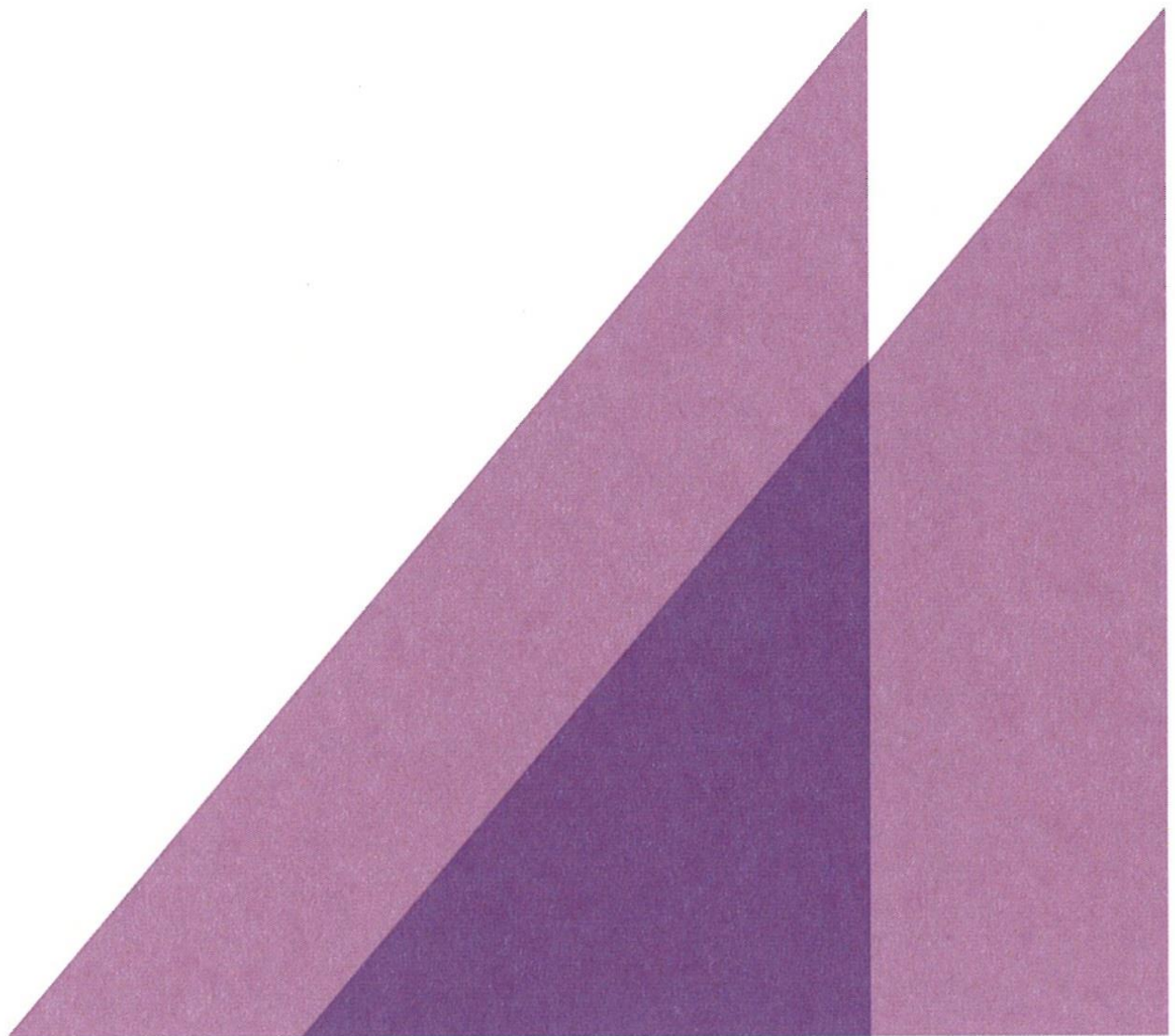


# NSW OYSTER INDUSTRY STRATEGY

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## **NSW Oyster Industry Strategic Plan Ongoing Actions - February 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

