

Oyster News

South Australian Oyster Growers Association

December 2015

Oyster Reef Restoration Project

Restoration of native *Ostrea angasi* oysters is being trialed through the SA Habitat Enhancement Project

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President's Report

Hello fellow oyster farmers,

Firstly, please let me thank you for the support and encouragement I received both prior and during the recent election process. My vision is a simple one, to re-unite our industry and move forward together to face the challenges ahead. I firmly believe we can work proactively with government to find ways to both streamline the way we work together and to keep a downward pressure on the fees we pay which allow us to be in the oyster farming business. There is a cost to being in any business,

however it is a necessity to be getting value for your money.

The last few weeks have been busy, I have met with Will Zacharin, Geoff Raven and Paul Dowsett from SASQAP and they spent quite a while running me through the operating costs of our program. I am sure we all know Clinton and his team do a sensational job and run a tight and efficient operation, interesting to note that the cost of running the program has declined over the past 5 years by almost 50k, as past SAOGA executives have worked with PIRSA Biosecurity to hone

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it into the lean operation we have today. Our intention has not been to cut more from the program recently, but more to find ways of accessing other streams of government revenue to offset our direct costs. Our discussion was very positive and they are keen to work with us to find a way that this can come about.

I have had many meetings with Luke Fraser and his team at PIRSA Licensing on the recent "rubber band alternatives" measures and have found both the PIRSA staff and also the representatives from DEWNR SARDI and EPA to have been very pro-active in reviewing our proposed alternatives. Not all have made it through the process but I am confident that what we have been allowed to use will be both fast and effective. It has been a very challenging process and not one I want to have to go through again, (both as a grower and a representative) but I have seen huge productivity gains in my own business with some of the new alternatives and hope the same can be said for all growers involved.

I have had brief meetings with Sean Sloan, Director Fisheries & Aquaculture and Heidi Alleway the newly appointed General Manager Aquaculture Policy and Environment unit (replacing Peter Lauer) and have been in contact with the minister's office to schedule a meeting in the near future. There are many more to say hello to but all in good time. Flights are costly from Ceduna to Adelaide so we need to make sure we are getting maximum results for our dollars.

I would just like to thank the team from ASI who made the trip out to see us and answer the many questions we had for them. Len Stevens made many good points and clarified some important issues whilst Peter Kube explained the science behind the genetic options and decisions being made. Matt Cunningham provided the background to all of this and also helped us understand some of the day to day running and the reasoning behind these. hope their visit provided

clarification and understanding of where our money is being utilised and growers are reasonably satisfied in the program. If you still have lingering concerns then please contact me directly to discuss.

I would also like to thank Jill Coates our immediate past president for her tireless effort and achievements over the past few years, as well as everyone on the SAOGA board, we have a great bunch of people, all passionate about our industry.

Finally I would like to thank Carl Jaeschke for stepping into the SAORC Chair. Carl has all the right attributes for the job, with his science background, his hands on role in the oyster world and especially his carefully considered approach to making important decisions. He is ably assisted through all this by our SAORC board who have many skills in many different areas and together I feel we will have great outcomes into the future.

If you have any questions or concerns with anything regarding SAOGA then please contact either myself or Trudy. Trudy is available during working hours on 0407883333 and I am available from 7am through until 10pm on 0427 257 057.

Thanks once again and I look forward to catching up with you all throughout the year.

Kind regards and happy oystering

Judd Evans

President
South Australian Oyster Growers
Association

Win for Aquaculture on the Eyre Peninsula

A huge thank you to Kirsten Rough who has driven Oysters & Tuna's position on the need for BP to provide a much stronger environmental plan to safeguard our industries. This means we have one the first battle and hopefully with continued pressure we can win the war.

NOPSEMA requires BP to modify drilling environment plan

Published 16 November 2015

On 16 November 2015, NOPSEMA made a decision that it was not satisfied that BP's environment plan for exploration drilling in the Great Australian Bight had met regulatory requirements.

