

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 24th May 2023

Summary of meeting outcomes

Oyster breeding program update

The DPI Sydney Rock Oyster breeding program have now incorporated Sydney rock oysters from the Richmond River into the breeding program with performance trials reporting a relatively low impact of QX. There remains a high focus on the Richmond River rock oyster lines for the reduction of QX impacts across industry.

A run of diploid Pacific oysters with broodstock collected within Port Stephens is going ahead and being supported by DPI with Port Stephens Fisheries Institute conditioning stock to support the sale of spat at lower than normal market rates. Port Stephens oyster farmers are eligible to sign up to receive this stock when it is available.

NSW Food Authority levies set

The NSW Shellfish Committee endorsed the state and local levy fees presented for the 2023-24 financial year. In line with the funding review of the NSW Shellfish Program cost sharing arrangement the NSW government will contribute 53% of the total cost towards the program with industry funding the remaining 47%. This funding review is assessed every three (3) years with the next review occurring in 2026.

Local shellfish program annual general meetings

An information pack has been provided to all local shellfish programs outlining the requirements and topics for discussion at the annual general meetings. All local shellfish programs are required to hold an annual general meeting prior to August to allow sufficient time for collation, assessment of information and approval of the incoming committee members. If a local program is not able to be formed prior to September 1st then the program will be deemed inoperable.

It is an audit general office requirement that three (3) local programs are selected each year for an in-depth financial review of expenditure. These selected programs will be informed by the NSW Shellfish Program to provide more in-depth financial reports for thorough assessment.

NSW aquaculture lease allocation policy amendment

Under current policy, leases that are offered in a competitive tender process and are within the boundaries of a marine park, must be forwarded to DPI Marine Parks for consultation prior to being advertised in the tender. In addition to Marine Parks consultation, DPI must also now consult with NTSCORP for native title considerations. To streamline the consultation process, DPI intends to consult with NTSCORP and the issuance of a Marine Park works permit at the same time to avoid delays in lease allocation.

Dates for 2023 NSW Shellfish Committee Meetings

- 9 August 2023
- 8 November 2023

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](#). 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