



# SAORC Newsletter

South Australian Oyster Research Council

April 2013



Do you know your profit  
per dozen oysters sold?

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## Chair Report

### Oysters Australia

Oysters Australia (OA) is one year old!! The real opportunity for OA to make a difference was (and is) in POMS research. How successful has OA been?

Some 14 months ago (February 2012) I reported that OA had received a detailed report into POMS from both the Standing Committee on Aquatic Animal Health working group, as well as a detailed report on the Industry trip to France.

Some 30 recommendations were made but the "top 5" of each group were very similar:

- 1 Selective breeding (for POMS resistance)
- 2 Husbandry (Height)
- 3 Husbandry (System)
- 4 Infectivity Model
- 5 PCR Standard Test methodology

Step forward 14 months and those recommendations remain the same. This might suggest that the progress has been particularly slow – and indeed it has

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## Chair Report *continued...*

not been as we all would like, but these things happen slowly.

Regrettably, whilst the money remains with the FRDC and the CRC the power and influence remains with them as well and they call the shots.

To maintain the research effort we need to secure funding for OA – and that means some sort of National Levy to replace the FRDC levy which comes as a part of your lease fees collected by PIRSA. This needs to be replaced by June 2014.

To find out the latest OA reps along with the FRDC will be doing an Australia wide "road show". Regional grower meetings are scheduled for South Australia, later in April 2013.

### POMS – Whats next?

What is clear (as it was 14 months ago), is that there is no "smoking gun" – no single point of blame for the POMS outbreaks and that successful management of POMS will come from a combination of breeding, husbandry practices, infectivity research as well as outbreak management and containment.

What OA offers is a coordinated national approach to:

- Selective Breeding,
- Infectivity research,
- Biosecurity standards,
- Translocation protocols and,
- Outbreak management – including recording and monitoring of mortalities on a national basis,

### Selective breeding – Whats the future for ASI?

Breeding remains the highest priority in POMS research – and is separate from and can run concurrently with the other dimensions of the coordinated approach.

It has been accepted by OA and SAORC that industry needs to dramatically expand the breeding programme for survival traits.

Whilst ASI had a number of family lines that exhibited increased survivability in infected waters, it is acknowledged that this is a long way from immunity and may have been good luck rather than good breeding. Significant additional research needs to be undertaken very quickly.

This research needs to involve any C. Gigas that survive – wild harvest, commercial lines as well as ASI lines.

Whilst SAORC as the owner of ASI (along with TORC), we would prefer this research to be conducted by ASI who has already demonstrated knowledge and expertise in these areas, it is acknowledged that POMS is a game changer.

We need to redefine the breeding model, pool our collective resources, involve all hatcheries and tap into these commercial breeding activities to ensure industry access to survivable spat.

OA through the FRDC and the Seafood CRC is facilitating meetings with ASI, Camerons of Tasmania Pty. Ltd. and Shellfish Culture Ltd. to develop a single approach and see if some common ground exists.

This may well change the notion of an industry owned breeding programme for ever. Watch this space – no decisions will be made that will dilute SAORC's ownership and control of ASI without a clear mandate from growers.

### Infectivity Model

The management of POMS outbreaks including:

- protocols for translocations of stock and equipment between states and within states,
- protocols for the return of shipments from processors,
- the transfer of oysters or fish by recreational boaties or holiday makers,
- the proximity of large ocean going vessels (hull fouling or untreated ballast water), or
- other bio-security risks,

is dependent on the model of infectivity.

We need to do significantly more research into the fundamentals of this disease.

- How is it triggered? - what level of concentration of the virus is required to trigger a population collapse – e.g. could a "Grey Nomad" travelling in SA from interstate putting a dozen or two oysters in the water – to "freshen them up" transfer the disease?
- Could oyster shells/mussel shells or other marine detritus from an infected area on the deck of a vessel – trigger an outbreak,
- Does the virus, survive in cold (ie NZ frozen half shell imports) or heat?
- Can it be transferred by empty shells thrown into the water?
- Can it be transferred from "on-line" sales being put back in the water to freshen up?
- Does it survive in the gut of pilchards imported from Vietnam and thrown into the waters off Coffin Bay?
- How long can it survive out of the water column?
- Do freshwater baths – hot/cold water, chlorine, or desiccation, work to mitigate the risks and to what level?

SAORC is supporting some of this research being undertaken (with appropriate precautions – we don't want another Rabbit Calicivirus brouhaha!!) at laboratories of the University of Adelaide.

The SAORC Executive acknowledge the risk of bringing the virus into South Australia, but feel that the benefits of "getting up close and personal" with this virus in an appropriate bio-secure facility, far outweighs the risks.

### Bio-security Standards

It is only after this fundamental research has been conducted – that we can work on developing bio-security standards.

