



NSW DPI AquaOnline Stakeholder Update

February 2019

NSW DPI has secured funding to develop an e-business system for aquaculture lease and permit holders to manage transactions online and streamline administrative processes.

The new platform will be called AquaOnline and is being developed this year on the back of the system currently in use for the NSW commercial fishing industry, FishOnline.

FishOnline is the department's web based system for administering commercially related fishing activity. The system is used for all business transactions and catch and effort reporting. The platform allows for customers to use the system themselves with an online computer or smart phone/tablet/iPad. The system has been developed to accommodate self-service at any time of the day or night. See <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/commercial/fishonline>

The first stage of development for AquaOnline will focus on enabling users to:

- View details of their aquaculture business, associated permits, leases and customer/account details
- Update their contact details and pay their aquaculture accounts
- Submit production data

One change that has been proposed is the simplification of the Aquaculture Permit, where the details of permit conditions will not be listed on this document but will be available online via a link provided in the permit document. Aquatic Biosecurity protocols will also be removed from the permit document and will be available on the department's webpage.

A sample group of farmers, involving both lease and land-based sectors, have volunteered to take part in pilot testing of the system in the second half of this year. Roll out of AquaOnline may be late 2019, early 2020.

It is intended to release stakeholder updates every two months via SMS, use advisory committees, AquaNews, the OceanWatch Oyster Extension Officer, the NSW Oyster Conference in August and potentially regional workshops to assist permit and leaseholders be aware of, and help to adopt the new system.

The second stage of AquaOnline will be to expand the number of transaction options. The majority of funding for stage one has been secured from core funds and a request will be made to Shellfish Committee to meet the remaining funds from the Aquaculture Trust. Funding for stage two has not been secured at this time.

For further advice please contact Ian Lyall 49163856 or ian.lyall@dpi.nsw.gov.au

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