



aquaculturenews

ISSUE 4 JULY 2008

DATE FOR YOUR CALENDAR

23 September 2008, Oyster Industry Field Day - Mooney Mooney – Hawkesbury River

The Hawkesbury Nepean Tide to Table project is planning to host an oyster industry field day to showcase the recovery of the Hawkesbury industry and clean-up projects funded by Tide to Table. The day will cater for the usual trade exhibitors, a planned SOCo. session on selected lines, and it will be an opportunity for oyster growers to catch up on the latest developments in the industry. Efforts will be made to provide buses leaving from Port Macquarie and Batemans Bay. More information will be sent to permit holders closer to the date. Contact: Tim Gippel NSW DPI 4916 3823

What good is the oyster strategy doing?

NSW DPI and the industry are using the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy (OISAS) to positively influence development assessment outcomes and government policy. A few recent examples include:

- Clyde River growers used the strategy as a basis for preparing an environmental management system (EMS). The EMS has subsequently opened up funding for clean-ups and repairs to the road servicing sheds at Lattas Point.
- As a result of comments from NSW DPI and oyster farmers, Bega Valley Council worked with the proponent of a caravan park to redesign the layout, relocate about 20 of the sites further away from the lake foreshore and improve their proposed stormwater management measures. Without the oyster strategy and the requirement to refer development applications to NSW DPI, it would have been too late to influence the outcome of this development.
- The oyster strategy is also helping to protect water quality in the Crookhaven River by placing additional controls on stormwater and wastewater disposal on a proposed tourism development on Goodnight Island.
- In 2007/08 there were 23 development referrals to NSW DPI due to OISAS legislation.
- The NSW government's Diffuse Source Water Pollution Strategy has adopted sanitary water quality as one of its primary areas of concern after the profile of oyster industry water quality issues were raised through OISAS, industry, NSW DPI and the NSW Food Authority.
- The oyster strategy is recognised in the zoning plans for both the Port Stephens/Great Lakes and Batemans Marine Parks providing immediate special purpose zone classification and protection for oyster growing areas in these parks. Contact: Tim Gippel NSW DPI 4916 3823 and Katie Sachs NSW DPI 4916 3913

Pacific oyster management plans

Following representations from the oyster industry at Wagonga Inlet and the Clyde River, where large numbers of Pacific oysters have been detected, NSW DPI developed a draft Pacific Oyster Management Plan. This was based on a similar plan implemented in the Shoalhaven estuary in the 1990's. The plan includes best management practice, options to remove Pacific oysters from unleased land and outlines compliance requirements. Following industry meetings in March, the management plans have been adopted in both estuaries. Contact: Katie Sachs NSW DPI 4916 3913

Clyde River growers take the initiative on Pacific oysters

Clyde River oyster farmers invited a Canberra based scuba club to help remove Pacific oysters from lease areas on Saturday 10th May. A large number of farmers supported the event coordinated by Ben Ralston and briefing by John Yiannaros. Credit to Sid Paschalidis for a first class bbq. The day was supported by Aquaculture Management and Compliance. Clyde farmers are also tackling some derelict leases causing problems in the estuary and removing waste from around sheds with assistance from the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority. Contact: Katie Sachs NSW DPI 4916 3913



Volunteer divers in the Clyde River

Wagonga Inlet farmers work with local community groups

Wagonga Inlet farmers are working with the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority, Wagonga Rangers workers, Nature Coast Marine Group, Marine Park Authority and NSW DPI to undertake control work for Pacific oysters. A training day was held on 18th June, with foreshore work and dive work coordinated by David Maidment with a social bbq cooked by Pat Murtagh on 28th June.





