

Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome: Information for restaurants

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Please pass this important information on to your customers.

What is Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome?

- Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) is a disease which affects Pacific Oysters. The disease, which is caused by a virus, can result in rapid mortalities.
- POMS affects Pacific Oysters only and does not have any impacts on human health.



Unprocessed Pacific Oyster, Image: NSW DPI

Where does POMS occur?

POMS occurs in three NSW oyster farming estuaries including the Georges River, Parramatta River and the Hawkesbury River, as well as in Tasmania.

There is no evidence that POMS affects Sydney Rock Oysters.

Some healthy Pacific Oysters are harvested and sold for human consumption from affected farms.

Help protect the NSW oyster industry

Follow these simple steps to help stop freshly opened oysters spreading POMS:

- **It is illegal to return live oysters to our waterways.** Do not discard them, or 'give them a drink' to keep them fresh. This can spread disease or lead to the oyster becoming contaminated and harmful to eat.
- **Dispose of waste into the bin.** This includes uneaten oysters or leftover shells.
- **Dispose of water used to process oysters.** This includes any water used to process live oysters which should be disposed of directly into the sewer.
- **Maintain hygiene.** Wash hands or gloves thoroughly with warm soapy water after handling oysters.

For more information on POMS

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/pests-diseases/animal-health/aquaculture/poms> or call 02 4982 1232

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