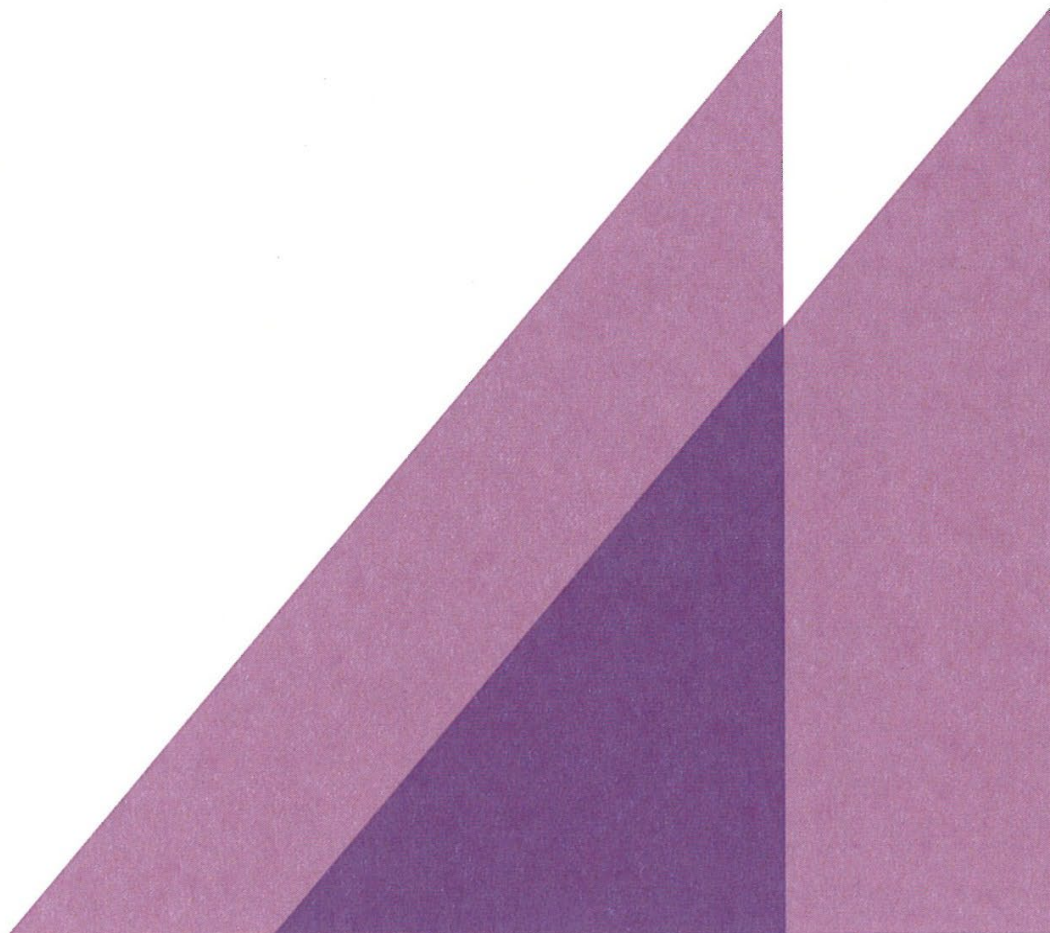

NSW OYSTER INDUSTRY STRATEGY



NSW Oyster Industry Strategic Plan Ongoing Actions - **November 2022**



NSW Oyster Industry Strategic Plan

Ongoing Actions

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

Outcomes Sought:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient production systems • Consistent cost-effective product • Consistent access to high quality oyster seed stock
-------------------------	--

Priority Action:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing adoption by industry of technologies & practices 2. On-going targeted R&D to provide a pipeline of innovation 3. The breeding-hatchery-nursery system is commercially viable
-------------------------	--

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"> • Implementing the recommendations of the review into the commercialisation of the Sydney Rock Oyster breeding program 	1,3	SC, DPI Commercialisation (now Sustainability) Reference Group Technical Advisory Committee	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable SRO Reference Group formed and is operational, in accordance with ToR. Aim of the Group is to inform breeding program of industry needs including reliable spat supply. 		Meeting Nov 3 2022	Underway, ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW Industry Liaison Officer to support extension of breeding program and coordination of spat delivery, under guidance of Reference Group. 		NSW Farmers Association, Extension Officer, SC	Awaiting NSW Farmers Association
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Moruya Shellfish Hatchery.. 	3	Industry Local Council, DPI	Underway, DA consented, pipeline issues to be discussed with agencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting development of nursery facilities to support hatchery operations 	1	DPI Industry SRG	Underway, two new nurseries in the Clyde River
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D initiatives to promote innovation and sustainable farming practices 	2	DPI Universities, NSW Farmers	Underway, six Sector Development

			Grants announced July 2022 (detail sec. 3.3) Spat handling workshops state wide proposed for 2023 (NSW Gov't Early Needs Recovery Program)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake research to determine optimum wet storage conditions to maximise quality and shellife of NSW oysters. 	2	Industry, DPI, NSW Food Authority	Workshops state wide proposed for 2023 (NSW Gov't Early Needs Recovery Program)