Jillian Keating Southern Rivers CMA, David Maidment Wagonga Inlet oyster farmer and part of the catch

Aquaculture extension update

Between October 2007 and June 2008, aquaculture extension has dealt with over 180 aquaculture related enquiries. These included; requests for information and assistance from existing land-based and lease-based aquaculture permit holders; providing assistance to potential new entrants to both sectors of the aquaculture industry; and requests for advice from the general public and other stakeholders regarding a wide range of aquaculture issues. Over recent months 35 oyster farm visits have been conducted on the far south coast and the far north coast of NSW. These visits enable farmers to discuss individual farm issues and will assist in the preparation of advisory publications for the oyster industry. Contact: Steve McOrrie NSW DPI 4916 3921

Aquaculture research outputs

The Aquaculture Research Unit at Port Stephens Fisheries Centre has worked with industry to address core priorities to assist the development of the NSW aquaculture industry. External industry funding of approximately \$6 million has been awarded for a number of projects that are nearing completion. Outputs from these projects to date include:

Development and delivery of technology for production, enhancement and aquaculture of blacklip abalone (*Haliotis rubra*) in NSW by M.P. Heasman *et al.* Final Report to FRDC project 2001/033.

Manual for intensive hatchery production of abalone by M. Heasman and N. Savva. NSW DPI.

Development of a health management strategy for the silver perch aquaculture industry by S.J. Rowland *et al.* Final Report to FRDC Project nos. 2000/267 and 2004/089.

Diagnosis, treatment and prevention of the diseases of the Australian freshwater fish silver perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*) by P. Read *et al.* NSW DPI.

Development of industrial-scale inland saline aquaculture: coordination and communication of R&D in Australia by G.L. Allan *et al.* Final Report to FRDC project no. 2004/241.

QX resistant oyster challenge trial 2005-2007 by J. Nell *et al.* Final Report to FRDC project no. 205/076.

Industry management and commercialisation of the Sydney rock oyster breeding program by Ray Tynan. Final Report to FRDC project no. 2005/209.

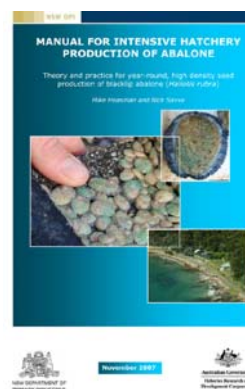
Sydney rock oysters: overcoming constraints to commercial scale hatchery and nursery production by W. O'Connor *et al.* Final report to FRDC project no. 2003/209.

Another final report which is nearing completion is – Increasing the profitability of snapper farming by improving hatchery

practices and diets by scientists from the marine fish breeding and nutrition teams. Final report to Aquafin Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Project No. 2001/208. This is such a large body of work it will be published in 3 volumes – Volume 1 Diet Development; Volume 2 Skin Colour; Volume 3 Fingerling Production and Health.

As the Aquafin CRC is winding up, another interim report is being prepared for Aquafin CRC Project 2004/220. Feed technology for temperate fish species. This project is not due for completion until 2009. Major contributors to this project are Debra Ballagh and Igor Pirozzi, two PhD students from James Cook University who are conducting their research on feeding strategies and diet development for mullet and kingfish. They hope to submit their theses towards the end of this year.

NSW DPI is supporting participants of the Seafood CRC. Two projects on oysters have been transferred to the Seafood CRC, one new project on commercialisation of inland saline aquaculture has been approved and two other projects on marine finfish are being developed. Contact: Helena Heasman NSW DPI 4916 3912 or Helena.Heasman@dpi.nsw.gov.au to obtain copies of any published reports.



FRDC scholarship granted to NSW oyster farmer

Congratulations to the Shoalhaven's Lyn Desoto-Southwell who has been selected to undertake the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course.

Acid sulfate soils project in the Hunter Estuary

NSW DPI has recently been engaged by the Federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts to complete a project entitled "Acid Sulfate Soils Investigations in the Lower Hunter Estuary". This project aims to carry out site specific soil and water testing to locate acid sulfate soils hot spots in the lower Hunter. This knowledge will be used to make recommendations for improved land management and provide options for on-ground rehabilitation works to mitigate the impacts of acid sulfate soils. To date, site assessments have been completed and the results from soil and water testing are being compiled. In late May NSW DPI held a series of workshops for landholders in the lower Hunter estuary (at Kooragang Wetlands, Tocal and Salt Ash) to raise awareness of the risk of acid sulfate soils and promote actions such as native wet pasture management for appropriately managing acid sulfate soil prone floodplains. Contact: Jenny Fredrickson NSW DPI 4916 3834