After a thorough and rigorous assessment, NOPSEMA has determined that the environment plan does not yet meet the criteria for acceptance under the environment regulations, and has advised BP of this decision.

NOPSEMA is required by law to provide BP with a reasonable opportunity to modify the environment plan. If BP chooses to resubmit a modified plan, it will then be assessed by NOPSEMA.

The environment regulations and NOPSEMA's assessment policies, clearly outline the environment plan assessment process including timeframes for resubmission and the number of times modification and/or additional information may be required.

Stansbury Seminar

Once again we had a very successful annual seminar this year based on the Yorke Peninsula in Stansbury.

Numbers of growers attending were slightly down compared to other more central locations but the enthusiasm & participation of those attending definitely made up for this. The program delivered on its aim to provide a balance between presentations on the current research projects the industry is involved in and more "practical/hands on" topics including, angasi husbandry, R&D tax incentive opportunities, clarity around the AMSA changes and a whole lot more.

A big thankyou to the local growers ably led by Paul Dee and the rest of his clan who ensured everything ran smoothly; the Stansbury hospitality was definitely on show. Our auction raised a record amount, over \$38,000!!, which is only made possible by our loyal sponsors.



The Oyster competition was once again hotly contested with the following results. The competition categories were redefined and an extra category added to clearly differentiate between a commercial dozen- farmed for sale and a competition dozen - farmed for maximum conditioning.

In relation to the date and venue for the next seminar, I am still working through that. The seminar has been running in the same format since before I started working for you.....more than 6 years ago, so I thought it was time to get some feedback, before finalising details for next year. I have been speaking to a number of growers to get their views as well as the new board and will provide details early in the New Year.

Finally I would like to make sure everyone is aware that by the time you are reading this I will have moved from Adelaide to Perlubie Beach (for those that don't know a little piece of heaven near Streaky Bay) . As you know I work from home , so this means the SAOGA/SAORC office has also moved . Updated contact details are on the last page of this newsletter as well as on the bottom of all my emails. Please note my mobile and email address have not changed.

I am very excited to become a west coast resident and am really looking forward to working more closely with the growers I represent. So when I run into you at the local supermarket etc you will know why!!!

Wishing you all a safe, relaxing and prosperous Christmas and New Year.

Trudy McGowan

Commercial, Best Whole Shell



- 1st Cowell Oysters
- 2nd Cowell Seafood Producers
- 3rd Pacific Estate Oysters

Commercial, Best Half Shell



- 1st Shuck Me Oysters
- 2nd Cowell Seafood Producers
- 3rd Tondari Fisheries

Competition, Premium Half Shell

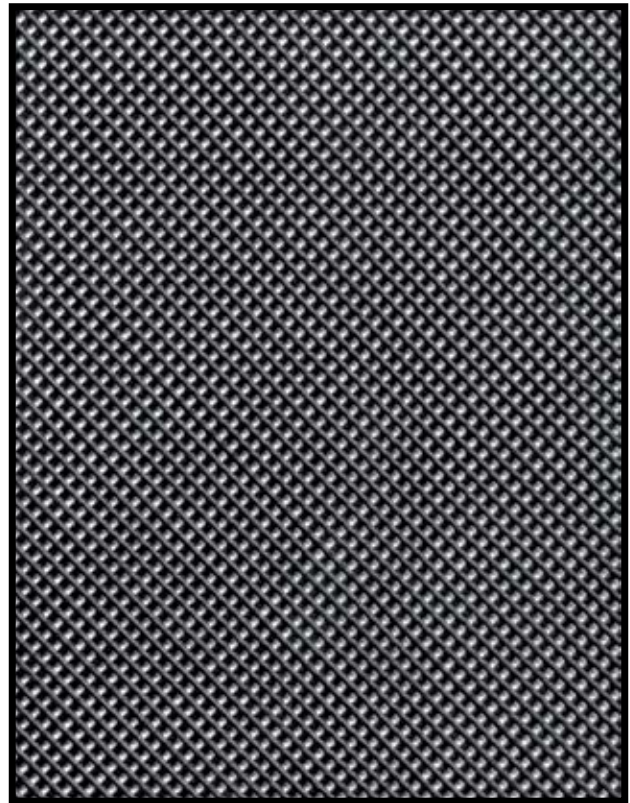


- 1st Cowell Seafood Producers
- 2nd Turners Oysters & Seafood
- 3rd Shuck Me Oysters

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A new Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2015

After extensive consultation by the EPA, including with PIRSA, the existing 2003 policy has now been updated to reflect a more consistent approach in the protection of water quality across all South Australia water bodies.