The inter-relationship between trade and bio-security standards is a recurring theme (often with bio-security "traded off" in the interests of "free-trade")

Both SAORC and OA are working with DAFF, PIRSA to ensure that should legislation become necessary, it is risk based (acknowledging the regional differences in bio-security assessment within Australian oyster growing areas) and includes compensation for a compulsory cull.

### Trans-location protocols and mortality events recording.

The information technology revolution (smart phones, tablets, apps etc.) provides an opportunity for industry to develop a code of practise for reporting mortalities (this is on top of the statutory requirement to report mortalities – as a part of the licensing of growers).

SAORC are looking at a couple of alternatives to record movements of stock.

Any system needs to be

- simple to use – a "once-write" system so that data does not need to be entered a number of times eg to PIRSA, DAFF as well as SAORC.
- a real time data base linked to leases or growing areas – rather than growers, that can be accessed by the authorities immediately.
- able to consolidate results and accurately access data from other growers, bay to bay, state to state,
- adopted nationally.

# Chair Report *continued...*

## Benchmarking Project – Update

The 3rd round of benchmarking is currently being undertaken by Rural Directions.

Regrettably, unless we get more growers seeing the value of this project it is likely to be discontinued. The limited number of growers participating in the project will make it uneconomic for Rural Directions to continue when the CRC funding finishes.

As a part of the Regional Growers meetings to discuss the replacement of the FDRC levy, Caryln Sherrif from Rural Directions will be in attendance to discuss the results of and the future for the benchmarking project.

## South Australian Mortality Syndrome (SAMS) forensic workshop

In September/October 2012 the first “forensic” workshop was held in Port Lincoln with a multi-disciplinary team of experts from a variety of fields, including Ausvet – Animal Health Services in Queensland (who were responsible for the isolation of the Hendra virus). Facilitated by Charles Caraguel – Head of the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences of the University of Adelaide.

The group came together with growers from a variety of growing areas in South Australia to:

- Define, quantify and describe SAMS
- List and weight hypothetical causes based on preliminary data and,
- Identify gaps in current information and knowledge.

That group made several recommendations including:

- **Improved surveillance** – to determine objective data on losses,
- **Centralised information management** – to facilitate the rapid detection of outbreaks and allow better laboratory sample selection,
- **Increased laboratory analysis** – to more fully understand the conditions leading to oyster death,
- **Husbandry practices workshop** – to obtain insights from a broader range of growers (than were represented at the workshop) into animal husbandry practices in general and the grading process in particular,

- **Detailed Analysis of existing SASQAP Data** – nutrition, water temperature and salinity to assess the correlation to mortality events and,
- **Seek input from a wider range of experts** – nutritionists, aquaculture specialists, disease and eco-system generalists, to seek better definition of possible causes.

The first 5 of these recommendations were designed to address the knowledge gaps that existed following the Port Lincoln workshop.

To assist in meeting these recommendations a second workshop, funded by the FRDC and SAORC is to be held during April with an expanded expert panel and growers from each Bay represented.

The workshop will be considering:

- Changes in nutrition and oceanic health over the last 10 years
- The pathology of SAMS affected oysters,
- Changes in oyster genetics over the last 10 years
- Ecosystem health
- Experiences with other aquatic species
- Mollusc physiology

With a view to getting a handle of this disease that is affecting many growers on the West coast and clarifying the scope of any further work required.

I will be attending the workshop representing Yorke Peninsula.

I look forward to seeing you at the workshop or one of the Regional Grower Group meetings.

**Steve Bowley**

Chair - SAORC

# POMS Update

At the recent SAOGA board meeting, the executive agreed to progress the following initiatives in relation to the ongoing prevention of POMS entering South Australia.

- The introduction of a sentinel program. This means a regular testing of oysters for POMS will occur in each of the bays during the period of highest risk. Discussion is now occurring with Clinton Wilkinson from SASQAP for this to be implemented as soon as feasible.
- A confidential stock register for all of industry to input any movements of stock will be created linked to the Oysters South Australia website. You will be provided with a members log in that will enable you to very simply and quickly record any stock movements. This addition to the website is being worked on now and further information and instructions will follow before Easter. At the same time we are investigating "a next generation" mobile app solution that is already being used in the cockle industry
- An industry based POMS incident response plan that will link into the PIRSA POMS plan.
- An industry code of practice will be developed to address the issues and concerns being raised by growers and industry partners. Issues identified so far are:
  - > Translocation of equipment
  - > Translocation of stock
  - > Return of stock from interstate
  - > NZ frozen half shell product entering Australia

If you have any issues or concerns to add to the issues listed above, please email those to [Trudy@oystersssa.com.au](mailto:Trudy@oystersssa.com.au). Your input would be most appreciated to ensure the codes of practice being developed are as comprehensive as possible.

Trudy McGowan  
Executive Officer, SAORC

# Do you know your profit per dozen oysters sold?

2010/2011 benchmarking data showed that average profit per dozen varied from 55c per dozen in SA, 11c per dozen in Tasmania to -\$1.52 per dozen in NSW. One of the biggest factors impacting profit was the labour cost (up to \$2.24 per dozen).

