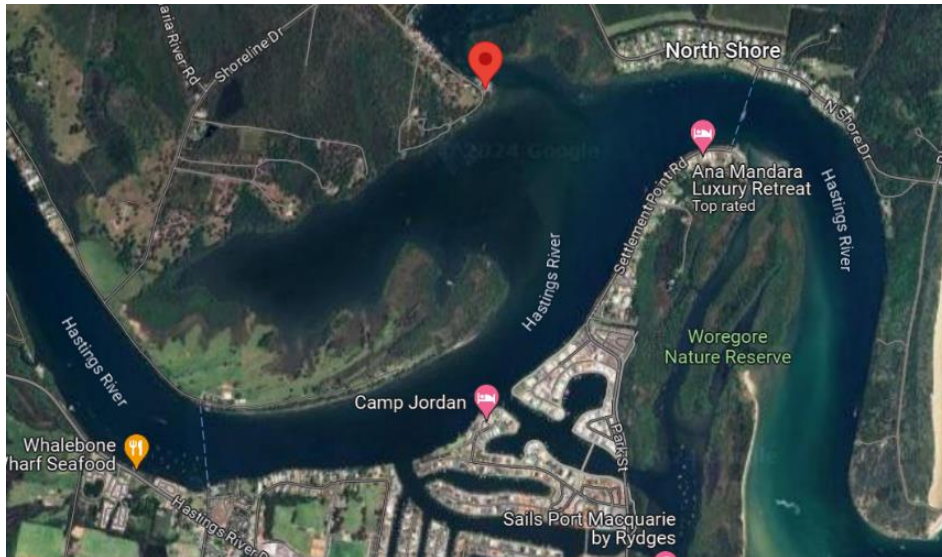
1. Baysalt Open Shed Tour – Automation of an Oyster Farm

About this field trip:

Stewart and Ewan Bale and their team embarked on a plan to automate their farm processes back in 2017 and have slowly built on this since then. A visit to 91 Sandfly Alley will include a tour of the plant, with demonstrations of the different plant and machinery, discussion around the positive gains and any pitfalls associated with each one, and also how they have dealt with repeated disasters such as storm damage, catastrophic floods, and tsunami effects.

Travel notes:

You will have to make your own way to Sandfly Alley. There are two ferries that operate regularly (7 days a week 24h a day) from Port Macquarie, Hibbard/Riverside Ferry, and Settlement Point/North Shore Ferry, the one-way trip will cost you \$8 and can be purchased directly at the ferry. Please make sure you allow enough time to catch the ferry to arrive at the location in time (allow for approximately 15min wait time). If you need more information on the ferry, please visit the [council website here](#). Please bring closed shoes.



Map showing the location of Bale Brothers Oysters (red pin). The two dashed lines show the ferry locations (Hibbard/Riverside south-west, and Settlement Point/North shore to the north-east).

2. Hastings River On-water Tour

About this field trip:

Come on this 1.5h on-water tour around the Hastings River guided by local oyster farmers. You will get the chance to see pontoons and rafts on the Hastings and diverse growing techniques in Big Bay, spat catching and oyster sheds in Limeburners Creek. Come along for a history lesson on Hastings River oyster production and innovations and farmers will share their insights into flood damage and alternatives to mitigate future disasters.

Travel Notes:

You will have to make your own way to the Hibbard Ferry Terminal at the end of Boundary Street. Please arrive on time, as the punts cannot wait. Please bring closed shoes and your own life jacket. After the tour, you will be dropped off at the Hibbard Ferry Terminal where you started by around 10-10:30am.

3. Hatchery Tour – AOC

About this field trip:

A tour of the land-based nursery and hatchery facility with discussions about the SRO breeding program, broodstock care, and spat handling.

Travel notes:

You will have to make your own way to Sandfly Alley. There are two ferries that operate regularly (7 days a week 24h a day) from Port Macquarie, Hibbard/Riverside Ferry, and Settlement Point/North Shore Ferry, the one-way trip will cost you \$8 and can be purchased directly at the ferry. Please make sure you allow enough time to catch the ferry to arrive at the location in time (allow for approximately 15min wait time). If you need more information on the ferry, please visit the [council website here](#). Please bring closed shoes.

4. Camden Haven Oyster Shed Tour + On-water Tour – Armstrong Oysters

About this field trip:

Land Tour: You will get a close look at our on-land operations, from our nursery operation and upwellers, grading on land using various graders and bag filling systems, running of wet storage tank, to a new screw anchor machine. This will include a display of a new float system (raft farming).

On-water Tour: You will get to see the new float systems (raft farming) in operation and get the chance to see a large-scale flip farm operation, as well as deep water culture and new nursery area with float tumblers.

Travel Notes:

You will have to make your own way to the meeting location. Laurieton is about a 30 min drive from Port Macquarie, so please allow enough time to travel back to the conference venue in time for registration and conference opening at 1pm. There is plenty of parking nearby at the Football oval (see map below). Please make sure you arrive 10min before to allow time for a short walk from where you park your car to the oyster shed and to sign on before commencing the field trip. Please bring closed shoes and your own life jacket.



Map showing the location Armstrong Oysters (red pin). There is ample street parking around the oval pictured.

5. Guided Coastal Walk with Sea Acres Aboriginal Culture Tour

About this field trip:

Come on this easy 1.3km stroll along Sea Acres Rainforest boardwalk. You'll pass through coastal sub-tropical rainforest that is rich in bush tucker, medicine plants and shelter resources.

On this tour Aboriginal Ranger Nardja generously shares her cultural knowledge and understanding of traditional uses of rainforest plants. Through her guidance you'll be invited to celebrate the wisdom of Birpai culture. You'll hear about how Aboriginal people lived in harmony with this specialised rainforest environment. Discover how Birpai people utilised rainforest resources and their deep cultural knowledge to survive and prosper here for millennia.

Ranger Nardja will share stories of culture that will allow you to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation Birpai connection to country.

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/guided-tours/sea-acres-aboriginal-culture-tour>

Travel Notes:

You will have to make your own way to the Sea Acres Rainforest Centre in Sea Acres National Park, which is a short drive from Port Macquarie town centre (10min).



Field Trip - Safety Information

Wednesday 4th September 2024



Please follow the instructions below when participating in conference field trips.

1. Life jackets must be worn at all times while on the vessel. Please see someone from OceanWatch if you have not brought one with you.
2. Closed shoes must be worn at all times.
3. Listen carefully to the safety briefing of field trip operators and know the location of safety equipment and first aid kit.
4. Tell the crew before boarding if you have any medical conditions, and take any personal medication with you.
5. Only board or disembark the vessel when it is secured to the loading pontoon/wharf.
6. Be aware of any trip hazards on the vessel and report them to the crew.
7. Stow loose items.
8. Be aware of vessel stability - do not move to the same side of the vessel at the same time.
9. Do not handle any gear or oysters unless directed to do so.
10. Please follow the instructions of the skipper/crew at all times.
11. Please use common sense - do not place yourself, or others at risk of harm.

I have read and understand the above directions.

Name	
Field Trip	
Signature	
Date	