The new Policy will come into effect on Friday 1 January 2016 and can be found the SA Legislation website <http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/>

The key changes associated with the Policy that relate to aquaculture are presented below. Some of these provisions will apply to oyster growers, some may not.

- The Policy still defines environmental harm in relation to waters (e.g. loss of seagrass) however the extent of harm is referenced to the definition that is provided in the *Environment Protection Act 1993*. This provides clarity on how environmental harm is measured from a regulatory perspective as previously there were no defined limits in the Policy on what was deemed to be environmental harm (e.g. loss of one blade of seagrass or a football field's worth). This also enables the EPA to assess environmental harm according to risk and on a case by case basis.
- The water quality criteria has been removed and now persons are required to take reasonable and practicable measures to comply with trigger values specified in the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) guidelines. Previously compliance with the water quality criteria specified in the Policy was mandatory (e.g. there were specific limits set for nitrogen, phosphorus, ammonia etc. for water bodies that must not be exceeded when discharging wastewater or farming fish in waters). The new Policy now

provides a set of tools via the ANZECC guidelines to manage the risk of an operation and minimise the potential for environmental harm.

- The Policy now recognises the regulation of chemical use (antibiotics and antifoulants) under the Aquaculture Regulations administered by PIRSA. Previously two sets of approvals may have been required both under PIRSA and EPA legislation.
- Fish faeces are now legally allowed to be deposited in waters under the conditions of an Aquaculture Licence. Under the existing 2003 Policy faeces is a listed pollutant therefore it was potentially a breach. Considering this was not the intent of this provision, it was amended to formalise this.
- Liquid fish waste water from deck holds of commercial vessels can now be discharged into state waters under approved conditions. Mandatory provisions in the Policy include that liquid fish waste cannot be discharged within a harbour, canal or marina, or within 3nm of a person within water, unless the operator has demonstrated that it is not practical to do so (at the satisfaction of the EPA) and reasonable and practicable measures have been made to remove as much solids and organic material (including blood) from the water as possible.
- Provisions for waste water storage lagoons have become more flexible to account for individual circumstances and advances in technology.

Previously there were very specific requirements specified in the Policy for the construction of waste water storage lagoons. These have now been replaced by a set of guidelines which is recognised in the Policy.

- Waters in pipelines associated with salt Interception schemes are now excluded from the provisions of the Policy however end of pipe discharge will still need to comply.

All of these provisions and any other amendments have been captured in the review of the Oyster Code. Therefore if growers comply with the Code, they can be confident they are complying with the 2015 Water Quality Policy (and all other EPA legislation for that matter).

While the new Policy comes into effect on 1 January 2016, growers who are not compliant with the new Policy will have up to two years to comply providing they were compliant with the existing policy prior to commencement. The EPA will work with any growers to ensure they are supported through any changes to assist with a smooth transition.

If any grower requires further clarification on the amendments to the Policy, please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Tara Ingerson

Principal Adviser Aquaculture
Ph: 8463 6581

Email: tara.ingerson@sa.gov.au

Industry Consultation – Review of EPA Oyster Code of Practice



Hopefully most of you will be familiar with the EPA Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of the South Australian Oyster Farming Industry. The Code provides a tool which assists industry in meeting their environmental obligations by relating EPA legislation to industry practices. We are also hoping to use the Code as a 'checklist' during future environmental surveys that are undertaken with industry.