3.2. Theme Area: Markets

Outcomes Sought:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger industry led marketing • NSW oysters in demand & commercially valued for their quality & unique features
-------------------------	--

Priority Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Encourage development of marketing skills & partnerships 5. Acceptance & use of grading standards widespread in industry
-------------------------	--

Table 3.2a Activities undertaken to deliver desired Markets Outcomes

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW DPI Eat More Seafood grant to promote marketing 	5	DPI	Two rounds of funding complete, eight 'Taste of Seafood Events' across NSW in 2022 - 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial of a National Oyster Market Report 	4	OA	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on developing export markets and approvals for export harvest areas and facilities 	4	Food Authority Industry	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oyster Finder launched on nswoysters.com.au 	4	OWA	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a National Oyster Marketing Campaign – working group. 	4	OWA, NSW Farmers, OA, Industry	Launched at Oyster Conference May 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment strategy for on-water leases and land base in Woollooware Bay 		DPI, TfNSW	Underway EOI published September 2022

3.3. Theme Area: Environment & Disease

Outcomes Sought:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oyster farmers can harvest more often and readily transfer oysters Effective & efficient biosecurity Environment stewardship
-------------------------	--

Priority Action:	<p>6. Shellfish Program & biosecurity arrangements optimises the times estuaries are open for harvest and oysters can be moved between them</p> <p>7. Targeted estuary rehabilitation</p> <p>8. Expand EMS to all estuaries</p>
-------------------------	---

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"> NSW oyster industry participating in development of the Aquatic Deed. NSW industry proposal to establish an annual contribution for disease events 	6	NSW DPI Industry OA	The national Aquatic Deed is not being progressed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Estuaries for Healthy Oysters update and referral mechanism 	6	NSW DPI	Under review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination of water quality monitoring programs across NSW, linking with MEMS, other agencies and universities 		NSW DPI	24 November Commfish meeting. MEMS project with Southern Cross University for coordination of water quality programs Submission to MEMS Implementation plan 2022 – 2024.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Responsible Farming Training Program' being developed with modules including biosecurity, social licence, EMS, habitat & others 	7, 8	OWA	Underway 2022, including online delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide Tide to Tip estuary clean-up program launched in 2020 	7	OWA Industry	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosecurity survey on risk management to inform resilience building strategies for industry 		DPI (Monash Uni)	Complete workshops, and ongoing programs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPI investigating and online oyster shipment recording system with GME 		Aquaculture Biosecurity	Project proposal underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate resilience – initiatives and mechanisms within OISAS 		OWA, NSW DPI	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research into aquaculture practices on the benthic environment under aquaculture leases – MEMS funded project (oyster aquaculture business and environment) 		NSW DPI, SCU	Imminent

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector Development Grant 1 - Develop accurate transport and dilution sewage spill models for at risk estuaries to reduce associated harvest closures. 	6.	NSW Food Authority	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector Development Grant 2 – Investigating water quality and links to rainfall, shellfish growth, mussel fouling organisms and food safety issues 		South Coast Mariculture	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector D 3 – preparing the industry for future disasters including a disaster handbook, relay areas, marketing tools, and carbon neutral tools 		NSW Farmers	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector Development Grant 4 – Physical resilience of aquaculture through improved, flood-proof rafts 		Industry	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving oyster broodstock for improved Sydney Rock Oyster hatchery production 		Industry	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector Development Grant 6 – Clean up, waste reduction and circular economy through recycling programs 		OWA	Underway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster response – DPI sitting on flood and recovery committees, supports communications and access to support, and administers Port Stephens QX working group. 		DPI	Underway

3.4. Theme Area: Industry Structure & Governance

Outcomes Sought:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growers can access capital to develop their businesses • New entrants attracted to industry • Re-create effective advocacy voice • Self-reliant & coordinated industry representation
-------------------------	--

Priority Action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Improve ability to secure bank & other sources of finance 10. Reinvigorate linkages within & between industry & representative structures 11. Targeted capacity building of groups & individual growers
-------------------------	--

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 to 30 years – Oyster Reform project	9		Act amendment underway
• Establish the NSW Aquaculture Advisory Committee	10	NSW DPI	Not progressed
• NSW Oyster Extension Officer work.	11	OWA	On-going
• EMS Officer work south coast	11	SCWO	New appointment complete
•			
• Oysters Australia provides regular updates to NSW Shellfish Committee & NSW ARAC	10	OA	Underway
• NSW aquaculture economic contributions study – MEMS funded project		DPI	Imminent

3.5. Theme Area: Policy

Outcomes Sought:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% leases available & used • Leases are secure & well managed • Effective, efficient and equitable food safety system & biosecurity system
-------------------------	--

Priority Action:	12. Review & improve Shellfish Program, biosecurity arrangements and the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy
-------------------------	---