Do you know your profit per dozen? There is an opportunity for more oyster growers to get involved in this worthwhile program during April 2013.

Rachel King, Executive Officer of Oysters Australia, explains "the Seafood CRC provides funding for oyster growers to undertake financial and production benchmarking of their business performance."

"The program provides oyster growers with the ability to compare their performance to another grower in their bay or even in a different state", said Rachel.

Jon Poke is an oyster grower from Smithton Tasmania; Jon feels that "anyone who wants to run a profitable business, and that's what we're all about, can gain from it."

For Carl Jaeschke from Cowell SA, to see costs per dozen produced was an eye opener. Through his personalised report he was able to analyse his costs in more detail. Carl found it good to understand and review results that applied to his business.

"Benchmarking contains figures that are useful to any business", Carl Jaeschke.

All interested oyster growers are invited to get involved; call Program Deliverer, Carlyn Sherriff on 08 8841 4500.



Download the full Oysters Benchmarking report from [www.oystersaustraliablog.org.au/breaking-news-benchmarking](http://www.oystersaustraliablog.org.au/breaking-news-benchmarking)





# Marine Innovation SA

A word from the MISA chair...

February marked the first meeting of the new MISA Steering Committee. With increased industry representation, the Committee is further building on its commitment to strategically align research and industry objectives and strengthen marine science in South Australia.

## New industry members include:

- **Mr Jonas Woolford**, Vice Chair of the Abalone Council Australia Ltd., President of the Abalone Industry Association of South Australia Inc. and Chairman of Wildcatch Fisheries SA Inc, who represents the wild fisheries sector;
- **Mr Steve Bowley**, Director of the South Australian Oyster Growers Association (SAOGA), Chair of the South Australian Oyster Research Council (SAORC), Director of Oysters Australia and oyster farmer on the Yorke Peninsula, who represents the aquaculture sector; and

- **Mr Mark Cody**, Executive Director Seafood Processors and Exporters Council and Executive Director Primary Industries Skills Council, among others, who brings a seafood processing, marketing and training focus to the Committee.
- **Mr Brian Jeffriess**, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association, remains on the Committee, providing a wealth of knowledge and experience across the seafood industry and research.

## New appointments also include:

- **Prof Michelle Waycott**, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR), a botanist specialising in seagrasses, with involvement in the State Herbarium of South Australia and at the School of Earth Sciences at the University of Adelaide; and
- **Prof Jim Mitchell**, Flinders University, School of Biological Sciences, expert in aquatic microbiology and biological oceanography and currently facilitator of the Flinders University marine scientists.

## Existing representatives are:

- **Prof Pauline Mooney**, Executive Director SARDI;
- **Prof Mehdi Doroudi**, Executive Director, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- **Prof Gavin Begg**, Chief Scientist, SARDI Aquatic Sciences;
- **Prof Robert Hill**, Executive Dean, Faculty of Sciences, University of Adelaide and Head of Science at the South Australian Museum; and
- **Dr David Smith**, Theme Leader: Sustainable Ocean Ecosystems and Living Resources, CSIRO who is a participating observer.

The involvement of representatives across South Australia's seafood industry including key marine research providers, demonstrates the enthusiasm and commitment to establish critical networks and work together through MISA.

I look forward to working with the new and existing members in 2013.

**Prof Bob Hill**,  
Chair MISA Steering Committee

# Oyster Basket Recycling Project

The EPA is pleased to announce that in conjunction with the SA Oyster Growers Association, we have been successful in securing \$40,000 to organise and co-manage a feasibility study to identify potential solutions for the recycling of waste plastic materials generated by the oyster industry.

This project has been 100% funded as part of the Department for Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy's Clever Green Eco-innovation Program.

The need for this project has arisen from us identifying a significant volume of decommissioned waste oyster baskets stockpiled at land-based depots while undertaking environmental surveys. We have been advised that baskets have proved difficult for recycling due to mixed construction materials and large amounts of marine biofouling. In addition, we have also been informed that many growers have been reluctant to dispose of the baskets, partly due to disposal costs, but also preferring a recycling solution. Stockpiles are increasing and it is estimated that it could be costing approximately \$600,000 per annum across the industry to dispose the waste materials to landfill.



The feasibility study will therefore aim to identify the type and volume of material present, opportunities on who can take the waste for recycling, technologies to minimise space for transport, logistics and coordination for removal, and a cost-benefit analysis of the options identified. Of note, the oyster industry in Tasmania and New South Wales are closely watching the project as they have similar issues with waste plastic infrastructure.

A steering committee has been established, represented by 4 oyster growers, EPA, DMITRE and the RDA in Port Lincoln. The first task for the committee was to generate a concise project brief for the project and appoint a consultant to undertake the work, with the consultant planned to be appointed by the end of April. If you have any bright ideas to add to the project, please contact Coby, Trudy or one of the growers on the committee. Stay tuned for further advancements with this project.