Draft NSW land based sustainable aquaculture strategy

Final comments have been collated from government agencies to consolidate the North Coast and the Hunter and Central Coast Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy's into one state-wide

policy document. The Strategy details the approvals process for intensive and extensive aquaculture and highlights best practice for site and operational parameters. The document consists of a brief introductory/educational Part 1 and a more detailed Part 2. Investors that plan to establish farms with 'least environmental risk' in relation to site, species and operational attributes will require a lower level of assessment and approvals. The Strategy will be placed on public exhibition for 60 days. Preliminary copies will be provided to Associations. The draft will be placed on the NSW DPI website as well as being sent to all Councils for exhibition. **Contact: Graeme Bowley NSW DPI 4916 3845**

New lease & permit application forms

New application forms and information guides came into effect on 1st January 2008. Where relevant, application forms for oyster leases now include an Aquaculture Lease Area Condition Statement (ALAC). The purpose of the ALAC is for all parties subject to a lease or permit transaction to identify and agree on the condition of a lease area or work required, prior to the transaction being processed. The introduction of the ALAC has reduced the time taken to process oyster lease transactions.

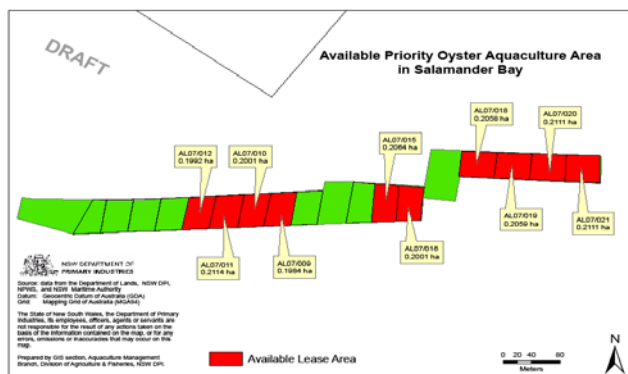
The new application forms and information guides are available on www.dpi.nsw.gov.au or by contacting Aquaculture Administration 02 4982 1232

Proposed regulation amendments

Amendments have been proposed to: allow the Minister to waive new lease application fees for "Phase-out Lessees"; formalise the rules for changing security arrangements for lease based aquaculture; exempt ornamental fish breeders who hold less than 10,000 litres of water; and regulate ornamental fish wholesalers and retailers. The latter is in association with a national management strategy for ornamental fish. **Contact: Tim Gippel NSW DPI 4916 3823**

Port Stephens oyster lease ballot

On Thursday 10th April 2008, a choice of fifteen spat-catching oyster leases in Salamander Bay were offered by a closed ballot to those leaseholders affected by spat-catching phase-out leases in Port Stephens. The offer was conditional on the surrender of the participating lessees' phase-out leases. Of the fifteen lease areas offered, five oyster leases were taken up. The remaining 10 oyster leases, which have all been identified as priority oyster aquaculture areas under OISAS, will now become available for individual applications. **Contact: Raelene Atkinson NSW DPI 4916 3843**



Landbased Aquaculture Consultative Group

The next meeting is scheduled for 14th July 2008. A summary of the meeting is placed on the NSW DPI website shortly after each meeting. **Contact Graeme Bowley NSW DPI 4916 3845**

Wallis Lake oyster lease auction

On Tuesday 26th February 2008, fifteen oyster leases in Wallis Lake, which were all identified as priority oyster aquaculture areas under OISAS, were offered to industry by public auction. Eleven oyster leases, with a total area of 9.8 hectares, were successfully sold. Four oyster leases were passed in. **Contact: Raelene Atkinson NSW DPI 4916 3843**

What do oysters actually eat?

