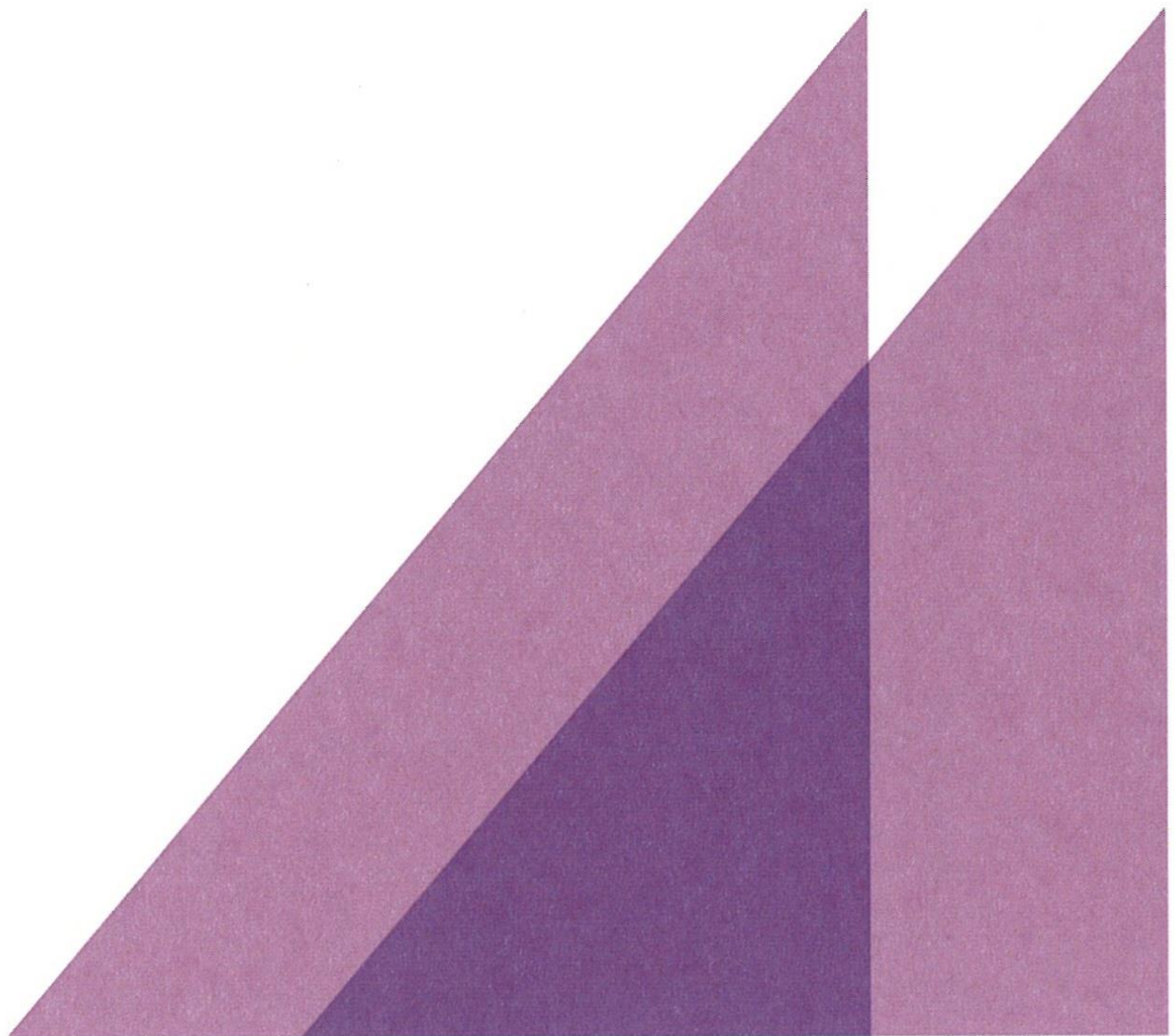


NSW OYSTER INDUSTRY STRATEGY



NSW Oyster Industry Strategic Plan Ongoing Actions - November 2021



NSW Oyster Industry Strategic Plan

Summary

This report provides a summary of key initiatives and activities that are ongoing actions aligned to the priorities of the NSW Oyster Industry Strategic Plan 2015.