# China Importing Update

## New importing country requirements for seafood (excluding live) to China

Date of Issue: 27/03/2013

Date of effect: Midnight 27/03/2013

This Industry Advice Notice (IAN) updates the information provided in MAA No. 12/24. Effective 1 January 2013, new certification arrangements came into effect for consignments of seafood (excluding live) exported to China. Additional fields within EXDOC will be implemented as of midnight Wednesday 27 March 2013 in preparation for future certification requirements. Industry will be provided further advice as more permanent arrangements are finalised.

### **New fields required when generating a request for permit (RFP) Aquaculture**

For aquaculture product (where supplementary code = AQ), the name of the aquaculture farm/area from which the product is sourced must be included in the RFP, this information will be the same as the aquaculture farms/harvest areas you are currently listing on the attachment "Aquaculture Seafood Exported from Australia to the People's Republic of China".



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

# PIRSA Update

## Regulation Review Project

Following the finalisation of updates to the Aquaculture Act 2001 in October 2012, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture started a review of the Aquaculture Regulations 2005 in November 2012.

The purpose of the review is to ensure the regulations are relevant, necessary and promote sustainable business practices.

As a result, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture recently implemented lease amalgamation provisions. The provisions enable adjacent lease sites to be amalgamated, under certain circumstances, promoting business efficiencies. Further information on lease site amalgamations can be obtained by contacting PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, consistent with the information presented in the January 2013 edition of the SAOGA newsletter.

An example of proposed regulatory change relevant to the oyster sector is the review of navigational marking of sites. PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture is currently working with SAOGA to better understand issues related to current marking requirements, and will be seeking input from the whole sector through a consultation process on this matter. Work with Fisheries Compliance Officers has occurred, and discussions are also underway with the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure to help progress the issue.

A review of PIRSA's environmental monitoring programs is also underway as part of the project. PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture has sought an independent review of the programs by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). This work was undertaken as part of the Innovative Solutions for Aquaculture Planning and Management Program PIRSA, has been developing in conjunction with the Commonwealth's funding agency, the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. Following completion and review of these programs, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture will derive a position to inform discussion with the oyster sector around a renewed environmental monitoring program.

Consultation with industry and stakeholders will be an important part of the project, with feedback to be sought from licence holders prior to any changes being implemented. Consultation is expected to commence in the second half of 2013.

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Manager, Aquaculture Policy, Planning and Environment Unit, Dr Peter Lauer, encourages all

oyster licence holders to contribute their ideas and practical experience to the review of the Regulations, once the consultation process commences.

"It is important that oyster growers in South Australia, contribute to the review of the Aquaculture Regulations 2005 to help ensure a pragmatic outcome for the oyster sector," he said.

For more information about the Regulation Review Project, contact the PIRSA Aquaculture Policy and Planning Program on 8226 0900 or email [PIRSA.aquaculture@sa.gov.au](mailto:PIRSA.aquaculture@sa.gov.au)

## Changes to Third Party Interests

To provide for greater business certainty and to enhance the attractiveness of investment in the South Australian aquaculture industry, important changes have been introduced to the Aquaculture Act 2001 (the Act).

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture Director Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, Sean Sloan, said the aquaculture public register (section 80) has been modified to allow for the formal registration of a third party (for example a mortgagee) interest on an aquaculture lease or licence.

"Previously third parties were 'noted' on a lease or licence, however, that notation provided no statutory rights for the interest holder. Now a lease may not be disposed of, traded or varied without the consent of the third party where their interest is formally registered under the Act," Mr Sloan said.

"In addition, the third party will be notified in the event of a breach of licence conditions leading to the cancellation or suspension of a lease or licence or where the lease or licence holder has been directed to take an action by the Minister so that they have the opportunity to work with the lease holder to remedy the situation to protect the interests of the lease holder and third party."

The amended Act also clarifies succession arrangements (section 82B), providing certain persons with powers to carry on aquaculture activities should a leasee or licensee pass away, become bankrupt or insolvent, or, in the case of a body corporate, become wound up or under administration, receivership or official management.

It is anticipated that this higher level of security will assist the aquaculture industry to raise funds and develop further into the future. For further enquiries please call Gloria Ingham on 08 8226 0087.





**Government of South Australia**  
Primary Industries and Resources SA

## Proposed Aquaculture Zone Policies Underway

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture is developing two new aquaculture zone policies around the productive oyster growing regions of Franklin Harbor and Ceduna.

At this time, PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture has lodged and discussed Statements of Intent for both of these proposed policies with the Aquaculture Advisory Committee, seeking cross-industry sector feedback on the details of these policies and to inform the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries of their development.

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture, Director Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, Sean Sloan, said the development of the new aquaculture zone policies would consolidate oyster growing activity in Franklin Harbour and, where possible, provide an opportunity for the future expansion of the industry near Ceduna.

