

Oysters

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Acid Sulphate Soils

Apr 99 That the Oyster Committee approach the appropriate level of government seeking financial assistance for farmers who undertake rehabilitation work on country that has been cleared and drained (in many cases in good faith), resulting in acid groundwater run-off.

Alternative Species

Nov 03 That the Oyster Committee support Port Stephens and Brunswick River oyster farmers in their application to have their Aquaculture Permits endorsed for 'commercial cultivation of the Akoya Pearl Oyster.

Food Safety and Quality Assurance Program

Nov 04 That the Oyster Committee accepts an appeal mechanism process on the proviso that successful appeals are not funded out of NSW SP levies. The appeal mechanism is to include:

1. an initial consultative point with the NSW SP to ensure that findings are understood,
2. an internal review panel, and
3. an independent expert appeal panel that operates at a non-refundable cost of \$100 payable prior to internal review panel consideration and a \$500 refundable cost payable prior to independent expert appeal panel consideration.

Where growers feel that the internal review panel is not independent the option can be taken to pay \$600 (of which \$500 is refundable if successful) to have the independent expert appeal panel consider the issue.

Mar 05 That changes to shellfish handling protocol be notified to oyster growers immediately to avoid undue penalty in audits.

Dec 03 The Oyster Committee supports the attendance of two industry members to the International Conference on Molluscan Shellfish Safety, at least one of whom has attended in the past

Oct 03 That the Oyster Committee seek an independent review of the NSW Shellfish Program budget in light of cost sharing and polluter and beneficiary pays principles.

Jul 01 That the Oyster Committee is committed to maintaining a good working relationship between all stakeholders responsible for the NSW Shellfish Program. This should be at all levels including producers and inspectors.

Oct 07 That the Oyster Committee recommends that the laws around recreationally harvested oysters are revised to reflect that oysters harvested recreationally can only be consumed where they are harvested and they cannot be transported.

Oct 06 that the Oyster Committee supports that the issue of Sydney Rock Oyster food safety, as affected by post harvest handling and as dictated by domestic and export market standards, be addressed through a project commissioned by ARAC.

Sep 08 That the Oyster Committee seeks legal advice to determine what is needed to progress a case against local government to make them accountable for not complying with septic safe programs resulting in the contamination of an Oyster Harvest Area

Sep 08 That the Oyster Committee calls for an Audit of all septic safe programs in coastal NSW

AGM 08 That the Oyster Committee pursue a ban on all recreational oyster harvesting in an effort to minimise potential food safety issues and theft

Mar 08 That the Committee request the NSW Government require the Local Government, or responsible agency, to report the status of 'onsite sewage management system' in a continuous, on going and auditable manner.

Oct 06 That the Oyster Committee request that the process of communicating changes to the NSW Shellfish Program enforcement process be formalised.

May 06 That the Oyster Committee supports industry reserving the right to restrict access to water quality data, particularly algal data.

Hatchery Stock Company

Jul 08 NSW Farmers Association Oyster Section gives moral and logistical support where possible/practical to any application for the establishment of genuine Oyster Hatcheries in NSW to assist the commercial production of Oyster Spat supply for the industry.

Aug 05 That the Oyster Committee support the Select Oyster Company:

- a) being an industry owned body
- b) having a priority of breeding Sydney Rock Oysters

Hatchery Stock Company

c) include the breeding of Triploid Pacific Oysters.

AGM 08 NSW Farmers Association Oyster Section gives moral and logistical support where possible/practical to any application for the establishment of genuine Oyster Hatcheries in NSW to assist the commercial production of Oyster Spat supply for the industry.

Jun 08 That the Oyster Committee request SOCo consider/investigate employing additional resources to:

- a) find out what industry requirements of SOCo stock are;
- b) expedite these required improvements;
- c) promote best practice in growing and conditioning the SOCo spat.

Industry Structures & Committee Operation

May 06 The Oyster Committee support the Peak Oyster Advisory Group (POAG):

- a) being a non statutory liaison group that includes Government departments,
- b) addresses all issues of consequence to the oyster industry,
- c) participants are funded by their respective organisations
- d) Chair is funded through the NSW Government.

