

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 2 December 2015

Summary of meeting outcomes

National Foodborne Virus Survey in Oysters

Results from the national foodborne virus survey in oysters conducted by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) have been reported. A total of 33 commercial growing areas across Australia were represented. All sampling was conducted when harvest areas were open for harvest and sale for human consumption. The results showed that no Norovirus or Hepatitis A virus were detected which equates to <2% prevalence with a 95% confidence interval. There will always be an inherent risk of foodborne illness with shellfish due to the raw consumption of the food, however these results help support the current national management practices in place. This is good news for the oyster industry and consumer confidence.

Sydney Royal Fine Food Show

The Royal Agricultural Society Fine Food Show is scheduled for judging on the 18-19 February 2016 and all NSW shellfish growers are encouraged to participate. This show is used as a benchmark of agricultural excellence with "Sydney Royal" medals awarded to the winners. Entries close 4 January 2014, more information is available at www.sydneyroyal.com.au

White and Multi-coloured Oyster Infrastructure

Reducing visual amenity impact is a key component to the oyster industry's commitment to sustainable aquaculture. The extent and use of internal white and multi-coloured infrastructure occurring throughout the industry is acknowledged and the practice is advised to cease, however the existing coloured infrastructure may take time through a consistent compliance program to remedy. Local Fisheries Officers will exercise their discretion regarding timeframes for removal or remediation of coloured internal infrastructure. Industry members are advised to review the Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy (OISAS) for industry best practices.

OISAS Best Practice - Oyster Lease Tidiness

A number of amendments to OISAS have been proposed surrounding lease tidiness concerns. A paper is to be distributed to all Oyster Aquaculture permit holders in early 2016 outlining the proposed amendments

Proposed New Biosecurity Act 2015

The Biosecurity Act 2015 will repeal parts of the Fisheries Management Act 1994 relating to disease, marine vegetation and noxious fish provisions. Biosecurity NSW is requesting feedback on the new Biosecurity Act 2015 with discussion papers available here <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-act-2015/discussion-papers#aquatic> and <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-act-2015/general-biosecurity-duty>. Submissions can be sent to submissions.biosecuritylegislation@dpi.nsw.gov.au and close 12 February 2016.

NSW Shellfish Committee Industry Member Positions

An Expression of Interest invitation for positions on the NSW Shellfish Committee has been issued to all NSW Food Authority licensees. The December meeting was the final meeting of current industry members term and all positions have been declared vacant. All NSW shellfish growers are encouraged to apply. Nominations close on 23rd December 2015. More information is available by emailing nswsp@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au.

Guest Industry Observers Approved

The option for local shellfish program committee members to attend NSW Shellfish Committee as observers was approved. Application for local shellfish program committee members to attend can be made to nswsp@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au. Local program committee endorsement and support is required. Successful applicants are granted observer status at the meeting but are not given voting rights.