"With increasing demand for aquaculture space and increased competition with the many users of the marine environment, zone policy development serves to strategically plan for and secure waters for future aquaculture production," Mr Sloan said.

"Extensive technical investigations and consultation is carried out to ensure zone policies are established in areas where sustainable development of aquaculture is most likely to be successful.

"The aim is also to promote the ecologically sustainable development of aquaculture in South Australia, ensuring the benefits to the community are maximised and the efficient and effective regulation of the aquaculture industry."

While the policy documents are still at the initial stage of drafting, discussions with industry have suggested that the Franklin Harbor zone policy should seek only to consolidate existing aquaculture operations in the area, allowing for current sub-tidal and intertidal aquaculture activity in the area.

The Ceduna zone policy has several aims, including:

- consolidating existing leases in the area into a managed aquaculture zone;
- enabling the provision of further leasable area in the Ceduna region including Denial Bay, Decres Bay and St Peter Island area;
- encouraging aquaculture development in the West Coast region of South Australia in an ecologically sustainable manner that benefits the local community without detracting from the environment or the opportunities of other users of the resource.

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture has engaged industry early in the development process to identify industry needs and concerns in relation to both policies, and will continue to seek feedback through the zone development process. Initial discussions have occurred with relevant South Australian government Agencies, identifying issues that may influence the ability for the industry to expand into certain areas of State Waters. The broader public will also have an opportunity to provide feedback on the draft policies through the process, with consultation documents being prepared to inform the development process.

For more information about the zone policy development process, contact the PIRSA Aquaculture Policy and Planning Program on 8226 0900 or email [PIRSA.aquaculture@sa.gov.au](mailto:PIRSA.aquaculture@sa.gov.au)

# **oysters** australia **News**



## Regional grower group meetings:

Growers are invited to a short grower group meeting in your area in April & early May – see **page 14** for locations & times. These will

cover three things; proposal to replace the state R&D levies, the practicalities of the latest benchmarking results, and the role & purpose of regional grower groups.

## Proposal to replace the state R&D levies (with Ewan Colquhoun of Ridge Partners)

Growers in each state will be consulted about the proposal to replace their compulsory state based R&D levy with a new national levy. (See following “Proposed levy change” for more detail)

## Benchmarking & the realities of the most recent results (with Carlyn Sherrieff, Rural Directions)

Growers will hear a summary of profitability figures from 10/11 and 11/12 financial years before tackling ‘what’s working’ and ‘what’s not working’. Data will have added value due to new production management information such as batch time, number of handlings, and restock decision. We’ll shed new light on why some businesses are going forwards and some going out backwards.

Each grower who has participated in the benchmarking program will have the chance to receive a one on one session with Carlyn to discuss their individual business results.

## Regional Discussion Groups (with Tom Lewis, RDS Partners)

Open to all growers, discussion will take place about the role and purpose of Regional Grower Groups and possible agenda items for future meetings includes:

- Oyster Industry Benchmarking - How Benchmarking can improve your profitability;
- CRC research results – what they mean for your business;
- Cool chain & Vibrio index findings;
- Genetics (including grower understanding of ASI results and demand for ASI products);
- Comparison of graders; and
- Reducing labour costs.

These regional grower group meetings are part of the Seafood CRC funded project “Trialing Regional Grower Groups to Extend and Build on CRC Outputs” which aims to assist growers to learn about CRC research results as well as to establish on-going regional groups.



## Proposal to replace the state R&D levies

April & May mark the start of ‘official’ talks with industry about the proposal to replace their compulsory state based R&D levy with a new national levy.

## Why a change?

Australian oyster growers have agreed on priorities, some that can’t be addressed under existing levy structures. Its five main objectives are;

- identify national RD&E goals and objectives,
- commission and manage RD&E projects,
- lead industry to promote Australian oysters,
- work with chain partners to improve industry outcomes, and
- establish appropriate national governance arrangements.

Oysters Australia wants a good report card for delivering against what growers want.

Existing levies have various mechanisms, specific functions and a national levy is more efficient. For example, Oysters Australia has no way of resourcing growers from each state (flights, phone calls, meeting costs, etc) to make national management decisions on how to respond to a disease like POMS. The oyster R&D dollar is confined to research.

A national levy still involves state industry agreement and control and all states would have equitable contribution

## What’s the process?

OA is proposing to work with its 6 state member bodies to establish an equitable and efficient national levy so that it can continue to invest in RD&E and so that it can manage national risks and market opportunities. The Oysters Australia Board has agreed to pursue a national levy but now begins consultation with growers before formalising ‘heads of state agreement’ and a ballot process.

