

NSW Shellfish Committee

Wednesday 18 August 2021

Summary of meeting outcomes

Fishers Watch to report livestock impacts on riparian vegetation

Impacts on marine vegetation (mangrove, saltmarsh, seagrass) from the presence of livestock (cattle/goats) in foreshore areas and damaging lease infrastructure can be reported to DPI Fisheries via the Fishers Watch line 1800 043 536. An electronic form can be found here <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/compliance/report-illegal-activity>. If using this online form to report environmental harm including cattle in mangroves/saltmarsh or marine vegetation select "other" and include a description of the activity below. Reporting in this manner will build up a body of evidence and justification for DPI resources to be allocated to the area of concern. Water quality impacts from livestock should be reported to local Council Rangers.

Phase out of tar based timber preservatives supported

As a commitment to sustainable farming practices, the NSW Shellfish Committee has supported an end use date by the end of 2025 for treating cultivation equipment with tar based timber preservative products. It is believed that this long lead time will provide remaining businesses using the product sufficient time to transition to alternative cultivation infrastructure. Treated cultivation equipment could still be used until it becomes redundant. Transitioning to more sustainable cultivation methods often meets grant funding requirements and may be an opportunity for businesses to access financial assistance.

The recent draft revision of OISAS (fourth edition) lists the phase out of tar based preservative products by 2025 as an industry commitment to sustainable farming practices and stewardship of the marine estate. "It is the intention of the NSW oyster industry to phase out the use of historic preservation products to treat timber by the end of 2025".

Raft Culture Best Practice Guidelines – Labelling Blue Drums

Raft cultivation best practice guidelines have been finalised. They will form part of OISAS along with the floating basket guidelines. During the March 2021 floods numerous blue drums used in raft cultivation were found throughout northern estuaries with NSW Fire & Rescue Hazmat team requiring a formal hazardous material response. It is proposed that all blue drums used by the shellfish industry in rafts be labelled as "Aquaculture Floatation Device" to avoid a hazmat response by the end of 2025. To facilitate this NSW DPI is arranging to have a limited supply of a suitable tag which can be attached to the drum.

Multi-species farming on Class A aquaculture leases

A DPI vision to increase aquaculture production through innovation and best use of available resources has led to research into alternative species with potential to be grown on existing oyster farming infrastructure. DPI is currently developing a review of environmental factors (REF) which is required prior to any variation to an aquaculture permit. This REF process will negate the need for each individual business to provide their own REF. Species considered in the REF are:

- Akoya pearl oyster - *Pinctada fucata*
- Native clam, Tapestry Shell, Turgid Tapes - *Tapes conspersus*
- Sydney Cockle / Venus shell - *Anadara trapezia*
- Sand Cockle / Venus shell / Vongoles - *Katelysia scalarina* and *Katelysia rhytiphia*
- Pipi - *Donax deltooides*
- Commercial Scallop - *Pecten fumatus* and Doughboy Scallop - *Chlamys asperrimus*

POAA Extinguishment

NSW Shellfish Committee has been accepted as the preferred industry body to approve the extinguishment of priority oyster aquaculture areas (POAA). The committee were provided a total of six POAA listed for extinguishment. All POAA listed include all or part of the lease in unusable area well within protected mangrove areas. The committee supported the extinguishment of the leases listed.

Dates for 2021 NSW Shellfish Committee Meetings

- 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