

# NSW Shellfish Committee

**Wednesday 9 November 2016**

## **Summary of meeting outcomes**

### **Operation Trident – Report Oyster Thefts**

Operation Trident, a joint initiative between NSW Police, DPI Fisheries & NSW Food Authority will continue over the Christmas period. The Christmas / New year period is often a high theft period for oysters. If theft of shellfish is identified, industry members are urged to call the Police Assistance line on 13 14 44 and receive an event number and then contact the nearest NSW Fisheries unit irrespective of the scale of theft. Often times numerous smaller stock losses form part of a larger problem. Similarly if industry members observe black market sale of shellfish they are encouraged to report it to the NSW Food Authority contact centre on 1300 552 406.

### **Interactions between Boaters and Oyster Farmers**

Interactions between boaters, fishers and oyster farmers can sometimes be tenuous and the resulting conflict can result in damage to lease infrastructure and ongoing frustration for oyster industry members. A communication strategy initiated by a sub group reporting to the NSW Shellfish Committee will look to ease such conflicts by addressing key themes such as water quality, lease damage and workplace rights.

### **ASQAP Manual Remake**

The Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (ASQAP) manual has recently been updated and can be viewed here <http://safefish.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Australian-Shellfish-Quality-Assurance-Program-Operations-Manual-2016.pdf>. ASQAP outlines best practice guidelines for state regulatory control agencies such as the NSW Food Authority. The revised ASQAP manual contains a number of updated guidelines which will require consultation between the NSW Food Authority and the NSW shellfish industry prior to being implemented.

### **Water Quality Issues Register**

A water quality register instigated by the Aquaculture Research Advisory Committee (ARAC) is being used to identify areas where water quality improvements can be made through a joint strategy by Food Authority, DPI Fisheries and Oceanwatch. Industry members are encouraged to report improvement areas to [nswsp@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nswsp@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au) so they can be added to the register which will be used to guide future water quality improvement works and consultation between land owners, Local Land Services and local Councils.