



Tide to Tip – Past, Present & Future

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Extension Officer/Local Landcare Coordinator



Outline

My role as NSW Oyster Industry Extension Officer

How it started

Project highlights

Reflecting on key learnings

Challenges & opportunities

The role of the local estuary coordinator

Future direction





35th Anniversary of OceanWatch



VISION

“Ensuring Australia's marine environment is healthy, productive, valued and used in a responsible way”

Key activities:

- enhancing fish habitats and improving water quality in estuaries and coastal environments;
- working with industry and local communities to minimise environmental impacts;
- introducing industry and communities to sustainable technologies and behaviours



NSW oyster industry extension/Local Landcare Coordinator

- Development & implementation of Environmental Management Systems (EMS),
- Facilitation of industry – government - community events to build networks, educate and foster an understanding of industry needs,
- Distribution of a bimonthly oyster newsletter and administration of the NSW Oysters website and Australian Oysters Facebook page,
- NSW Oyster Conference organising committee
- Establishment of a state-wide ‘Tide to Tip’ clean-up program, encouraging oyster farmers to engage in estuary clean-up activities,
- Organisation of disaster support sessions following the Black Summer of drought, fires & floods,
- Development of 5 Best Practice Videos,
- Development and extension of industry training program “Responsible Oyster Farmer Training Program”,
- Attracted \$854,000 in funding to support projects with industry



How it started

2018

- Local Oyster Farmers join together to conduct large clean up at Salamander Bay, Port Stephen's

2019

- Widespread clean-up event suggested at NSW Oyster Conference and 23 estuaries signed up!

2020

- First 'official' Tide to Tip
- Removal of 11 tonnes of rubbish with 231 volunteers

2024

- 5th annual Tide to Tip





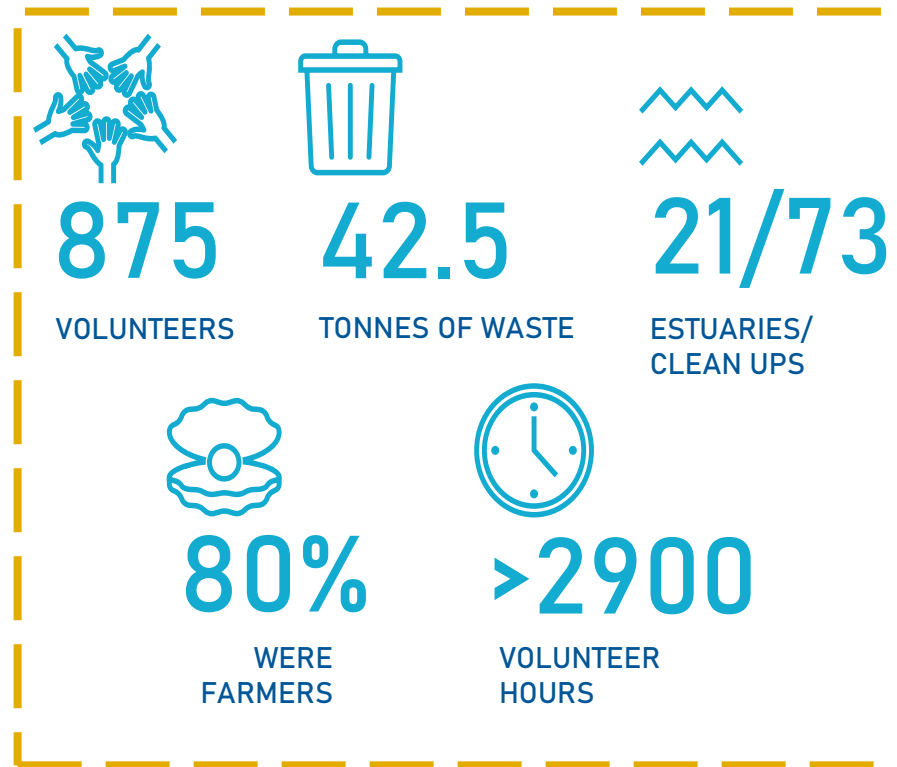
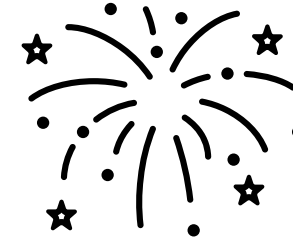
Clean Up Stats



