

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 9th August 2023

Summary of meeting outcomes

Sector Recovery and Resilience Grants update

The NSW Shellfish Committee was asked by Department of Regional NSW to oversee the progress of the sector recovery and resilience grants which include the following funded projects;

- Investigating water quality for the optimal production sustainable management and expansion of aquaculture in SE Australia.
 - Hydrology sensors have been installed in Jervis Bay & Twofold Bay and are collecting hydrological and biological data to be used in future modelling for food safety risk management, shellfish growth/condition and suitability of expansion for mussel aquaculture.
- Supporting increased aquaculture production through reduced harvest closures.
 - This project is looking at ten estuaries most impacted by sewage spills. Dye tracing data and modelling will be used to produce reports on sewage generated industry impacts and support decisions made to protect industry and shellfish consumers. Eight estuaries have been dye traced and one formal report has been finalised so far.
- Physical resilience of aquaculture.
 - This project supported the research and development of flood resistant raft and pontoons used in oyster production. Two prototype rafts have been deployed in the Nambucca and Camden Haven estuaries for evaluation.
- Improving broodstock in the NSW oyster industry
 - This project investigates options for shellfish spat production. In water floating upweller technology and land based tanks are being evaluated for efficiency and production of shellfish spat.
- Preparing the NSW oyster industry for future disasters
 - This project includes the production of material, advice and guidance to the NSW shellfish industry in preparing for future disasters. NSW Farmers intend to release video material for wide broadcast. Production is currently underway.
- From waste to product – identifying plastic and shell recycling pathways in the NSW oyster industry
 - This project is looking at the circular economy of shellfish industry generated waste of both shell and plastic used in production. A NSW EPA levy exemption has been applied for and appropriate waste management facilities are being identified. Further options for shell based use for cosmetics and pharmaceuticals is being investigated.

Socio-economic Contributions of Aquaculture in NSW

NSW DPI contracted BDO consultants to assess the economic contributions of aquaculture across NSW. This report will be available on the DPI website shortly. Findings across the entire aquaculture industry included 2,321 full time employee, \$145.1m contributed to total household income, \$219.7m contributed by industry to the total gross state product (GSP). Lease based shellfish aquaculture production was \$55.8m, land based aquaculture \$35.6m and hatcheries \$10.5m. One interesting finding was the \$5.6m per annum value of nitrogen and phosphorus removal in the aquatic environment by lease based aquaculture.

Dates for 2023 NSW Shellfish Committee Meetings

- 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.