Ana Rubio has completed an FRDC project No. 2005/076 – 'The dynamics and distribution of food supplies for the Sydney rock oyster (*Saccostrea glomerata*) in southern NSW estuaries'. **Contact: Ana Rubio 0427 285 999**

Total Field Days

NSW DPI staff attended the Total Field Days to provide information on aquaculture in NSW. There were hands-on displays involving oyster identification, new oyster cultivation technology and a microscope display of algae and zooplankton used at the Port Stephens Fisheries Centre. Following drought breaking rainfall on the eastern drainage there was a strong interest in stocking fish into farm dams. **Contact: Steve McOrrie NSW DPI 4916 3921**

National Aquaculture Council co-investment in aquatic animal health:

The National Aquaculture Council (NAC) is proposing a co-investment strategy (commonwealth/state/industry) to attract six veterinary trainees to bolster services in Australia and to develop capacity. The project is in the formative stage and NAC are seeking industry input. **Contact: NAC 0407 776 439**

Compliance update

NSW Fisheries Compliance is planning a renewed focus on aquaculture for 2008/09. Fisheries Officers are proposing to increase aquaculture inspections with particular focus on oyster lease compliance. Officers will be increasing inspections across the board, including Pacific oyster and oyster shipment inspections. Lessees and permit holders are reminded to complete and submit their Oyster Shipment Logbooks as required and contact local officers to prepare work plans for leases that are in a less than satisfactory condition. In cases where work plans have not been prepared and offences are detected lessees and/or permit holders should anticipate compliance action.

Oyster shipment logbooks

Concern has been expressed about the failure of oyster farmers to complete Oyster Shipment Logbooks for the interestuarine movement of oyster stock in NSW. NSW DPI has raised this issue a number of times in recent newsletters and discussed concerns at the Peak Oyster Advisory Group meeting. Oyster farmers are advised that the Compliance Branch will be conducting audits of the Oyster Shipment Logbooks and will take action for breaches where movements are not reported.

Return of aquaculture annual production reports

Caution Notices have been sent to permit holders who failed to provide NSW DPI with Aquaculture Production Reports for the

2006/07 financial year. There are significant numbers of permit holders who fail to lodge their returns on time and considerable expense is outlaid to send letters and phone late submitters. Permit holders are advised that for the 2007/08 financial year, permit holders will receive a Caution Notice if they fail to meet the return deadline and thereafter a penalty notice (\$200). **Contact: Renee Winsor NSW DPI 0419 185 518**

Aquaculture Research Advisory Committee (ARAC) meeting held on 27 May 2008

The Minister for NSW DPI has approved the new ARAC Research & Development Strategic Plan 2007-2012. A copy has been sent to all aquaculture permit holders, Aquaculture Associations and also placed on the NSW DPI web site.

Documentation has been forwarded to the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet seeking a new appointment to the committee (a land-based representative resigned in September last year). Expressions of Interest were mailed to all land-based permit holders earlier this year. A selection panel was convened and the panel was unanimous in its recommendation. Formal approval confirming the appointment is expected soon.

The Committee agreed converting to plastics is the way forward for the oyster industry. It was advised there are grants available from State and Commonwealth government agencies to assist farmers to convert from timber to plastics.

There was much discussion on selectively bred oysters; particularly conditioning and shape. It is not understood why stock from the same batch can do well in one location and poorly in another. Consistency in condition and shape and benchmarking are the top priorities of research for the Seafood CRC. NSW ARAC is supporting the distribution of a survey to farmers seeking feedback on any problems they may be experiencing. From this, ARAC will then assist in providing an information brief to farmers on these problems and how to fix them.

Chemicals and extension were discussed; particularly the use of Clove oil as there is a problem obtaining a Minor Use Permit through the Commonwealth Government. It was recommended that a series of information sheets be drafted for the oyster industry on production technologies and husbandry. **Contact: Jo Pickles NSW DPI 4916 3901**

Triploid Pacific oysters approved for cultivation in the Shoalhaven and Crookhaven rivers

Pacific oyster production in NSW is set to increase following the approval in February 2008 of the Crookhaven/Shoalhaven estuary to cultivate triploid Pacifics. The approval for a four year trial was given to a group of Shoalhaven growers who funded the environmental assessment that supported the application. The Crookhaven/Shoalhaven is the fourth estuary in NSW to be approved for triploid Pacifics along with Port Stephens, Hawkesbury and the Georges River.

