

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 12 August 2020

Summary of meeting outcomes

Sydney Rock Oyster Breeding Program

NSW DPI recently issued an expression of interest to commercialise the outputs of the Sydney Rock Oyster (SRO) breeding program. Australian Seafood Industries (ASI) were successful with their application. ASI run the Pacific Oyster breeding program in Australia. They are developing a business plan which will form the basis of a contract between ASI and DPI. ASI are actively canvassing NSW oyster growers and will involve the industry in the future direction of the program.

Oyster Marketing Campaign

Andy Myers, current Executive Officer of Oysters Australia provided an update on a proposed national marketing campaign to increase oyster sales, raise awareness of the industry and the health benefits of oyster consumption. This marketing campaign will be national and focus on all species of oysters.

Oyster Finder Interactive Map and Directory

Andy Myers provided an update on the Oyster Finder website where NSW shellfish businesses can apply to have their business pinned to an interactive map. The map can be found here <https://www.nswoysters.com.au/>. The map is crowd supported and businesses can submit their details through this website and be added to the directory.

Temporary Emergency Relay Areas

As a result of the recent drought experienced in 2019-2020 a few NSW estuaries had restricted flow and/or full closure of estuary entrances which led to water quality degradation, loss of tidal exchange, stock loss and increased water height which made working leases difficult. As a risk mitigation strategy NSW DPI reviewed current POAA and unused lease area in nearby estuaries which could be used as a temporary relay area to be used in such emergencies. DPI will consult with stakeholders to identify relay areas. NSW Shellfish Committee industry members were supportive of this project.

Biotoxin Testing Service Level Agreement

NSW Shellfish Committee industry members were supportive of the NSW Shellfish Program proposal to test the market for a set service level agreement for biotoxin analytical services on behalf of all NSW local shellfish programs. All local shellfish programs were asked to raise this at their local program annual general meeting for discussion. Feedback received at the time of the meeting was 16 local programs were supportive of the initiative, five programs had no comment on the initiative and no responses were against the initiative. Based on the majority support it was agreed for the NSW Shellfish Program to test the market with a service level agreement for biotoxin analysis.

Adverse Sampling Policy Revision

The adverse sampling policy was first endorsed and introduced in 2016. Adverse sampling compliance is critical to achieving and maintaining export status as well as a key factor in permitting local programs to partake in the harvest and hold scheme. Adverse testing compliance is relatively high; however, some local programs have alternative years of good performance which avoids sanctions under the adverse sampling policy. The committee endorsed a strengthening of the policy to prevent continual non-compliance.

Dates for remaining 2020 NSW Shellfish Committee Meetings

- 4 November 2020 (Items deadline 12 October 2020)

Industry members with matters to raise are to be made aware that they should consult the Shellfish Committee industry representatives to raise the item on their behalf, contact details can be found

here <http://www.foodauthority.nsw.gov.au/industry/shellfish/nsw-shellfish-committee>. If items are raised after the deadlines above, they will be held over until the following meeting. If industry members wish to attend the meeting as an observer, an expression of interest can be sent to food.nswsp@dpi.nsw.gov.au