The Code has been undergoing a review for a number of years. The key changes are as follows

- the structure has been altered to reflect the operational practices of industry rather than environmental aspects;
- Updates in the Code which reflects changes relating to the 'new' Environment Protection (Noise) Policy 2007 which came into effect after the original Code was completed;
- Amendments that reflect the changes relating to the new Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2015 which is due to come into effect on January 1st 2016;

- Changes that relate to management practices and key environmental issues.

A draft code has been completed and the EPA is now seeking feedback, comments etc.. on its content to ensure the Code is practical for industry and easy to use. The code will also be circulated to DEWNR and PIRSA for comment.

In the near future, all oyster growers will receive a copy of the draft code and a feedback form. I am hoping this will be done primarily by email or mail for those who do not have email. I will also forward a copy to Trudy for distribution to the Bay Reps.

Happy reading and thank you in advance to all those who submit comments. Any feedback will be much appreciated.

Meanwhile from the EPA Aquaculture Team have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Tara Ingerson
Principal Adviser Aquaculture

Reminder... Special Tractor Registration

We have had a few enquiries in relation to registration of tractors, please see information below.

Where a person involved in primary production (including aquaculture) purchases a tractor they are eligible to register it conditionally as a special purpose vehicle. As the tractor would likely be used in a different area for a different purpose a new application is required rather than a transfer of registration.

To apply for registration an MR1A <http://bit.ly/MR1A-rego> must be completed as well as an MR80 <http://bit.ly/MR80-rego> if the tractor has a mass of over 4500kg.

There is not a specific code of conduct for primary production vehicles.

Information on the Gazette notices which to apply agricultural vehicles can be located on the below page. While this information uses the term agricultural this is intended to include all forms of primary production.

<http://bit.ly/sa-agri-vehicles>

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\$335 heavy duty boot



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Only \$79.50



Seatec 5mm Waders
Heavy Boot Style

Secure Your Stand at International Tradeshows 2016

Food South Australia with the support of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia is coordinating a South Australian stand at the following international tradeshows in 2016.

Please note space is limited and will not be confirmed until requested payment is made. Payment details are located at the registration website.

Spaces available at each tradeshow include:

- Shared
- 3x3m
- 2x3m
- Other – contact Catherine Barnett for alternative space requirements

The price covers your stand space, imagery, and lighting. Additional costs not covered include furniture, travel and accommodation, refrigeration and additional power.



Upcoming International Tradeshows

Gulfood

Dubai
21–25 February 2016

Gulfood in Dubai is the world's biggest annual food and hospitality show, and will be held 21–25 February 2016.

Register at
<http://foodsagulfood16.eventbrite.com.au/>

Food and Hotel Asia

Singapore
12–15 April 2016

Food and Hotel Asia in Singapore is the largest international food tradeshow in Asia, and will be held 12–15 April 2016.

Register at
<http://foodsafha16.eventbrite.com.au/>

SIAL China

Shanghai
5–7 May 2016

SIAL China in Shanghai is represented as an Australian Pavilion, this is a significant food tradeshow and continues to grow in importance each year, and will be held 5–7 May 2016.

Register at
<http://foodsasial16.eventbrite.com.au/>

Your Guide To ... Export and Market Access

Food South Australia's online Guide to Food Business... is a collection of valuable information and resources to help you get started, grow and develop your company in the South Australian food industry.

Entering new markets is an opportunity for you to get the right product into the right market at the right time. The best export strategy is concise and simple.

By exporting, you can become more efficient and increase your productivity. In Australia, exporting companies have better growth prospects, highly skilled, highly productive staff and tend to adapt technology and best practice techniques faster. Global brands can be built from small local companies – especially in rural and regional Australia.

Connect With Us

For more information on International Tradeshows contact:

Catherine Barnett
Chief Executive Officer
8303 9435
catherine@foodsa.com.au

Oyster Reef Restoration Project

At the Industry Seminar on 3 September 2015, attendees heard from PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture about work being done to develop a shellfish reef restoration program.

Restoration of native *Ostrea angasi* oysters is being trialed through the SA Habitat Enhancement Project, an election commitment made to improve opportunities for recreational fishing, and is based on a renewed understanding of the past widespread distribution of oyster reefs across more than 1,500 km of the state's coastline.