1. Delivering Strategic Priorities

The Plan identified five themes where there was potential for considerable gains to be made by the NSW oyster industry. These areas are described below.

3.1. Theme Area: Production Systems

Outcomes Sought:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resilient production systems Consistent cost-effective product Consistent access to high quality oyster seed stock
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Priority Action:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing adoption by industry of technologies & practices On-going targeted R&D to provide a pipeline of innovation The breeding-hatchery-nursery system is commercially viable
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Table 3.1a Activities undertaken to deliver desired Production System Outcomes

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing the recommendations of the review into the commercialisation of the Sydney Rock Oyster breeding program 	1,3	SC DPI Commercialisation Reference Group Technical Advisory Committee	Underway, negotiation with NSW Farmers about ILO position
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of the Moruya Shellfish Hatchery. South Coast farmers are working with the local Council to establish a commercial Shellfish Hatchery at Moruya. 	3	Industry Local Council	Underway, DA consented. DPI assisting with minor variations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting development of nursery facilities to support hatchery operations 	1	DPI Industry CRG	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R&D initiatives to promote innovation and sustainable farming practices 	2	DPI Universities	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storm Flood Industry Recovery Program – Sector Development Grants 	1	DPI Industry	Underway

3.2. Theme Area: Markets

Outcomes Sought:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger industry led marketing • NSW oysters in demand & commercially valued for their quality & unique features
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Priority Action:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Encourage development of marketing skills & partnerships 5. Acceptance & use of grading standards widespread in industry
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Table 3.2a Activities undertaken to deliver desired Markets Outcomes

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW DPI Seafood Futures Fund to promote marketing grading standards 	5	DPI	Two rounds of funding complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding application submitted to enable NSW participation in national oyster marketing campaign 	4	OWA / NSWF	Funding successful
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial of a National Oyster Market Report 	4	OA	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating new marketing processes (frozen, HPP, biodegradable oyster trays) 	4	DPI Industry	Not funded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media promotions for oyster sales 	4	NSWF	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on developing export markets and approvals for export harvest areas and facilities 	4	Food Authority Industry	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oyster Finder launched on nswoysters.com.au 	4	OWA	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a National Oyster Marketing Campaign – working group. • Update – Focus amended to a SRO focused marketing program. SCWO helping develop this project. 	4	OWA, NSWF, OA, Industry	Underway

3.3. Theme Area: Environment & Disease

Outcomes Sought:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oyster farmers can harvest more often and readily transfer oysters • Effective & efficient biosecurity • Environment stewardship
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Priority Action:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Shellfish Program & biosecurity arrangements optimises the times estuaries are open for harvest and oysters can be moved between them 7. Targeted estuary rehabilitation 8. Expand EMS to all estuaries
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Table 3.3a Activities undertaken to deliver desired Environment & Diseases Outcomes

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW oyster industry participating in development of the Aquatic Deed. 	6	DPI Industry OA	Oyster industry no longer involved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estuary management plans for Farquhar/Conjola/Tuross/Wonboyn/Shoalhaven 	7	DPI Industry	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing issue raised in the Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment 	7	DPI Industry	MEMS stage 3 applications lodged
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Estuaries for Healthy Oysters update and referral mechanism 	6	DPI	For review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Responsible Farming Training Program' being developed with modules including biosecurity, social licence, EMS, habitat & others 	7, 8	OWA	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide Tide to Tip estuary clean-up program launched in 2020 	7	OWA Industry	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosecurity survey on risk management 	6	DPI (Monash Uni)	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPI investigating and online oyster shipment recording system with GME 		DPI	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate resilience – initiatives and mechanisms within OISAS 		OWA, DPI	Ongoing

3.4. Theme Area: Industry Structure & Governance

Outcomes Sought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growers can access capital to develop their businesses New entrants attracted to industry Re-create effective advocacy voice Self-reliant & coordinated industry representation
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Priority Action: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Improve ability to secure bank & other sources of finance Reinvigorate linkages within & between industry & representative structures Targeted capacity building of groups & individual growers

Table 3.4a Activities undertaken to deliver desired Industry Structure & Governance Outcomes

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to funds – Seafood Innovation Funds 	9	Industry NSWF	On-going

