



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

MEDIA RELEASE

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A BUMPER YEAR FOR AQUACULTURE

The latest NSW aquaculture industry production figures have confirmed continued growth in 2013-14, with a 6.4% increase in total value on the previous year, Minister for Primary Industries Katrina Hodgkinson has announced today.

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Aquaculture Production Report 2013-14 has found that with a revised value of \$53.3 million, the aquaculture industry continues to provide sustainable seafood to support the food security needs of the State.

Minister Hodgkinson said the industry is also supporting employment and economic growth in regional communities.

“Despite the impact of drought on the land-based freshwater fish farms sector, production figures have jumped 29% to \$14.5 million,” said Ms Hodgkinson.

“All major species, such as farmed Black Tiger Prawns, Rainbow Trout, Silver Perch, Mulloway, Barramundi and Yabbies have experienced significant growth in production, with increases ranging from 17% to 72%.

“However the stand out was Murray Cod, which increased production by 67 tonnes, predominantly due to a new Murray Cod aquaculture facility near Goulburn launching into full production.

“Our most valuable industry, the Sydney Rock Oyster, has increased by 6.5% to \$31.8 million,” said Ms Hodgkinson.

Wallis Lake, Port Stephens and the Clyde River remain NSW’s top producing estuaries, however many estuaries have escalated in production and value in the last year, including Wagonga Inlet, Camden Haven and Hastings River.

Ms Hodgkinson said the NSW Government is committed to ensuring a healthy and sustainable aquaculture industry, with the goal of further increasing production from new species, new investment and innovative culture technology.

“With some 85% of seafood purchased in NSW imported there is a tremendous market opportunity for aquaculture production in NSW,” said Ms Hodgkinson.

“I encourage seafood lovers to buy local for some of the freshest and best quality seafood in the world and support our fish farmers and fishermen.

“Sydney Rock Oyster growers increased production by over 111,000 dozen worth \$2 million, with a rise in the average farm gate price of 2.4% over all grades of oysters.

“This is an outstanding result and reflects the hard work and initiatives of oyster growers in recent years to adopt new technology, develop environmental management systems, fight for water quality protection and work collectively to promote what is a unique product on the world’s oyster stage,” said Ms Hodgkinson.

Minister Hodgkinson said the continued growth of the aquaculture sector delivers on Goal 2 of the NSW Agriculture Industry Action Plan launched last year – to build a profitable and productive industry in NSW.

This strategic roadmap was developed between industry and the NSW Government and ensures the continued growth of the State’s \$12 billion primary industries sector.

“We are expecting even greater future growth within the aquaculture industry, with the recent approval of 50 hectares of aquaculture leases on the State’s South Coast to assist NSW meet the increasing demand for quality seafood,” said Ms Hodgkinson.

There is a public tender open to all interested parties who meet the requirements and conditions of the tender, which can be found here

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/aquaculture-leases/leases-jervis-bay

To see the full Aquaculture Production Report visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries