

# NSW Shellfish Committee

**Wednesday 25 May 2022**

## **Summary of meeting outcomes**

### **Newly Established Committee Members**

The 25 May 2022 Shellfish Committee meeting was the first meeting of the newly established committee. Returning industry member Shane Buckley is joined by new industry members Pippa Boyton, Brandon Armstrong and Sam Gordon (mussels). Professor Shauna Murray returned as the shellfish technical expert and was endorsed as the Chair of the committee for the next three year term.

### **Lease Tenure and Tiered Lease Security Amendments**

Following on from the Shellfish Committee Oyster Reform Project, legislative amendments are underway to increase minimum lease tenure from 15 to 30 years and to change lease security fees to acknowledge cheaper clean-up costs for leases with modern recyclable infrastructure. The new tiered lease security system will include a 24-month phase-in period July 2022-July 2024. During this period the fee will drop from \$40 to \$30/ha/yr for all permit holders. After the phase-in period conforming leases would continue to pay \$30/ha and nonconforming leases would pay \$50/ha.

### **Continuation of the NSW Oyster Industry Extension Officer Role**

Ongoing funding support for the NSW Oyster Industry Extension Officer position was unanimously supported by the Committee. This position is partly funded through the Local Landcare Coordinator Initiative and the NSW DPI Aquaculture Trust. The NSW Shellfish Committee recommended to the Minister the release of funds from the NSW DPI Aquaculture Trust to support the role for a further three year term.

### **Responsible Oyster Farmer Training Package – 2020 Sector Development Grant**

A 12 module training package focused on oyster farming has been developed and will be presented in four face-to-face workshops at the end of June. Locations and dates are as follows:

- 22 June – Merimbula
- 24 June – Batemans Bay
- 27 June – Port Stephens
- 28 June – Port Macquarie

The training will be provided by Andy Myers (NSW Farmers) and Kel Henry (Wonboyn oyster farmer). A link to more information will be issued to all subscribing members to the sms text message service.

### **QX in Port Stephens - Update**

Following DPI surveillance in March, QX disease was detected in more areas within the Port Stephens estuary, including the Bundabah (North Arm Cove) and Cromarty Bay growing areas. 300 oysters from both wild cultured stock across 10 zones within Port Stephens were sampled. 49 individual samples were positive for QX in the inner Port. NSW DPI is now working to reclassify Port Stephens as a 'high QX risk area' under the QX Biosecurity Zone. FRDC have approved \$80k in funding to studies with an aim to reduce knowledge gaps of the QX disease following their meeting with local industry representatives in April.

### **Vibrio parahaemolyticus Prevalence Study**

NSW Food Authority have commenced sampling across five NSW estuaries to assess Vibrio parahaemolyticus (VP) levels in NSW oysters, the prevalence of virulent VP strains and seasonality of VP. This study will assist in determining VP risk in NSW oysters and determine the need of on-going monitoring.

### **Dates for 2022 NSW Shellfish Committee Meetings**

- 10 August 2022
- 9 November 2022

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](mailto:food.nswsp@dpi.nsw.gov.au)