Manning River update

A devastating, prolonged period of freshwater almost completely killed all farmed oysters in the Manning in February 2008. The situation was made worse by the lack of flushing through the closed south arm at Old Bar. On March 7 the Minister for Lands Tony Kelly announced \$30,000 to open the Old Bar entrance, but before this work could be organised and approved, the ANZAC day flood in the Manning did the job. The local oyster industry is working hard to ensure that keeping this entrance open is part of a revised management plan for the south arm. A substantial community fund to assist with maintenance works has been raised with contributions from

individuals, the tourism industry, clubs and the oyster industry. To assist farmers, NSW DPI co-ordinated a meeting of support agencies and prepared an application for natural disaster status. **Contact: Tim Gippel NSW DPI 4916 3823**

Peak Oyster Advisory Group (POAG)

POAG met on 6th June 2008 in Sydney. Items on the agenda included:

- The Minister for Primary Industries agreed to support POAG's request for an amendment to the Fisheries Management (Aquaculture) Regulation 2007 that would provide Ministerial discretion to waive new lease application fees in certain circumstances;
- The Minister for Primary Industries also indicated his support for POAG's efforts to seek clarity on the issue of Department of Lands' valuations of oyster industry leases by seeking representation with the Minister for Lands;
- The NSW Food Authority now has a fact sheet on *Retail Handling of Live Unopened Shellfish* which is available on their website. The NSW DPI *Recreational Saltwater Fishing Guide* has been updated to incorporate this information;
- The NSW Food Authority provides NSW Shellfish Program water quality data to third parties with the approval from the relevant Local Shellfish Program. A Memorandum of Understanding between all groups who own the data was suggested which will specify how the data will be disseminated and how much it will cost;
- NSW DPI has written to all Port Stephens farmers to advise them of a ban on the use of wire of a length longer than one metre on oyster leases. Affected permit holders are involved in a two year long-line environmental sustainability trial.
- The OISAS Performance Indicators Annual Report for 2006/2007 confirms that OISAS has successfully set out a streamlined lease application process and has allowed NSW DPI to make comments on proposed developments that have the potential to impact on oyster aquaculture;
- The NSW Farmers' Association is considering running courses for oyster farmers to encourage them to go 'on-line'. Ideas for improving industry communication can be provided to Mark Bulley (Chair);
- Members agreed that there was a need for an Emergency Management Plan to be implemented in the event of a water quality or natural disaster event. The NSW Farmers' Association will set up a working group to look into options for such a plan. A motion was also carried that POAG would write to the Minister for Primary Industries seeking his support to lobby for an amendment to the policy for the eligibility for natural disaster assistance to accommodate lease based aquaculture;
- Jeffrey Go (NSW DPI Veterinary Officer – Aquatic Animal Health) advised that no sporulating QX were detected in oysters sampled from the Wooli River in March 2008. An additional year of surveillance will be necessary before the current QX status of the river can be reviewed. **Contact: Katie Sachs NSW DPI 4916 3913**

Environmental management systems (EMS) forum.

A three day forum on EMS was held in Newcastle in May. Kevin McAsh, Clyde River oyster grower, gave a talk on the Clyde River EMS in a seafood industry session chaired by Tim Gippel, NSW DPI. Any permit holders or industry groups interested in pursuing EMS should contact **Tim Gippel NSW DPI 4916 3823** or **Genevieve Carruthers the NSW DPI EMS specialist on 02 6626 1237**

Aquatic biosecurity news

QX risk-based revised closure almost here!

NSW DPI has four closures and associated quarantine orders in place to manage QX disease. These four closures are about to be replaced with one new closure and a quarantine order.

During the past 2 years NSW DPI has developed a risk-based approach to the management of QX in close collaboration with the oyster industry and NSW Farmers Association. The risk-based system groups estuaries of similar risk with respect to QX and allows for movement from lower risk estuaries to higher risk. Movement from higher risk to lower risk can only proceed with the full agreement of the oyster farmers in the receiving estuary. The risk ranking of estuaries can be reviewed based on three consecutive years' surveillance.

The estuaries most affected by the new system will be Tweed, Brunswick and Woolli rivers and Wonboyn Lake, which will all be ranked medium risk. Under the new system oysters from high risk estuaries (Richmond, Clarence, Macleay, Hawkesbury and Georges Rivers) will not be permitted to be moved to Tweed, Brunswick and Woolli rivers and Wonboyn Lake without the full agreement of the oyster farmers in the receiving estuary.