## More about the proposal at the regional grower meetings



## POMS R&D investment

Oysters Australia R&D group met on 20 March and resolved direction on three POMS related investments. These are in addition

to already funded CRC & FRDC projects on breeding for POMS resistance and 'animal health' science behind POMS in Australian oysters:

- 1 Expand the breeding program to investigate the potential to include breeding from POMS survivors to enhance genetic gains. This could be an addition to CRC project 2012/760: "Genetic selection for resistance to Pacific oyster mortality syndrome" that started in late 2012.
- 2 Support application to FRDC for additional 'animal health' research to;
  - a Undertake more family line monitoring in field and extend monitoring to Hawkesbury to ensure same results between estuary (location effect)
  - b Validate laboratory infection results with those observed in the field.
  - c Correlation between larval survival & spat survival (if larvae is affected in the same way, families can be tested & survivors identified very quickly)
  - d Test methods to ensure disease free stock can be produced from adults from POMS affected areas to allow translocation (essential support for breeding program & hatchery)
- 3 Recommend funding of 1 year funding of 3, for a small project in the Hawkesbury testing whether spat can be held in on-land tanks during the infection window. This could be important for growers and hatcheries operating in infected areas.

## Benchmarking

SnapShot (for oysters) has grown and if you're in the benchmarking program you can compare performance from production management through to infrastructure as well as the existing financial performance.

11/12 year data is being entered now. Growers can join at any time but 11/12 data is requested by 28 March so that confidential averages can be used at the grower group meetings in April and May.

Please contact Rural Directions P/L (Carlyn Sherriff) if you wish to discuss your results or if you would like to be involved in the next round of benchmarking – phone 08 8841 4500.

For an insiders view on the benchmarking program, take a look at the case studies on the Oysters Australia Blog: [www.oystersaustraliablog.org.au](http://www.oystersaustraliablog.org.au)

This program is delivered with Seafood CRC project funds; making it very affordable to get involved.



Download the full Oysters Benchmarking report from [www.oystersaustraliablog.org.au/breaking-news-benchmarking](http://www.oystersaustraliablog.org.au/breaking-news-benchmarking)

# Mudworm Project Note – Methyl Green Staining

The mudworm project aims to use three methods to identify mudworms:

**morphology** - looking at the body features like the shape of the head, type of special spines, etc.

**molecular biology** - using the barcode gene (CO1) to find the unique genetic identity.

**histology** - using methyl green stain (MGS) to see if each species has a unique staining pattern.

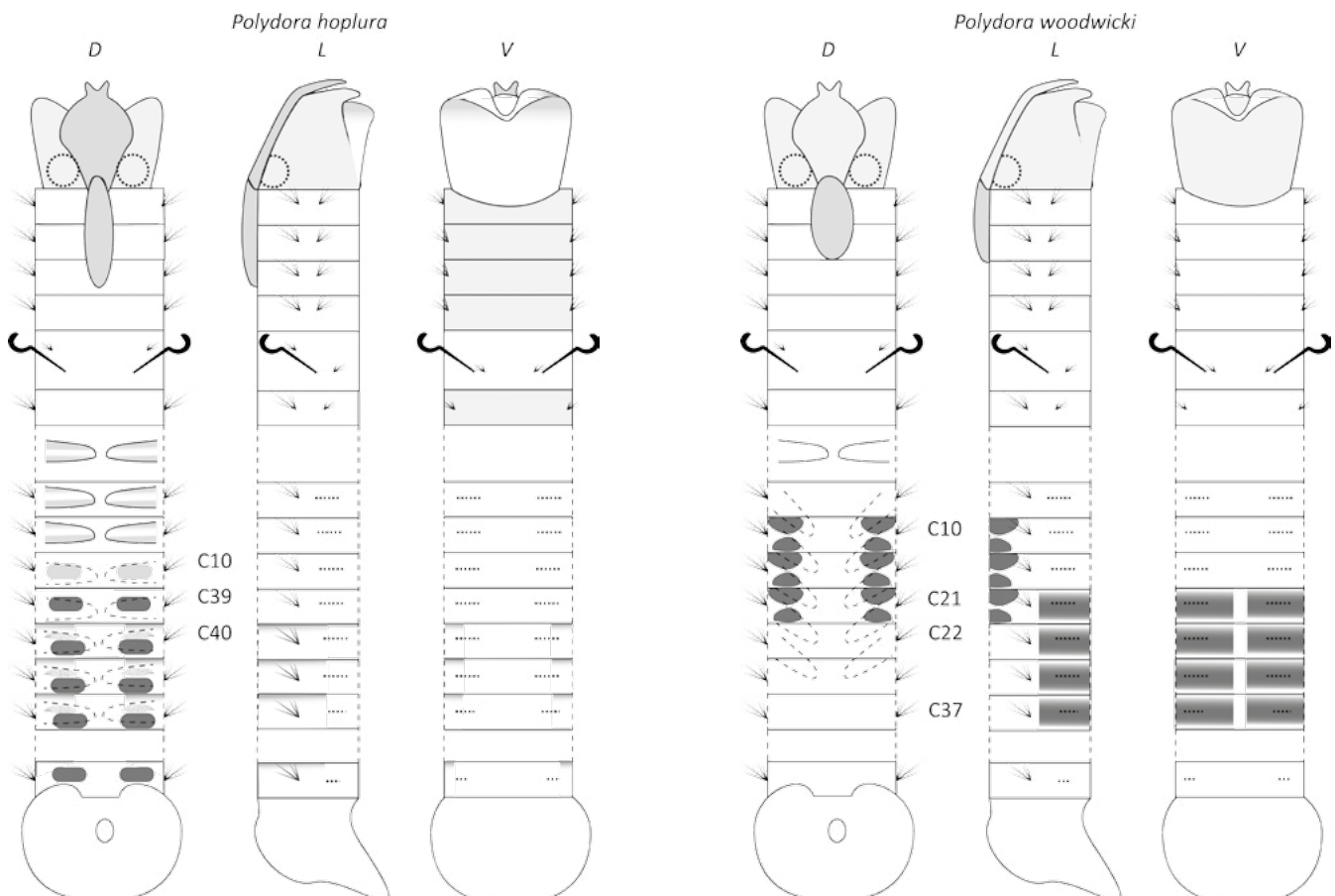
Taking a three-pronged approach should, if each of the findings agree, make us fairly confident that we are actually getting the identifications correct. If they don't agree it's back to the lab.

