

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 14 August 2019

Summary of meeting outcomes

NSW Department of Lands Fact Sheets

The NSW Department of Lands attended the August 2019 Shellfish Committee meeting to advise a number of fact sheets have been prepared for information of industry members. These fact sheets can be found here

- Leases and licences for oyster farming on Crown land fact sheet:
https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/272422/leases-and-licences-oyster-farming-fact-sheet.pdf
- Native title and the oyster farming industry fact sheet:
https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/272423/Native-title-and-the-oyster-farming-industry.pdf
- Aboriginal land claims fact sheet:
https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/149868/ALC-factsheet.pdf
- Aboriginal land claims definition of terms:
https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/149869/ALC-factsheet-terms.pdf

Oyster Industry Clean Up Week

A national oyster industry clean up week has been scheduled for 17 February 2020 where the focus is cleaning up estuaries of oyster farming materials that have escaped lease areas. The date was chosen to back onto Clean Up Australia Day to work in with Councils for collection and disposal of oyster and community waste. Numerous states are onboard and 17 estuaries in NSW have signed up for the week. If you or your local program wish to be involved please contact Oyster Industry Extension Officer Andy Myers on 0488 656366

Public Liability for Shellfish Businesses

A recent recall of oysters through a supermarket chain has left a business with a \$17,000 cost recovery charge and highlighted a concern regarding a lack of insurance covering this type of event. It was suggested that shellfish businesses discuss with their chosen insurer whether or not they are covered for third party costs in the event of a food recall. The direct cost of a full consumer level recall through a large supermarket chain can exceed \$100,000 so industry members are urged to discuss food recall coverage with their insurer.

Symbio Laboratory Charges

Symbio Laboratory is a commercial laboratory which conducts quantitative biotoxin analysis of shellfish and is a service provider many local programs choose to use to fulfil their biotoxin testing requirements. Recently, Symbio altered their pricing structure which has led to numerous calls being fielded by NSW Food Authority. As a private company Symbio set their fees and charges with no input from NSW Food Authority. If local programs wish to discuss these changes they should contact Symbio directly.

Management of Oyster Reef

Oyster reefs, both natural and man-made have been identified as a key habitat for many marine species. Acknowledging this key habitat many agencies are involved in oyster reef creation and restoration. In creating and restoring oyster reefs, both dead oyster shell and live oysters are used. NSW Shellfish Committee is finalising a set of guidelines for where this shell material and live oysters can be sourced.

It is proposed that removal of shell and oysters from the following areas only are permitted:

- Post and rail scrape off
- Collapsed oyster cultivation, lightly encrusted

Removal of shell and oysters from the following areas are not permitted

- Oyster encrusted natural reef or rock
- Oyster encrusted traditional rock cultivation or shell bed (dredge beds)
- Collapsed oyster cultivation, heavily encrusted established reef

Low Interest Innovation Fund

The committee noted that low interest loans are available through the [NSW Government Seafood Innovation Fund](#) administered by the [NSW Rural Assistance Authority](#).