• Increased lease tenure to 30 years – Oyster Reform project	9	DPI	Act amendment underway
• Establish the NSW Aquaculture Advisory Committee	10	DPI	Not progressed
• NSW Oyster Extension Officer work.	11	OWA	On-going
• EMS Officer work south coast	11	SCWO	Underway
• ‘Responsible Farming Training Program’ being developed	11	OWA	Underway
• Funding application submitted to enable online delivery of ‘Responsible Farming Training Program’	11	OWA NSWF	Funding successful
• Oysters Australia provides regular updates to NSW Shellfish Committee & NSW ARAC	10	OA	Underway

3.5. Theme Area: Policy

Outcomes Sought:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% leases available & used • Leases are secure & well managed • Effective, efficient and equitable food safety system & biosecurity system
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Priority Action:	12. Review & improve Shellfish Program, biosecurity arrangements and the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy
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Table 3.5a Activities undertaken to deliver desired Policy Outcomes

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
• Lease tenders biannual	12	DPI	Ongoing
• DPI Fisheries Compliance program	12	DPI	Ongoing
• AquaOnline	12	DPI	Stage 2 near complete
• Livestock in marine vegetation	12	DPI Industry	Response from DDG and actions underway
• Pollution arising from intensive livestock facilities	12	DPI EPA	Ongoing
• Crown Land Leases/Licences – identification of sites to protect similar to POAA	12	CL+W	Not progressed
• Lease structures project	12	DPI CL+W	Underway
• New species on oyster leases	12	DPI	Incorporated in OISAS review and REF complete

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overlap of Coastal SEPP with POAA. 		DPI	DPI negotiating with Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Aquaculture Lease Allocation Policy – O-071 		DPI	Underway

Completed activities and initiatives

Table 3.6

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Theme Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit holders to have protocols on their aquaculture permits for interstate oyster movements 	1	DPI	Production systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW growers input into the Oysters Australia 2020-2025 Strategic Plan – released Jan 2021 	2	OA	Production systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding secured for industry to access grants of \$3k to facilitate implementation of best-practice. 	1	NSWF, OWA	Production systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OISAS best practice update and review 	1	DPI	Production systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice guidelines: raft and floating basket culture 	1	DPI	Production systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two marketing initiatives underway with Oysters Australia 	4	OA	Markets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oysters included in the Eat Seafood Australia campaign launched by Seafood Industry Australia 	4	OA, SIA	Markets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eat More Seafood grants 	4	DPI	Markets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPI developing guidelines for oyster farm biosecurity plans to assist adoption by permit holders. New permit holders producing biosecurity plans. 	6	DPI	Environment and Disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality monitoring – Food Agility CRC and access to ESS data 	6	UTS DPI DPIE ESS	Environment and Disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat protection grants arising from bushfire recovery funding 	7		Environment and Disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Coast Wilderness Oysters EMS Officer 	8	Industry	Environment and Disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derelict oyster lease clean up (Georges River, Hawkesbury River, Port Stephens) 	7	DPI	Environment and Disease
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry promoting the “good neighbour policy” within OISAS 	11	Industry	Industry Structure and Governance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business planning support for farmers in closed estuaries – drought support workers and rural financial councillors 	11		Industry Structure and Governance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Farmers Association submitted 3 applications on behalf of industry to the Sector Development Grant scheme 	10	NSWF	Industry Structure and Governance

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW DPI Oyster Reform Project The project is focusing on the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lease tenure ○ Lease security tiered structure ○ CFDP (includes Biosecurity and Lease Maintenance and Development plans) ○ Act and Regulation review Associated: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public liability ○ Right of Way policy 	12	DPI	Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW DPI Spatial Portal to include current and vacant POAA and Shellfish Program harvest zones 	12	DPI	Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to Farm and Right to Fish legislation 	12	DPI Industry	Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right of Way and Public Liability Insurance policies 	12	DPI	Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burial of livestock near riverbanks – raised with DPI Flood Recovery Committee 	12	DPI Industry	Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New NSW Shellfish Program Relay Procedure – movement withholding periods are risk based. 	6, 12	DPI - BFS	Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Shellfish Program Harvest and Hold Scheme 	12	DPI BFS	Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure permitted on leases (Flipfarm shuttle) 	12	DPI RMS	Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tar reduction strategy 	12	DPI	Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice guidelines for floating bags and rafts review 	12	DPI	Policy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OISAS (4th Revision) 	12	DPI SC Industry NSWFA CL&W	Policy