Gazettal of the new closure is imminent and will come into effect one month after its declaration. The industry will be notified of the changes and the date when they come into effect. **Contact: Jane Frances NSW DPI 4916 3904**

Aquatic pests - green shore crab update

Following several new sightings of the green shore crab by oyster farmers on the NSW south coast the Aquatic Biosecurity Unit undertook a state-wide mail-out of a laminated identification card to all oyster and mussel permit holders.

As a result of this campaign, NSW DPI has confirmed several new sightings of the green shore crab in NSW; the most recent confirmation in April 2008 from the Clyde River. This brings the number of estuaries documented by NSW DPI to have green shore crabs present to ten: Wonboyn Lake, Twofold Bay, Merimbula Lake, Pambula Lake, Bermagui River, Nelson Lagoon, Wapengo Lake, Nangudga Lake, Wagonga Inlet and Clyde River. Oyster farmers are thanked for their vigilance in identifying and reporting this pest.

Records from the Australian Museum suggest populations of the green shore crab are underestimated, and it is likely that populations are present in many estuaries in NSW, with historical sightings of the species in Jervis Bay, Lake Conjola, Burrill Lake and Narawallee Inlet.

NSW DPI is endeavouring to gain a better understanding of the distribution, abundance and potential impacts of the green shore crab by asking farmers to report detailed information including the type of cultivation the crabs are found in and the impacts on production. In addition, NSW DPI Aquatic Ecosystems Research is undertaking ongoing surveillance to trap for the Green shore crab in several NSW estuaries.

Please report any sightings of this pest on the NSW DPI 24 hour pest hotline 4916 3877

Murray cod genetics study

Murray cod are a legendary species in Australia, and yet until recently, little was known of its wild population genetic structure. This project commenced in 2004 and formed the basis of Meaghan Rourke's PhD research, which was completed last year. Results of this study identified genetically distinct populations in the Murray-Darling Basin, most notably the Lachlan and Macquarie River catchments. In addition, stocking over the last three decades has had a noticeable affect

on population structure in some north-eastern catchments (Border Rivers, Gwydir River and Namoi River). However, historical scale samples (50 years old) collected from the southern catchments prior to stocking were genetically very similar to samples collected after stocking, suggesting minimal genetic effects of stocking in these areas.

This project also looked at the mating habits of captive Murray cod and the level of genetic diversity in the broodstock population that was passed onto the stocked fish over three consecutive breeding seasons. Results showed that approximately half the broodfish did not spawn at all over the three year period, and that the species was not always monogamous. The mating behaviour of the broodfish resulted in moderate but statistically significant reductions in genetic diversity of the progeny.

Results from all aspects of this study can be utilised to apply appropriate management strategies that seek to avoid mixing different genetic strains of Murray cod and to increase the genetic diversity of stocked fish.

Eel-tailed catfish genetics study

Meaghan Rourke is also undertaking research into eel-tailed catfish which is a popular recreational fish that was once widespread in eastern Australia. The species has undergone a dramatic decline in abundance in most areas. Her study seeks to understand the genetic relationships between populations before any re-stocking program can be considered. **Contact: Meaghan Rourke NSW DPI 6959 9024**

Cost effective repairs to oyster punts.

Hawkesbury River farmers are using a foam injection technique to repair aluminium punts. Punts damaged in the clean up of QX affected leases and those suffering general wear and tear have had bottom and side panels cleaned internally of mud and debris and have been reinjected with closed cell foam. Farmers report that the punts are now stronger and less flexible, they carry more weight and are more fuel efficient. The photo below shows identical 35 foot punts with the foam injected punt riding six inches higher. Note also a 30 year old 40 foot punt in the background that was also treated. **For details contact Broken Bay Oysters on 0405 382 717**



Is approval required to change farming methods on an oyster Lease?