<b>Outcomes Sought:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilient production systems</li> <li>• Consistent cost-effective product</li> <li>• Consistent access to high quality oyster seed stock</li> </ul>
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<b>Priority Action:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increasing adoption by industry of technologies &amp; practices</li> <li>2. On-going targeted R&amp;D to provide a pipeline of innovation</li> <li>3. The breeding-hatchery-nursery system is commercially viable</li> </ol>
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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"> <li>• Implementing the recommendations of the review into the commercialisation of the Sydney Rock Oyster breeding program</li> </ul>	1,3	SC DPI SOCo	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of the Moruya Shellfish Hatchery. South Coast farmers are working with the local Council to establish a commercial Shellfish Hatchery at Moruya.</li> </ul>	3	Industry Local Council	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permit holders to have protocols on their aquaculture permits for interstate oyster movements</li> </ul>	1	DPI	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting development of nursery facilities to support hatchery operations</li> </ul>	1	DPI Industry	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R&amp;D initiatives to promote innovation and sustainable farming practices</li> </ul>	2	DPI Universities	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW growers input into the Oysters Australia 2020-2025 Strategic Plan – released Jan 2021</li> </ul>	2	OA	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding secured for industry to access grants of \$3k to facilitate implementation of best-practice.</li> </ul>	1	NSW Farmers, OWA	Underway

### 3.2. Theme Area: Markets

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

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
• NSW DPI Seafood Futures Fund to promote marketing grading standards	5	DPI	Two rounds of funding complete
• Two marketing initiatives underway with Oysters Australia	4	OA	Completed
• Funding application submitted to enable NSW participation in national oyster marketing campaign	4	OWA / NSW Farmers Association	Funding successful
• Trial of a National Oyster Market Report	4	OA	Ongoing
• Investigating new marketing processes (frozen, HPP, biodegradable oyster trays)	4	DPI Industry	Underway
• Social media promotions for oyster sales	4	NSW Farmers Association	Underway
• Focus on developing export markets and approvals for export harvest areas and facilities	4	Food Authority Industry	Underway
• Oyster Finder launched on nswoysters.com.au	4	OWA	Ongoing
• Establishment of a National Oyster Marketing Campaign – working group.	4	OWA, NSW Farmers, OA, Industry	Underway
• Oysters included in the Eat Seafood Australia campaign launched by Seafood Industry Australia	4	OA, SIA	Underway

### 3.3. Theme Area: Environment & Disease

<b>Outcomes Sought:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oyster farmers can harvest more often and readily transfer oysters</li> <li>Effective &amp; efficient biosecurity</li> <li>Environment stewardship</li> </ul>
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<b>Priority Action:</b>	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"> <li>NSW oyster industry participating in development of the Aquatic Deed.</li> </ul>	6	NSW DPI Industry OA	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DPI developing guidelines for oyster farm biosecurity plans to assist adoption by permit holders. New permit holders producing biosecurity plans.</li> </ul>	6	DPI	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality monitoring – Food Agility CRC and access to ESS data</li> </ul>	6	UTS NSW DPI DPIE ESS	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estuary management plans for Farquhar/Conjola/Tuross/Wonboyn/Shoalhaven</li> </ul>	7	DPI Industry	Funding application lodged
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressing issue raised in the Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment</li> </ul>	7	NSW DPI Industry	In progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy Estuaries for Healthy Oysters update and referral mechanism</li> </ul>	6	NSW DPI	Planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat protection grants arising from bushfire recovery funding</li> </ul>	7		Funding requested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Coast Wilderness Oysters EMS Officer</li> </ul>	8	Industry	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Derelict oyster lease clean up (Georges River, Hawkesbury River, Port Stephens)</li> </ul>	7	DPI	Funding requested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Responsible Farming Training Program' being developed with modules including biosecurity, social licence, EMS, habitat &amp; others</li> </ul>	7, 8	OWA	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statewide Tide to Tip estuary clean-up program launched in 2020</li> </ul>	7	OWA Industry	Ongoing

