



SAORC Newsletter

South Australian Oyster Research Council

March 2020



Matt Cunningham from ASI, one of the speakers you'll hear at the Information Day on 28 February

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Photo courtesy of OBA.

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Chairman's Report

Whilst oysters don't understand holidays, I hope everyone had a good Christmas and some extra time with family and friends.

As an industry the recovery continues, not as quick as some would hope, but through your hard work and resilience things are improving.

On 28 February we are holding the Information Day in Port Lincoln (see details on page X).

As an industry we face a couple of issues regarding import of genetics. Some will see this as a massive

opportunity, and others will see it as a big risk. The SAOGA Board believes that all growers should have an informed say on the decisions.

I would ask that whatever your current view you come along to the Information Day with an open mind and listen to the experts, and take this opportunity to ask questions and hear others' opinions.

If it is an opportunity, we don't want to miss it, and if it is a threat, we must ensure we weigh that up as well.

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Chairman's Report

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Views are currently mixed, and I think all growers can benefit from hearing the expert views, the debate and questioning.

It is important that as an industry we are united, and we need to put emotion and pre-conceived views to the side and make the very best and well-informed decision for the medium and long term of the industry – whatever that is!

Sean Sloane has left his role as Director of Fisheries in SA and moved back to Sydney. We have thanked Sean on the oyster industry's behalf. He led fisheries through the industry's difficulties and supported us strongly on fee relief and much else that has happened in the last three years. His leadership has been strong and his contribution to, and empathy with, the oyster industry has served us very well. We wish him and his family well for the future.

Rob Kerin

Independent Chairman
South Australian Oyster
Growers Association

ASI Update

Based on very strong feedback that we have received from industry, ASI has commenced trials to measure difference in survival in young spat. We are drawing from the success of our spat trials for POMS in Tasmania and will be applying the same principles to measure spat survival in SA waters.

Getting reliable data has always been an issue with SA survival, sometimes we get good data sometimes not. We feel that using very small spat will maximise our chances of seeing a mortality event. The families have been produced at SARDI over the last few months as part of an FRDC project which was secured at the completion of the CRC-P. The spat trials are not part of that project, however given the importance of the issue, ASI has committed to funding this extra activity.

The first trial has been deployed to Smoky Bay with subsequent trials also to be set up at Cowell and Coffin Bay. The trials will be deployed for around eight weeks and then data will be collected and analysed. We will be inviting industry to come and inspect the stock during the data collection.



I will be discussing this and other topics in Port Lincoln at the Information Day on Friday 28 February, so if you have any questions or suggestions, please come and see me.

Matt Cunningham
ASI





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SASQAP Report

Introduction

Due to the lack of heavy rainfalls over the winter period there were not many closures around the state, the normal harvesting areas of Kellidie Bay were closed which seems to be an annual occurrence.

The SASQAP was audited by NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) and AWE (Department of Agricultural Water and Environment) late last year. The program passed both audits without any problems. The AWE audit was the second time that the program had no corrective actions issued.

The SASQAP also implemented the new ISO 17025 testing requirements (General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories). This created a lot of work and well done to Carolyn the Lab Coordinator with great support from Beverly, I just sat back and advised.

Export

The Port Douglas Harvesting Area is the only area open for export; if you would like to export in the near future please advise the program.

If no more than four harvesters are exporting from a harvesting area, SASQAP will close the harvesting area for export and revert to rapid biotoxin testing. If a harvester wants to export from their harvesting area, SASQAP can open their lease/licence for export and they will have to pay for the chemical biotoxin test.

The SASQAP website shows which harvesting areas are listed for export: https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/food_safety/shellfish_sasqap

Closures

At the time of writing this article, no harvesting areas were closed.

Microalgae

Counts across the state have been very low once again throughout the winter period and leading into summer, with very low counts being recorded in all harvesting areas.

Counts sampled in the December showed an increase in microalgae numbers along the west coast with the typical spring species being detected, hopefully counts will increase leading into autumn. At the time of writing this article, counts around the state are very low.

The SASQAP is starting to get a better understanding of what food species are the best for oysters, I would like to thank the growers for their input.

Clinton Wilkinson

Program Leader SASQAP



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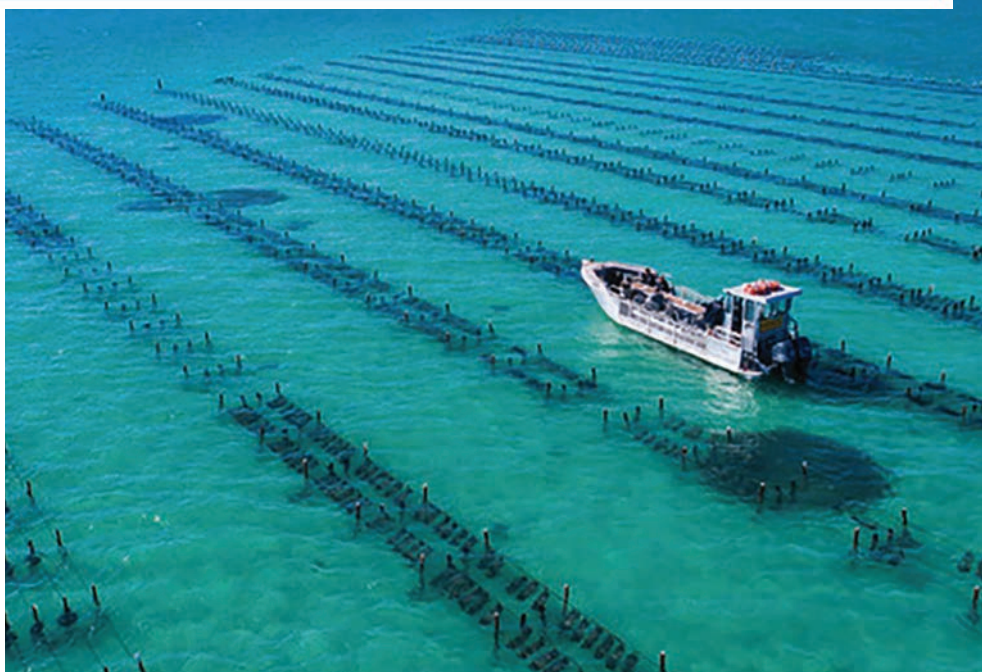
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Information Day program

The South Australian Oyster Industry

Hilton Motel, 11–13 King Street, Port Lincoln
Friday 28 February 2020

10.00am	Registrations
10.20am	Searching for the cause of mortalities <i>Dr Matt Landos</i>
10.40am	Port River family lines mortalities <i>Marty Deveney</i>
11.00am	Risks of genetic importation <i>Shane Roberts</i>
11.20am	Genetic improvement in ASI stocks <i>Matt Cunningham</i>
11.40am	The impact of hinderances to the SA breeding program <i>Peter Kube</i>
12.00pm	Lunch
1.00pm	What's changed since 2016 <i>Gary Zippel</i>
1.20pm	SAOGA/SAORC update <i>Rob Kerin</i>
1.40pm	Licences and leases plus reefs <i>Adam Main</i>
2.00pm	What is known about mortalities <i>Stephen Pyecroft</i>
2.20pm	Oyster mortality discussion

Lunch and light refreshments provided.

Please RSVP with dietary requirements to Terri at
hello@oysterssa.com.au by Thursday 20 February 2020.



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