

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 15 August 2018

Summary of meeting outcomes

Operation Trident – Reporting of Thefts

Operation Trident, a joint initiative between NSW DPI Biosecurity & Food Safety, NSW DPI Fisheries & NSW Police has been ongoing since 2007 and targets theft and illegal sale of shellfish. If theft or suspected illegal sale of shellfish is identified the Operation Trident form (found here https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/638207/operation-tridnet-reporting-form.pdf) should be completed and reported to both the Police Assistance Line (131 444) and NSW Food Authority Helpline (1300 552 406).

Annual General Meeting of Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Advisory Committee

The 40th meeting of the Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Advisory Committee (ASQAAC) was held in Sydney in September hosted and Chaired by the NSW Food Authority. The day preceding the meeting was a science day which included numerous presentations on shellfish food safety and was attended by industry, researchers and state shellfish regulators. A link to the abstracts from the presentations on the day can be found here <http://www.asqap2018.com/>.

Capping of Marker Poles

NSW DPI Fisheries Aquaculture Management intend to amend the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy (OISAS) to prohibit the use of vertical plastic pipe used for lease marking that is greater than 150mm in diameter. The prohibition will only apply to the instillation of new lease marker posts and will not apply to plastic pipe lease marker post greater than 150 mm that are currently in use by the industry. Where plastic lease marker posts greater than 150 mm are already in use, NSW DPI will require the leaseholder to either cap the pipe or place a device in the post to prevent fauna falling in to the hollow void in the post. The prohibition will not apply to plastic pipe used horizontally for floatation purposes.

Shellfish Relay Policy Revised

Recently the NSW Shellfish Program revised the shellfish relay requirements to align with the Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (ASQAP) manual. Accompanying the revised relay requirements is a simplified stock movement diary. The committee endorsed the revised requirements and the stock movement diary which will be rolled out to industry once formally released.

The new policy is now in operation and can be found at:

http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/Documents/industry/shellfish_relay_operational_procedure.pdf

Dredge Bed Lease Security

Under existing policy there is no provision to exempt dredge bed leases from the lease security bond fee. Dredge bed lease owners were contacted with the consensus in support of amending existing legislation to exempt dredge bed leases from the lease security bond due to these leases having no infrastructure and therefore limited to no clean up cost. DPI Fisheries will seek a policy amendment to exempt dredge bed leases from the lease security bond.

Remaining Meeting Dates for 2018

November 14th

All meetings are due to be held at the NSW Food Authority Offices in Newington.