One of the values of investigating the MGS method is that, if successful and verified by the other two methods, it could provide an economical and relatively speedy way for any interested person to confidently identify mudworm species. By following a simple staining method and comparing the result to a set of colour diagrams for known species a mudworm could be accurately identified.

The diagrams below represent staining patterns for *Polydora hoplura* and *Polydora woodwicki* and were developed using animals from the SAOGA mudworm project collections. For each animal three views are shown. Dorsal (D) view is of the back which carries the gills, lateral (L) is

the side view and ventral (V) view is of the belly side. The head with sensory organs is at the top and the scar where the long feeding palps would normally be attached is indicated by a dashed circle. Eyes are not shown. Stains can vary in pattern or intensity. The segments where changes occur are indicated by a C (chaetiger or bristle segment) followed by the number of segments after the head e.g. C10 is the tenth bristle bearing segment from the head.

**Lexie M. Walker**





# SASQAP Update

## South Australian Oyster Harvesting Areas Total Phytoplankton Averages

I have compiled phytoplankton data that has been performed at the SASQAP laboratory for the past 11 years. As you can see from the values each year is different and there is not consistency from year to year. As part of my Masters by research project I have analysed all the phytoplankton data that I have compiled from 2002. There is an indication that phytoplankton is very seasonal; however the concentration of counts depends on the strength of the upwelling event and the weather conditions. It is a little difficult to make assumptions by just looking at the data, once I have done some statistical analyses it might provide an indication on how phytoplankton works in SA waters.

By looking at the 2012 data, I can understand why there were some concerned growers across the state; the average counts were very low compared to other years. If you take the average of Denial Bay over the last 10 years, it's around 950,000 cells/L, 2012 counts are half the normal average.

My Masters project will hopefully be able to fill in the gaps and tell us when the best food is present and at what time of year, this will then provide a management tool that can be used on the farm. I will now be providing regular updates through the SAOGA newsletters.

South Australian Oyster Harvesting Areas Total Phytoplankton Averages

|      | Denial Bay | St Peters | Smoky Bay | Streaky Bay | Port Douglas | Franklin | Stansbury | Port Vincent |
|------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------|-----------|--------------|
| 2002 | 487765     | 762868    | 162852    | 84106       | 324504       | 74160    | 54821     | 37628        |
| 2003 | 298527     | 184836    | 936205    | 622185      | 1185485      | 183973   | 158296    | 97346        |
| 2004 | 1163325    | 268441    | 628611    | 609650      | 668846       | 146985   | 50310     | 35460        |
| 2005 | 1269735    | 598789    | 1492678   | 749623      | 1250175      | 97211    | 68164     | 36748        |
| 2006 | 1046558    | 439484    | 1072407   | 205772      | 570391       | 94281    | 32928     | 39539        |
| 2007 | 1762235    | 1743445   | 1755419   | 475552      | 590339       | 311202   | 28460     | 167753       |
| 2008 | 573790     | 653178    | 1110842   | 944675      | 908819       | 127942   | 22560     | 30019        |
| 2009 | 1299825    | 1005185   | 1074329   | 1419874     | 279312       | 257747   | 127848    | 100479       |
| 2010 | 523114     | 274736    | 500519    | 1447300     | 865986       | 226571   | 109541    | 47466        |
| 2011 | 1240760    | 960306    | 737084    | 749941      | 1172267      | 592083   | 32820     | 32019        |
| 2012 | 461508     | 486857    | 600259    | 401560      | 905149       | 186632   | 26376     | 32525        |



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# Classifieds

## ON-GROWERS For Sale

Any small or large quantities welcomed to be discussed.  
3 different sizes available - Through a 27mm, 32mm & 39mm diameter tumble grade.

