

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 19 May 2021

Summary of meeting outcomes

Sydney Rock Oyster Breeding Program

Expressions of interest have been received for industry positions on the breeding program technical working group and reference group and for an Industry Liaison Officer. Members of the NSW Shellfish Committee will assess these expressions of interest and approve suitable applicants. Industry committee members supported the ongoing breeding program with a general overall support across the wider industry. QX disease resistance and improved growth characteristics remain the most desirable traits.

Oyster Translocation Incident

A recent incident involving translocation of oysters from interstate has highlighted the need for industry to better understand oyster shipment requirements. Translocation controls are detailed in the NSW Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy (OISAS) Chapter 6.13 – Pest and Disease Control and are part of aquaculture permit conditions. Businesses investigated for alleged breaches were warned in this instance however, DPI wishes to advise no further cautions will be issued should a breach of translocation protocols be detected in the future.

Flood Recovery Workshops

Following the recent devastating floods experienced across the state, industry specific workshops were held at six locations along the coast to discuss support and financial aid services available for industry. A number of oyster industry specific issues arose which have been raised with the DPI State Flood Recovery Group. For those industry members unable to attend, the NSW Rural Assistance Authority can be contacted on 1800 678 593 to discuss low interest loans, grants, subsidies and other disaster relief assistance.

Salinity Sensor Network

The ongoing salinity sensor network has been approved for a second phase following approval of a Sector Development Grant under the 2020 Bushfire Industry Recovery Program. The second phase will include ongoing recording of existing sensors as well as new sensors to be placed in key estuaries. Phase 2 will also support the writing of reports using the extensive data collected so far. Estuaries with the new sensors are able to view the live data via the internet. All businesses located in these key estuaries have received a text message with a link to the live data.

Dates for 2021 NSW Shellfish Committee Meetings

- 18 August 2021
- 10 November 2021

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