### 3.4. Theme Area: Industry Structure & Governance

<b>Outcomes Sought:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growers can access capital to develop their businesses</li> <li>• New entrants attracted to industry</li> <li>• Re-create effective advocacy voice</li> <li>• Self-reliant &amp; coordinated industry representation</li> </ul>
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<b>Priority Action:</b>	<p>9. Improve ability to secure bank &amp; other sources of finance</p> <p>10. Reinvigorate linkages within &amp; between industry &amp; representative structures</p> <p>11. Targeted capacity building of groups &amp; individual growers</p>
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**Table 3.4a Activities undertaken to deliver desired Industry Structure & Governance Outcomes**

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
• Access to funds – Seafood Innovation Funds	9	Industry NSWF	On-going
• Increased lease tenure – Oyster Reform project	9		Underway Right to Fish Bill
• Establish the NSW Aquaculture Advisory Committee	10	NSW DPI	Not Started
• NSW Oyster Extension Officer work.	11	OWA	On-going
• EMS Officer work south coast	11	SCWO	Underway
• Industry promoting the “good neighbour policy” within OISAS	11	Industry	On-going OWA newsletter
• Business planning support for farmers in closed estuaries	11		Not started
• ‘Responsible Farming Training Program’ being developed	11	OWA	Underway
• Funding application submitted to enable online delivery of ‘Responsible Farming Training Program’	11	OWA NSW Farmers	Underway
• NSW Farmers Association submitted 3 applications on behalf of industry to the Sector Development Grant scheme	10	NSW Farmers	Funding successful
• Oysters Australia provides regular updates to NSW Shellfish Committee & NSW ARAC	10	OA	Underway

### 3.5. Theme Area: Policy

<b>Outcomes Sought:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% leases available &amp; used</li> <li>• Leases are secure &amp; well managed</li> <li>• Effective, efficient and equitable food safety system &amp; biosecurity system</li> </ul>
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<b>Priority Action:</b>	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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OISAS (4th Revision)</li> </ul>	12	DPI SC Industry NSWFA CL&W	Completed Review in 2020 for 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW DPI Oyster Reform Project The project is focusing on the following issues:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lease tenure</li> <li>○ Lease security tiered structure</li> <li>○ CFDP (includes Biosecurity and Lease Maintenance and Development plans)</li> <li>○ Act and Regulation review</li> </ul>               Associated: -               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public liability</li> <li>○ Right of Way policy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	12	DPI	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW DPI Spatial Portal to include current and vacant POAA and Shellfish Program harvest zones</li> </ul>	12	DPI	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right to Farm and Right to Fish legislation</li> </ul>	12	DPI Industry	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right of Way and Public Liability Insurance policies</li> </ul>	12	DPI	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lease tenders biannual</li> </ul>	12	DPI	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New <a href="#">NSW Shellfish Program Rely Procedure</a> – movement withholding periods are risk based.</li> </ul>	6, 12	NSW DPI - BFS	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">NSW Shellfish Program Harvest and Hold Scheme</a></li> </ul>	12	NSW DPI BFS	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPI Fisheries Compliance program</li> </ul>	12	DPI	On-going

• AquaOnline	12	DPI	Stage 1 near complete
• Livestock in marine vegetation	12	DPI Industry	
• Burial of livestock near riverbanks	12	DPI Industry	
• Pollution arising from intensive livestock facilities	12	DPI EPA	
• Crown Land Leases/Licences – identification of sites to protect similar to POAA	12	CL+W	Right to Fish bill
• Lease structures project	12	DPI CL+W	Underway
• Infrastructure permitted on leases (Flipfarm shuttle)	12	DPI RMS	Completed Incorporated into OISAS
• Tar reduction strategy	12	DPI	Underway
• Best practice guidelines for floating bags and rafts review	12	DPI	Underway with Shellfish Committee members
• New species on oyster leases	12	DPI	Part of OISAS review