**Tom Evans**

EVANS OYSTERS PTY LTD

Streaky Bay

## For Sale

### 8.3m Oyster Punt For Sale

8.3m T-Craft Oyster Punt with 250hp Yamaha 2011 outboard motor. Shade Canopy. Class 3D currently under Survey  
**\$45,000 + GST**

### 7.4m Oyster Punt For Sale

7.4m T-Craft Oyster Punt with 115hp Honda outboard motor. Class 3D currently under survey  
**\$30,000 +GST**

### Oyster Grader For Sale

Shellquip SED Mk6 oyster grader, 6 outlet, good condition.  
Two inspection conveyor belts, hopper stand and  
4 aluminium hoppers, 3phase air compressor to suit grader.  
**\$75,000+GST**

**Anthony Franklin,**

Richmar Oysters

0428292554

Other assorted equipment including 2 barrel rotary grader and bags also for sale

## Oystek Oyster Grader For Sale

Complete System. Good Condition.

at Smoky Bay

**\$33,000 ono.**

**Aiden or Janet Gregor**

Ph. 0409 780 182

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The South Australian Oyster Industry

# 2013 Seminar, AGM & Annual Dinner

## Smoky Bay Community Club

Thursday 8th & Friday 9th August 2013

*"Forewarned is Forearmed – Everything that is being done to Protect Your Industry"*

### Program Features

- POMS, POMS, POMS – all the updates on research, the Hawkesbury Outbreak, and what plans PIRSA & SAOGA have prepared.
- Managing your oysters under difficult conditions – Heat and Transport.
- What have we discovered about SAMS.
- Basket Recycling Project Recommendations.
- Angasi's – an alternative product?

### Program Schedule

The Smoky Bay Community Club is the venue for all events on the schedule with Friday's Trade Show being held on the Smoky Bay Community Club Oval.

#### Thursday 8th August 2013

- Seminar** Time: 11.00 am to 4.50pm.
- "BBQ" Night** Time: 6.00pm until not too late.

#### Friday 9th August 2013

- Breakfast** Full Cooked Breakfast available  
- \$20 per head.  
Time: 7.30am to 8.30am.
- AGM** Annual General Meeting  
SAOGA and SAORC.  
Time: 9.00am to 10.45am.
- Seminar cont'd** Time: 10.45am to 2.45pm
- Trade Show** Time: 2.45pm to 5.00pm
- Annual Dinner** Time : 6.30pm until late.

### SAOGA Membership

The South Australian Oyster Industry Seminar can be attended by both SAOGA members and non-SAOGA members. The cost to attend the seminar for members is \$90 and for non members is \$120. The cost of the Annual Dinner is the same for both members and non members.

### Transport

A FREE shuttle bus will be running from the airport on Thursday and Friday (morning) and from the Community Club on Saturday (morning) to connect with flights. Contact Trudy 0407883333 to book the shuttle bus.

The South Australian Oyster Industry

# 2013 Seminar, AGM & Annual Dinner

## Smoky Bay Community Club

Thursday 8th & Friday 9th August 2013

*"Forewarned is Forearmed – Everything that is being done to Protect Your Industry"*

### Registration Form & Tax Invoice

Name: ..... Business Name: .....

Address: .....

Email: ..... Phone: ..... Fax: .....

#### SAORC & SAOGA Industry Seminar

Thursday 8th & Friday 9th August 2013

*(Includes Morning & Afternoon Tea & Lunch)*

Members Number Attending: ..... people @ \$90.00

*\$90.00 per person (gst inclusive)*

Non Members Number Attending: ..... people @ \$120.00

*\$120.00 per person (gst inclusive)*

Subtotal: \$ .....

#### Informal "BBQ" Night

Thursday 8th August 2013

*(Food supplied/Drinks to be purchased)*

Number Attending: ..... people

#### Annual Dinner

Friday 9th August 2013

*(three courses, auction and band included/Drinks to be purchased)*

Number Attending: ..... people @ \$60.00

*\$60.00 (gst inclusive) per person*

Subtotal: \$ .....

**Total:** \$ .....

*\* A Full cooked breakfast will be provided for \$20 per head at the Smoky Bay Community Club prior to the AGM's. Orders with payment will be taken on the Thursday.*

**Please return form along with payment to:**

SAORC PO Box 757 Stirling SA 5152 or Fax 08 8364 3895 or Email: [saoga.saorc@bigpond.com](mailto:saoga.saorc@bigpond.com)

#### Payment:

EFT to SAORC BSB: 105 100 Account No: 029249940 or

by cheque made payable to "SAORC" or by credit card on [www.oystersssa.com.au](http://www.oystersssa.com.au)

Please call Trudy McGowan 0407 88 3333 with queries. SAORC ABN (23 083 574 001)