



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Assistant Minister for Tourism and Major Events

MEDIA RELEASE

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AQUACULTURE AWARD FOR DPI FISHERIES INSTITUTE

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, and Member for Port Stephens, Craig Baumann, have congratulated staff at the world-class Port Stephens Fisheries Institute, which this week received the prestigious Australian Aquaculture Award for Contribution from a Scientist or Institution.

Ms Hodgkinson said the award was presented at the World Aquaculture 2014 Conference and Trade Show, Presidents Reception, in Adelaide on Tuesday.

“This is a major accolade – it is an internationally-acclaimed award that recognises demonstrated excellence through innovative and sustainable research practices,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“It is a significant recognition for the dedicated group of Department of Primary Industries’ (DPI) scientists and technicians at the institute, led by Fisheries NSW executive director, Dr Geoff Allan, and aquaculture research leader, Dr Wayne O’Connor.

“Established in 1972, the Port Stephens Fisheries Institute has long been regarded as one of Australia’s leading aquaculture research facilities.

“The researchers there have been at the forefront of the move to collaborative research partnerships between industry and research agencies – contributing to strong outcomes for the State.

“With its ponds, hatcheries and laboratory facilities, the institute has been a model for industry-focused aquaculture research in the country.”

Ms Hodgkinson said the institute and its staff had been recognised for their substantial efforts, including:

- developing hatchery and nursery techniques for shellfish species;
- genetic improvement of Sydney Rock Oysters for disease resistance, faster growth and improved marketability;
- the impact of climate change on oysters;
- improving methods for hatchery production of Mulloway, Australian Bass and Yellowtail Kingfish;
- producing Australian Bass and Mulloway for stock enhancement; and
- developing formulated diets with reduced reliance on finite supplies of fishmeal and fish oil.

Mr Baumann said management and research staff at the Port Stephens Fisheries Institute have recently been successful in obtaining a 20-hectare marine finfish research lease that

will be made available to a commercial partner to allow research and development of finfish production in NSW waters.

“This institute continues to look for further advances in improving the effectiveness of the research investment to meet increasing demand for aquaculture products,” Mr Baumann said.

“Approval for the research lease demonstrates the NSW Government’s support for commercial investment in aquaculture in NSW.”

DPI staff showcased their world class research, management strategies and investment opportunities at the World Aquaculture 2014 Conference in Adelaide this week.