- ~20 estuaries per year
- Usually runs every February over 2-3 weeks
- Remove on average 10 tonnes/year
- Featured in >30 media and radio items in 3-4 years



Our Impact



- Contribute to AMDI database
- Source reduction plans
- Partnered with NGOs, local council, local and state government, industry bodies, community groups etc.



Our Impact



Effective
Partnerships



Healthy
Waterways



Quality
Products



Improved Social
Licence

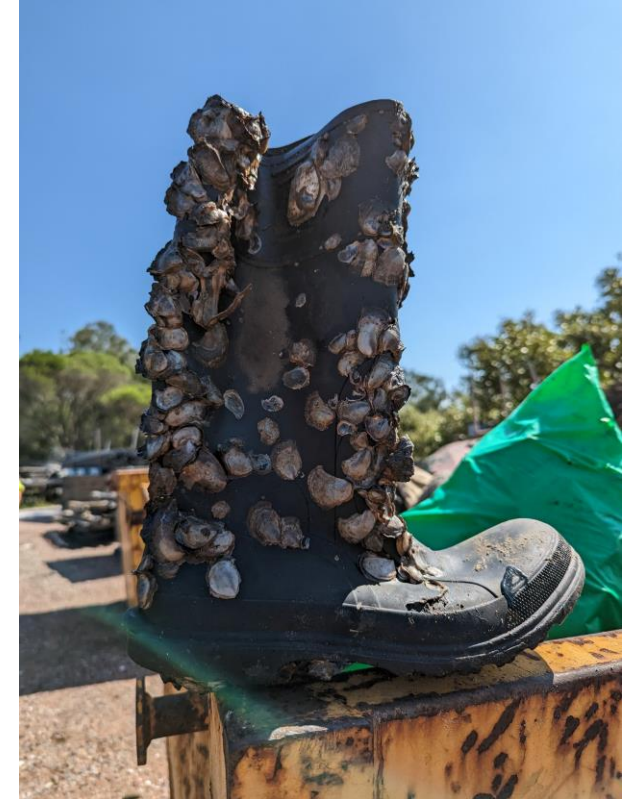






Key learnings

- Works because industry is leading the clean-ups and get a say when and where they happen
- Using intimate knowledge of the waterway, weather conditions and rubbish hotspots
- Volunteer time and punts
- Increase on-ground capacity through partnerships
- Raising awareness of clean ups
- Friendly competitions





Challenges & Opportunities

- Timing around other critical industry activity
- Each council is different – requires a lot of effort in establishing/maintaining contact and communication
- Waste disposal critical – rubbish difficult/impossible to recycle
- More support for interstate needed
- Tackling waste more broadly, thinking about industry waste and how we can repurpose/recycle it





Get involved!



Local Coordinator/Volunteer

- Takes the lead in organising their estuary and promote attendance, coordinates punts
- Picks a date and time and meeting location
- Determines where clean-up is conducted and gives direction
- Signs OceanWatch's volunteer agreement
- Sends any pictures/data back to OW

OceanWatch

- Coordinates dates/time with each local coordinator
- Organises rubbish pick up with local council and registers clean ups
- Provides insurance and risk assessment
- Sends out Clean-up kits to each estuary
- Promotes event on socials and other media
- Assists on the day with most clean ups and entering waste data into database



Future Direction

- We need your help!



With a little help from our friends...



The Tide to Tip program is supported by OceanWatch Australia, Clean Up Australia Day, NSW Local Land Services and the NSW Landcare Program. The NSW Landcare Program is a partnership between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW Inc. supported by the NSW Government.



Thank you!

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