Overfishing, water pollution and disease globally have impacted shellfish reefs, and South Australia's reefs were lost during the 1800s and early 1900s through overexploitation. These habitats are one of the most diverse, complex and productive marine ecosystems and their loss in South Australia has likely had broader impacts on the environment

and species associated with this habitat, including recreational fisheries species.

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture is leading the restoration of the trial reef, using artificial substrate, and is working with stakeholders to build a collaborative and proactive program. A consultation process will be run to provide all interested stakeholders to provide input on the potential design and location of the trial reef.

This project will include working with the oyster aquaculture sector to ensure the location and design of the reef is appropriate, and that its implementation and maintenance could have benefits for multiple stakeholders. The agency is particularly interested to work with the

sector on whether a proper shell recycling program could be established, for use of shell as a substrate, and to collaborate on building knowledge with regard to husbandry of *O. angasi*.

Recycled Pacific oyster shell could be an important substrate for restoration. PIRSA would like to hear about whether there are quantities currently available within the industry, and if there is an opportunity, to work toward a formal recycling program.

If you would like to indicate your interest in a shell recycling program or have questions regarding the SA Habitat Enhancement Project, please contact Heidi Alleway on heidi.alleway@sa.gov.au or (08) 8226 0352.

Zone Policy Development

Franklin Harbor Proposed Zone

PIRSA is currently developing an aquaculture zone in Franklin Harbor, which seeks to consolidate existing aquaculture operations in the area. It is in the latter stages of development and has undergone its period for public comment.

PIRSA met with growers in the region in May to discuss the proposed zone and also held a public meeting in Cowell. Three submissions were received, which PIRSA is currently working through, with only minor amendments to the proposed zone policy predicted as a result of the submissions.

Through the review process a number of discrepancies in the mapping of leases

within the zone have been identified and there has been a need to correct these issues before PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture can finalise the zone policy. Letters have been sent to affected licence holders with their new coordinates, indicating the location of where their structures currently sit in the water based on updated mapping,

PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture will be working to finalise the proposed zone over the coming months.

Ceduna Proposed Zone Policy

PIRSA is also developing an aquaculture zone in Ceduna, which seeks to consolidate existing aquaculture

operations in the area and will enable the provision of a further 180 hectares of leasable area for subtidal and intertidal aquaculture.

The proposed zone has undergone its period for public comment, which ended in July 2015, and included a public meeting in Ceduna in June 2015 with approximately 50 attendees. Subsequent meetings were held with the District Council of Ceduna, commercial fishermen and other stakeholders in July.

A total of 27 submissions have been received and PIRSA Fisheries and Aquaculture are currently in the process of making amendments to the proposed zone policy where appropriate.



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SASQAP Report

I would like to start off in congratulating Judd Evans on his new appointment as the new president of SAOGA, SASQAP looks forward to working with the newly structured SAOGA and SAORC committees in the near future.



I have been heavily involved in the new re-write of the Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program Operations Manual, the last version was very out dated, hopefully the new one will benefit the South Australia Shellfish Industries in the near future due to current amendments.

I handed over the reins of two years at our last meeting of being the chairperson for the Australian Shellfish Quality Assurance Advisory Committee, it was a great experience.

Export

A list of current bays listed for export can be found on the SASQAP web page:

<http://bit.ly/export-bays>

Closures

At the time of writing this report there were no closures of oyster harvesting areas.

After the heavy rains that were experienced recently I would like to emphasize that SASQAP has a protocol on closing harvesting areas after heavy rains. We monitor within a 24 hour period

how much rain has fallen and analyses this against historical rain data and microbiological results. From this we can make a judgment call whether to close or not. For example: Kellidie Bay East we close on 20 mm in 24 hours as we know there is runoff from the township. Other harvesting areas will also close at 20 mm in 24 hours as the program is still quite young and we don't have enough data from some bays.

Since the start of the 2015 financial year there have been eleven harvesting area closures.