Oyster leases carry with them the traditional rights of intertidal rack and rail oyster farming and in some instances the harvest right to natural oyster beds. Oyster farmers are reminded that under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* any intensification or significant change to farming activity on an oyster lease requires the prior written approval of NSW DPI. Currently, floating and post supported long-line cultivation are

not regarded as an intensification of activity and do not require prior approval. Examples of farming methods which require approval are:

- The installation of pickle drum type raft cultivation
- Construction of a wave barrier fence or platform
- The installation of irrigation systems or pump stands
- Dredging

Where you wish to significantly change the farming activity on an oyster lease you will be required to complete an *Aquaculture Permit/Lease Variation Preliminary Assessment Form*. The form is available on the NSW DPI website www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/aquaculture/forms/lease-forms or can be obtained from NSW DPI Aquaculture Administration on 4982 1232

'One stop shop' for Commonwealth government grants

Over recent years the NSW oyster industry has received funding support from the Commonwealth Government for a number of environmental rehabilitation and sustainable farm practice initiatives. The Commonwealth Government has now announced the *Caring For Our Country Program* which will be a simplified 'one stop shop' covering the *Natural Heritage Trust* and *National Landcare, Environmental Stewardship* and *Working on Country* programs.

Further information regarding grants available under the *Caring For Our Country Program* can be found at www.nrm.gov.au Advice on other Federal and State Government funding opportunities can be found at www.business.gov.au and www.grantslink.gov.au. Grants of up to \$50,000 are also available through National Resource Management (NRM). For further information please go to the website: www.nrm.gov.au/funding/coastcare Applications close on Friday 25 July 2008

NSW hatchery quality assurance scheme (HQAS)

There are now five freshwater fish hatcheries accredited under the HQAS with five facilities attending to minor issues and another two with scheduled inspections. The standard of compliance has been extremely high which is a credit to the hatcheries.

The overall outcome is for the production of healthy fingerlings for fish stocking and the aquaculture industry. NSW DPI has taken a trademark on the HQAS logo. On 12th May 2008 Queensland, Victoria and NSW industry and government representatives met to discuss the HQAS and issues of mutual recognition. Contact Graeme Bowley NSW DPI 4916 3845



Tar on the way out

The oyster industry continues to make significant progress in the phase-out of tarred timber lease infrastructure. Information supplied by farmers on their 2006-2007 Annual Production Returns is summarised below.

Tar Replacement - Snap Shot 2006-2007

Oyster grown in conjunction with	% of Total State Production ¹
Tarred timber posts	9.4
Plastic or plastic sleeved post	61.5
Other types of post ²	15.9
<i>Not Specified on production return</i>	<i>13.2</i>
Tarred timber rail	15.1
Plastic or plastic sleeved timber rail	54.9
Other types of rail ³	12.7
<i>Not Specified on production return</i>	<i>17.3</i>
Tarred timber marker posts	3.0
Plastic/plastic sleeved marker posts	67.8
Other types of marker posts ⁴	16.4
<i>Not Specified on production return</i>	<i>12.8</i>
Tarred timber trays	42.4
Plastic trays	32.1
Other growing infrastructure ⁵	9.9
<i>Not Specified on production return</i>	<i>15.6</i>

¹Data weighted by reported individual farm production for human consumption (SRO and Pacific Oyster) 2006-2007.

²Includes unprotected timber, creosote and CCA treated pine

³Includes post supported long line, floating long line and CCA treated pine ⁴Includes unprotected timber, creosote and CCA treated pine ⁵Includes baskets, cylinders and CCA treated pine trays

What's new in oysters

NSW DPI continues to work with product suppliers to develop and refine alternatives to tarred timber lease infrastructure. This includes recently developed polyethylene extrusion coated round timber posts, available in 83mm (various standard lengths) and 125mm (up to 5.4m); and a newly developed polyethylene extrusion coated 55mmx30mm timber rail that is currently being trialled. Contact: Steve McOrrie NSW DPI 4916 3921

Vale - Mike Bamford Eden Shellfish

Mike Bamford was a pioneer of mussel farming in NSW establishing Eden Shellfish in Twofold Bay. Mike will be fondly remembered for his generous spirit and determination to see aquaculture developed in NSW.

Aquaculture News is a newsletter for the aquaculture industry in NSW.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (March 2007). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.