May 07 That the Oyster Committee investigate membership of Seafood experience Australia with a view to joining.

Oct 06 That the Oyster Committee request updates from ARAC, SOCO and Shellfish Committees on an as needs basis.

Oct 06 The Oyster Committee supports hosting industry field days in the north and south of the state bi-annually

May 06 That Oyster Committee support an "Oyster Industry Contingency Fighting Fund" (administered by the Association) to provide financial support to issues which have implications for oyster farmers.

May 06 That the Oyster Committee support the Shellfish Committee

- a) remaining a statutory technical body with a full complement of shellfish industry attendance
- b) providing written minutes/ reports to the NSW Farmers' Association Oyster Committee,
- c) having an independent Chair,
- d) technical advice provided on an as needs basis.

Oct 03 That the Oyster Committee supports being a member of the National Aquaculture Committee.

Oct 03 The Oyster Committee supports the appointment of an independent OMAG (POAG) chair to be funded by the NSW Government

Jun 03 That the Oyster Committee supports the concept of a peak industry food safety group, with the potential to combine OMAG and the food safety group and create technical subcommittee structures (ORAC & Shellfish Committee) in the future, in order to aid communication and reduce cost.

AGM 08 That the Association's Oyster Section encourage the continued and additional NSWFA membership by contacting aquaculture infrastructure, marine and packaging suppliers to acquire discounts for NSWFA Oyster farming members.

July 08 That the Association's Oyster Section electronically circulate specific issues at the Committee's discretion to all members for comment, where privacy constraints allow, with all feedback to the oyster committee directed through a representative delegate only

Lease Tenure

Jun 08 That the Oyster Committee support:

- a) applying a consistent valuation to all oyster land based leases;
- b) valuations of land based oyster leases to reflect (be calculated on) the actual land valuation of oyster leases, taking into account specific characteristics and legislative restrictions of oyster land based leases;
- c) Oyster operations being deemed primary production and that rental rates applied to oyster land leases reflect this at a rate of less than 3%;
- d) land based lease tenure of a minimum of 25 years with an option to renew after 15 years is agreed;
- e) land based leases are included within the Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy.

Nov 01 That the Oyster Committee pursue a cost recovery strategy with lease renewal fees in line with competition policy, therefore lease fees will be equal or less than basic realty conveyancing parity in rural areas.

Feb 08 That the Oyster land based lease values are based on a new category "Primary Production/aquaculture" rate reflecting the fact that oyster leases have restricted use.

Jun 05 That the Oyster Committee resolve:

- a) without assurance that (land) sites are set aside for aquaculture purposes, the best practice guidelines have little relevance to OISAS and should normally be contained in the conditions of a special lease issued by Lands;
- b) the Premier's Department Aquaculture Steering Committee examine how best to map, for planning purposes,

Lease Tenure

land based sites given that the sites are a necessary part of an aquaculture activity rather than a generic industrial activity (using the Hawkesbury River as an example of the necessity to do so);

c) the Aquaculture Steering Committee discuss the mechanism of review of a land base site connected to water that is under review of suitability.

AGM 08 That NSW Farmers Association Oyster committee continue negotiations with the Department of Lands regarding Land Based Leases so that rent is calculated using Valuer General valuations as a base value for calculations of each individual site where suitable.

Sep 08 That the Oyster Committee will accept the current Department of Lands Proposal provided that where rents increase by more than 200% on the current rent, the Department of Lands agrees to work with the affected farmers and where necessary the Oyster Committee to determine a fair outcome.

Jul 08 That NSW Farmers Association Oyster committee continue negotiations with the Department of Lands regarding Land Based Leases so that rent is calculated using Valuer General valuations as a base value for calculations of each individual site where suitable.

Feb 05 That the Oyster Committee seek in resolving land tenure:

- a) that future assessment list the preferred activity as the existing use ie oyster industry/land based aquaculture, due to the investment the industry has made, rather than left open for public comment
- b) the mechanism of appeal and compensation measures (should a final assessment go against growers and they be told to relocate) be investigated
- c) tenure of land leases should be spatially aligned with water leases considerate of OISAS (and other whole of government initiatives)
- d) that leases be issued for the purposes of land based aquaculture/Shellfish and associated activities rather than depuration specifically
- e) that rental rates be applicable to the usage ie primary production
- f) the intended assessment schedule for PO leases should be made known.