Table 3.5a Activities undertaken to deliver desired Policy Outcomes

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
• OISAS (4th Revision)	12	DPI, SC, Industry, NSWFA, CL&W	Complete
• Lease tenders biannual	12	DPI	Ongoing
• DPI Fisheries Compliance program	12	DPI	On-going
• AquaOnline and links to oyster shipment movements and Food Authority production returns forms. Online production return complete.	12	DPI	Stage 2 near complete – further funding required
• Livestock in marine vegetation	12	DPI Industry	Response from DDG and actions underway, raised with MEMS
• Pollution arising from intensive livestock facilities	12	DPI EPA	Ongoing, raised with MEMS
• Crown Land Leases/Licences – identification of sites to protect similar to POAA	12	CL+W	Discussion 9 November SC meeting
• Lease structures project	12	DPI Policy development	Not progressing
• Overlap of Coastal SEPP with POAA.		NSW DPI	Complete. Mapping removed off POAA.
• Review of Aquaculture Lease Allocation Policy – O-071		NSW DPI	Complete, updated to include Marine Leases.
• NSW Shellfish Wet Storage Guidelines	12	NSW Food Authority	Underway
• Historic cultivation and heritage listings		DPI	Underway
• Circular economy and shell disposal – exemption for bivalve shell POEO Act.		DPI	Funding under Early Needs Recovery Program
• Additional bivalve species on Class A leases – Review of Environmental Factors		DPI	Complete
• SC input into review of RD&E ARAC Strategy		DPI	Pending ARAC meeting

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staged repeal of the FM Aquaculture Regulation 2017 		DPI	2023, proposed to remove Pacific Oysters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPI development of interstate translocation biosecurity protocols to support safe spat supply for both Pacific oyster and Sydney Rock oyster movements 		DPI	Complete

3.6. Theme Area: Completed Activities and Initiatives

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
• Permit holders to have protocols on their aquaculture permits for interstate oyster movements	1	DPI	Complete
• NSW growers input into the Oysters Australia 2020-2025 Strategic Plan – released Jan 2021	2	OA	Complete
• Funding secured for industry to access grants of \$3k to facilitate implementation of best-practice.	1	NSW Farmers, OWA	Complete
• OISAS best practice update and review			Complete
• Best practice guidelines: raft and floating basket culture			Complete
• 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	Not funded
• Oyster Finder launched on nswoysters.com.au	4	OWA	Ongoing
• Oysters included in the Eat Seafood Australia campaign launched by Seafood Industry Australia	4	OA, SIA	Complete
• Eat More Seafood grants		NSW DPI	Complete
• NSW oyster industry participating in development of the Aquatic Deed.	6	NSW DPI, Industry OA	Underway? Oysters no longer involved
• DPI developing guidelines for oyster farm biosecurity plans to assist adoption by permit holders. New permit holders producing biosecurity plans.	6	DPI	Complete
• Water quality monitoring – Food Agility CRC and access to ESS data	6	UTS NSW DPI DPIE ESS	Complete
• Estuary management plans for Farquhar/Conjola/Tuross/Wonboyn/Shoalhaven	7	DPI Industry	Funding application lodged??
• Addressing issue raised in the Marine Estate Threat and Risk Assessment	7	NSW DPI Industry	MEMS stage 3 applications lodged
• Habitat protection grants arising from bushfire recovery funding	7		Complete
• South Coast Wilderness Oysters EMS Officer	8	Industry	Complete

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derelict oyster lease clean up (Georges River, Hawkesbury River, Port Stephens) 	7	DPI	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry promoting the “good neighbour policy” within OISAS 	11	Industry	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business planning support for farmers in closed estuaries – drought support workers and rural financial councillors 	11		Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding application submitted to enable online delivery of ‘Responsible Farming Training Program’ 	11	OWA, NSW Farmers	Funding successful
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Farmers Association submitted 3 applications on behalf of industry to the Sector Development Grant scheme 	10	NSW Farmers	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OISAS (4th Revision) 	12	DPI, SC, Industry, NSWFA, CL&W	Minister approved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW DPI Oyster Reform Project The project is focusing on the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lease tenure Lease security tiered structure CFDP (includes Biosecurity and Lease Maintenance and Development plans) Act and Regulation review Associated: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public liability Right of Way policy 	12	DPI	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW DPI Spatial Portal to include current and vacant POAA and Shellfish Program harvest zones 	12	DPI	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right to Farm and Right to Fish legislation 	12	DPI Industry	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right of Way and Public Liability Insurance policies 	12	DPI	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New NSW Shellfish Program Relay Procedure – movement withholding periods are risk based. 	6, 12	NSW DPI - BFS	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSW Shellfish Program Harvest and Hold Scheme 	12	NSW DPI BFS	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burial of livestock near riverbanks – raised with DPI Flood Recovery Committee 	12	DPI Industry	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pollution arising from intensive livestock facilities 	12	DPI EPA	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure permitted on leases (Flipfarm shuttle) 	12	DPI RMS	Completed Incorporated into OISAS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tar reduction strategy 	12	DPI	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice guidelines for floating bags and rafts review 	12	DPI	Complete

Key Activities & Initiatives Undertaken:	Priority Action	Delivery	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New species on oyster leases 	12	DPI	Incorporated in OISAS review and REF complete