

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 17 August 2016

Summary of meeting outcomes

AMSA Requirements for Commercial Vessels

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has advised that all vessels associated with commercial aquaculture activities are considered "domestic commercial vessels". From 1 July 2017 AMSA will assume full responsibility for service delivery of the national domestic commercial vessel safety system. Existing vessels operating prior to 30 June 2013 will be considered under a "grandfathering clause" and no new safety systems will be required. All new vessels operating after 30 June 2013 may require additional certificates of survey and safety systems. For more information on this please see the August 2016 newsletter on www.nswoysters.com or contact AMSA Liaison Officer Anthony Bradstreet on (02) 8918 1314 or email anthony.bradstreet@amsa.gov.au.

Non-Oyster vessels on Leases

The issue of interactions between oyster farmers and recreational vessels in and around oyster leases was discussed. A working group consisting of DPI Fisheries (Aquaculture and Recreational Fishing), RMS, oyster farmers and a recreational fishing representative has been established to prepare a communication strategy aimed at reducing conflicts between recreational boaters, fishers and oyster leases.

Local Sales of Oysters

All "local sales" sold direct to the public must be labelled with a tag, sticker, business card, etc with the business name, date and quantity to demonstrate the Oysters were not illegally harvested, collected or likely to be on-sold. Shellfish businesses are also to be reminded that traceability back to a point of harvest must be maintained. NSW Food Authority Product Record Books are suitable for this purpose. The Shellfish Committee endorsed DPI Fisheries to investigate amendments to the Fisheries legislation that would give Fisheries Officers the power to request these records be produced.

Oyster Theft Conviction

Officers from NSW Police, NSW Fisheries & NSW Food Authority working together under Operation Trident has led to the successful prosecution of a man in Murwillumbah court. A 39 year old man was found guilty of larceny after he was apprehended collecting restaurant grade oysters in the Brunswick River and fined \$1000. Anyone who suspects illegal activity should call Crime Stoppers or Fishers Watch.

Disaster Coordination and Reporting

DPI Fisheries Aquaculture Administration are intending to update a list of key industry contacts who can assist in coordination and reporting during times of disaster (floods, disease outbreaks, severe weather, etc). The last list of key contacts was created in 2011 and requires updating. If you would like to be included in this list of key contacts within your local area please contact Ian Lyall on (02) 4981 9074 or email ian.lyall@dpi.nsw.gov.au.