Marketing

07 That the Oyster Committee investigates membership of Seafood Experience Australia with a view to joining.

Jul 08 That the Association's Oyster Section trial the SRO Inc Grading specifications for single seed oysters for a period of 12 months after which feedback will be gathered to adopt the specifications as state industry policy.

Feb 06 That the Oyster Committee support an annual marketing and promotion event for NSW Oysters:

- a) That is an interactive event that showcases NSW Oysters from different regions with oyster farmers and/or chefs talking about the products
- b) Encourage estuaries to hold local dinners as industry gatherings and hold a post AGM dinner

07 That the Oyster Committee recommend that the (existing) Marketing Working Group further advance the Marketing Plan, as presented on 1 May 2007. Nominate that Glenn Browne join this group.

Oct 06 That the Oyster Committee resolved to;

- a) request that NSW Farmers' Legal person look at the transferability of the Trade Practices Act exemption to set prices
- b) approach DPI requesting a tool that will assist the industry to calculate prices
- c) issue last year's prices from DPI production returns with a summary of increases in statutory levies and CPI

Oct 06 That the Oyster Committee form a marketing working group between 4 and 6 people to develop draft marketing aims and strategies for the consideration of the oyster industry with its Terms of Reference being to;

- a) Review existing marketing advice
- b) Develop draft marketing aims and strategies for the oyster industry's consideration
- c) to be completed by early 2007 with the Association and to ask for volunteers via EOI via email

AC 06 That the Oyster Committee support that a standard is needed in order to retain market share and the industry should inform processors that the product specifications (Ruello's standards) are an accepted standard following a short consultation period with industry.

AC 06 That the Oyster Committee resolve that the industry should introduce a statutory levy, first investigating the possibility of using existing R & D levy funds, to fund generic/basic promotional activities.

AC 06 That the Oyster Committee resolve that there is room for generic promotion of oysters but highlighting the difference and unique characteristics of SROs using opportunities to work with complimentary food groups.

AC 06 That the Oyster Committee support industry allocating any promotional funds to promoting the characteristics of NSW oysters.

Oct 07 That the Oyster Committee produce marketing material about the positive nutritional value of oyster and/or the production of oysters.

AC 06 That the Oyster Committee promote the seasonality of oyster supply, encourage grower collaboration, and

Marketing

in the long term investigate lengthening shelf life.

Other

AGM 08 That DPI production returns to be changed to also include Oyster Harvest area production.

Mar 08 The Oyster Committee endorse Geoff Diemars request to import specialist pearl seeders and endorse the workers are not exploited particularly in regards to wages.

Mar 08 That the Oyster Committee support the consideration of a staged arrangement for increasing lease bonds, given the concern that bank fees to increase the bonds can be cost prohibitive in the case where the change in bond is minimal.

Jul 08 That the Association's Oyster Section encourage the continued and additional NSWFA membership by contacting aquaculture infrastructure, marine and packaging suppliers to acquire discounts for NSWFA Oyster farming members.

July 08 That the Oyster Committee pursue a ban on all recreational oyster harvesting in an effort to minimise potential food safety issues and theft

Sept 07 that the Oyster Committee instigate a working group to progress the issue around community pollution events.

07 That the Oyster Committee opposes the NSW DPI (Fisheries) ban on the use of wire products in excess of one meter in length.

Mar 08 That the Oyster Committee calls on the NSW Government to commit consequential funding to address the problem of diffuse pathogen pollution and sewerage pollution within waterways in oyster farming areas.

Jul 08 That the Chairman be paid a retaining fee per annum for services rendered

Oyster Industry Sustainable Aquaculture Strategy (OISAS)

May 07 That the Oyster Committee request that the 1 meter dredging limit be increased to 2 meters, consistent with the previous DPI conservation because the current arrangements are inflexible.

May 06 That the Oyster Committee support a Commissioner, Auditor General or Ombudsman Officer (on internal advice) investigate the failings/actions of Government to deliver against programs/reports designed to deliver healthy river systems.