Lab Testing

The ladies in the laboratory have been quite busy due to the bird issues we have been having along the west coast and the heavy rain event. The birds this year have been a real problem roosting on the leases. This also causes a flow on effect as the guano build up on the racks is washed off in storms or heavy rains and once again filtered by the oysters, resulting in the detection of *E. coli*.

Microalgae

We have experienced a normal winter cycle with very low algae counts across the state, historical data shows that this is the norm. I have noticed that counts are slowly increasing as the water temperature increases. This has also been supported by grower observations. I state once again keep records of your oyster meat condition and shell growth as in the future we might be able to work out which species of algae are good and bad.

If anyone is interested in what the current algae counts are in your bay don't hesitate in calling, I am always happy to discuss algae, ph. (8683 2563) mob. (0428 105 649)

Clinton Wilkinson,
Program Leader SASQAP



ZAPCO AQUACULTURES S.A. FISHERIES APPROVED OYSTER RACK TIES

Zapco Aquaculture in conjunction with SAOGA has develop a new quick easy to use flexible rack tie with easy pull handle. The tie is designed for securing valuable Oyster stock and gear to intertidal racks for those in the oyster Industry using bags with sticks or similar.

The new easy to use rack tie has been approved by the S.A. Fisheries department to replace the unsustainable current tyre tube rings that will be made redundant from the 31st Dec 2015.

The product is manufactured from the most robust and proven rubber compound, developed for submersible fibre optic cable seals.



ZAPCO AQUACULTURE UNDERSTANDS the importance the life span a product has to have in the oyster industry and a great understanding of the value of stock and equipment laid out by the farmers.

ZAPCO AQUACULTURE developed the Rack ties to make sure the farmers know their gear and stock is secure and safe while tied to the racks and in the hands of mother nature.



For more information or pricing contact: Stirling Cullenward stirling@zapcoaquaculture.com

Bay Representative Reports

Denial Bay

Coming out of winter has us looking back at a very poor period of growth and conditioning, but on the upside minimal unexplained losses. It would be prudent to study the environmental data for this period in comparison to the events of the last 5 years.

Late September has seen a relatively high increase in algal counts which has provided a welcomed boost, resulting in good growth across the size ranges and a rapid conversion to spawn. This has dramatically improved the saleable condition of the oysters and hopefully puts us in a position for a strong finish and a great start to next year.

The submission requesting an exemption for riding on barges has been completed and submitted to the Department of Transport for their perusal. DPTI will distribute the submission to various other government departments to hopefully gain their nod of approval. This submission process required a risk based assessment approach for each of our bays in South Australia and as such has been very involved and time consuming. I would like to thank Bruce Zippel for the time and effort that he originally put in to get this project off the ground. Also to Phil Foreman who had the mammoth task of putting the final submission together.

Hopefully their hard work pays off and we get the exemption that we are seeking.

I would like to wish you all a hassle free run to the end of the year and a great start to the next.

Gordon Gardner

Franklin Harbour

Franklin Harbour has had a good run through winter with sales condition still holding well, even though growth virtually stalled through the dead of winter with this being one of our coldest winter seasons in many years, Mortalities seemed to be down from recent years as well which was a good surprise. Growth has now kicked in with the weather warming and now with the recent rain event are experiencing exceptional growth and conditioning which is timely moving into our busy Christmas sale season

Cowell had over 50mm of rain in early Nov in which we seen our bay shut for a couple of days due to a voluntary closure for this amount of rain. This is the first time i can remember we have been shut for this reason as rain isn't normally an issue here in Cowell.

Meagan and myself had an opportunity to go to the World Oyster Symposium at Cape Cod in the North East of the USA this October and was great to see how the rest of the world is going, I came back very invigorated and reassured that our industry here in South Australia is in very good shape and has a great future moving forward. We are leaders in so many areas.

As we all know SARDI has just started a Data Monitoring Program in Coffin Bay to better understand the relationship between changing environmental conditions and food web dynamics, and what this means for oyster performance, in South Australian oyster growing areas.