Dec 04 That the Oyster Committee request that the Oyster Industry Dredging Taskforce be reactivated considering the issues ie constricting mouth entrances, situation, but complicated by illegal dredging practices.

Sep 08 All proposed development issues raised at Oyster Committee Meetings will include its compliance with OISAS

Oct 06 That the Oyster Committee support that:

- a) Marine Park zoning should include OISAS areas
- b) Ensure 'incident response' aims are met with the Premier's Dept's incident response work by questioning the Premier's Dept about any delays or unresolved issues.

QX Disease

Oct 07 That the Oyster Committee write to NSW DPI Jane Frances and outlining the Oyster Committee have consulted with members about the Technical working Group risk based guideline recommendations, and provide industry support for this initiative.

Oct 06 That the Oyster Committee seek:

- a) that the mechanism for estuary categorisation for QX risk be resolved
- b) that the Macleay River be prevalence sampled by DPI as per other estuaries detected with sporulating QX
- c) that the decision and terms of stock receipt should be made at estuary level (the level of consensus requires finalisation) but guidelines must be given to aid the process
- d) that the draft Health Statement and a risk management guideline be tabled at the QX Industry Consultative Group as a tool for use by individuals and estuary groups

May 06 That the Oyster Committee support;

- a) the continuation of QX research,
- b) a strategic and risk based approach to surveillance,
- c) the increase of diagnostics service funding via a letter,
- d) the formation of a risk and prevalence based estuary classification and translocation protocol system that requires 100% commercial farmer consensus on Category 2 to 3 movements into an estuary
- e) a review as to which estuaries are included in the Categories eg Brunswick River

Research

Research

subject to annually review progress for ongoing monetary commitment.

May 03 The Oyster Committee believes the following research items to be priority (in order from most to least important) and should be reflected in the industry's research program;

- a) Post-harvest techniques/procedures,
- b) Genetic breeding program,
- c) Testing procedures for marine biotoxins and Access to diagnostic/laboratory,
- d) Alternative commercially viable products,
- e) Marketing and value adding, and
- f) Optimal stocking Density.

07 That the Oyster Committee support the ARAC recommendations:

- a) POAG support an increase in the research levy for lease based aquaculture to \$35/ha from 2008/9, inclusive of CPI
- b) POAG support a request for a "one-off" adjustment of \$10,000 from the Aquaculture Trust Account to balance the deficit in the Lease based Research Trust Account for the 2006/7 Financial Year.
- c) POAG support a review of all ARAC levies on an annual basis at the first meeting in the calendar year. Any changes take effect, dependant on industry consultation and agreement, at the start of the financial year.

Mar 08 That the Oyster Committee support the Oyster Consortiums use of seafood CRC funds from its R&D budget to construct a national business plan and provide advice on project budget.

Structural Adjustment

May 07 That the Oyster Committee call on the NSW Government to develop mechanisms to address the impact on oyster farmers if the waters are contaminated by community pollution incidences and specifically these mechanisms address:

- a) A fee waiver on all leases held by the farmer; include all rentals, licences, research, bonds and food authority fees and charges and council rates.
- b) The DPI take responsibility for leases that are decommissioned for oyster farming and undertake appropriate site remediation.
- c) Financial assistance is provided to farmers to assist with managing the incident, this assistance is contingent on the severity of the incident.
- d) Structural adjustment schemes are activated for farmers who are forced out of the industry.

May 07 The Committee recommend the NSW DPI and Local Council waive all fees and rates for Tilligerry Creek (zone 5b) Oyster farmers where their waterways were effected by the 2005 (ongoing) sewerage pollution event.

May 07 That the Oyster Committee request the NSW Government require the Local Government, or responsible agency, to report the status of 'onsite sewerage management system' in a continuous, on going and auditable manner.

Oct 07 That the Oyster Committee requests the NSW Government ensure that oyster lease phase out and relocation activities are cost neutral to the oyster grower.

Jul 08 That "cost share" for harvest area management be revisited

Jul 08 That DPI production returns to be changed to also include Oyster Harvest area production.