What We would like to see in Cowell/ Franklin Harbour is to introduce probes here to utilise the School Oyster farm as a data collection point to feed this information back to the school, so the science department can correlate all the data and feed this to a cloud based app so we can all learn from this data.

We have industry support with 5 hatcheries promising spat to coincide with the data loggers so we can graph oyster growth against environmental influences to get a greater understanding of the dynamics that affect the oysters performance.

We have approached Federal and State Government to assist us in obtaining grants that could help us get this program up and running. I thank Ashley from BST and the Cowell Area School for initiating this program and it seems we are not far from getting the support required to see this process start.

Other than that its Business as usual here in Cowell and do hope everyone has a good lead into Christmas and then take a well earned break. It has seemed to come up even quicker again this year.

Simon Turner

Haslam

Haslam has experienced an excellent year with low mortalities, solid growth and good sales.

Oysters are close to spawning but hanging in.

It looks busy for some of us with Offshore Oysters still developing a lease and the new kid on the block, Angel Oysters looking to do some lease development also.

A merry Christmas to all and good luck next year.

Greg Window

Smoky Bay

I am back as the Smoky Bay Rep.

Smoky Bay had a brilliant start to the year but the growth through winter has been very slow.

The conditioning held up until August then fell in a hole.

However, in the last couple of weeks a large algae bloom of quite good quality food has turned up and we are still trying to assess the impact of this latest development.

Hopefully an excellent run into Christmas will occur.

Growers are still working hard to try and comply with the rubber band issue.

Smoky Bay had a good informative meeting with the ASI chairman, Len Stephens, the ASI EO, Matt Cunningham, and the geneticist that ASI use from CSIRO, Peter Kube. The SAORC, SAOGA EO Trudy McGowan was also in attendance.

All in all, a good informative meeting.

How I summarise this issue is, SA oyster industry spend 10% of their gross income on spat purchases, they spend a further 1% making sure that spat will meet their needs in the future.

The 2015 El Nino has been established for 6 months now, it is comparable in size to the 97/98 El Nino. BOM's words.

It certainly appears to have affected our growth rates and mortalities. The mortalities appear to be very low this year.

A positive Indian Ocean Dipole has been in place over 3 months now. This is expected to break down during November and early December. BOM's words not mine.

I am interested in the relationship between the Indian Ocean Dipole event and our conditioning as this timeframe coincides with poor conditioning.

It will take some years of monitoring to confirm whether effect is real or not.

Understanding the implications of climate events on our industry will help oyster growers in the future.

Gary Zippel

Stansbury

G'day all, I have very recently agreed to the Yorke Peninsula Rep and am something of a neophyte having joined the industry only a couple of years ago. I am looking forwards to listening and learning as I go.

While the YP season since winter has been pretty kind with some good growth showing up recently as the water warms and feed rates look to have picked up. Not all things are perfect however with the Stansbury growers suffering operating constraints since recent works to the boat ramp have made it much more difficult to float a boat at low tides. Efforts to rectify the situation are underway but progress is not rapid.

By all reports the ongrowers around Stansbury have been very productive in recent months, with a lot of stock moving west, and it is good to see and hear the positivity this generates. We can all use a confidence boost and keeping the stock flowing always feels good.

James Nagel

Streaky Bay

Hi All,

2015 has ben a much better year for Streaky Bay. The growth has been pretty good this year, though it slowed a bit through the middle of winter which seemed much colder than normal.

Sales have been steady with product going out pretty much every week throughout the year.

It has been a difficult time for the industry with the rubber band issue in particular, but hopefully we can put that issue behind us and look forward to better times. The IT project in particular is quite exciting and I hope the government get behind this project and give it the support which it needs.

I would like to welcome Judd as the new president of SAOGA and to thank Jill for her time in this role.

I hope everybody has a happy festive season and a prosperous new year.

Cheers

Reg Brown

Classifieds

For Sale

Oystek G4 Grader

Also approximately 1000 x 20 ml units

Phone Reg on 0427 261 517

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