

# OYSTER INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2. August 2011

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## Welcome to the *Oyster Newsletter*

At the request of many oyster industry representatives, this newsletter provides an update on national and international news, events and research that may be of interest to the oyster industry. It is provided to you free, and has the simple goal of providing relevant information to industry. It does not aim to replace those newsletters currently published for the oyster industry, but to supply and collate additional information that isn't readily available into one space.

We encourage farmers to circulate it widely through the industry - print it off and pass it around your workers. If you would like to unsubscribe, please click on the link above, or email [Andy@oceanwatch.org.au](mailto:Andy@oceanwatch.org.au).

Since this newsletter is for your information and as a tool to improve communication across oyster regions, we would appreciate any contributions, ideas for future editions, stories or projects in which you are involved, photographs, or any other feedback...

Happy oystering!

Andy (OceanWatch Australia) & Ana (University of Wollongong)

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## Oyster Industry: Environmental Improvement Grants Applications close in 2 weeks! - 12<sup>th</sup> August, 5pm

- Grants up to \$4000 are available to oyster farmers to make environmental improvements to their operations and shed/lease areas
- Grants up to \$4000 are also available to community groups and landholders for works in the catchment that will improve water quality in oyster producing waterways
- In Southern Rivers catchments (between Shoalhaven and Wonboyn) a total of \$150,000 is also available to help oyster farmers who wish to convert cultivation infrastructure such as tarred sticks and trays, to more environmentally friendly products such as environmentally friendly products such as plastics

The funding is being provided through the Australian Government's 'Caring for our Country' and delivered through complimentary oyster projects managed by OceanWatch Australia (in partnership with NSW Farmers Association), Southern Rivers CMA and Northern Rivers CMA.

To be eligible to apply for funding, oyster farmers must be committed to their local Environmental Management System.

Application forms and guidelines are available through the OceanWatch website at [www.oceanwatch.org.au](http://www.oceanwatch.org.au). For more information contact Andy on (02) 96602262 or 0488656366

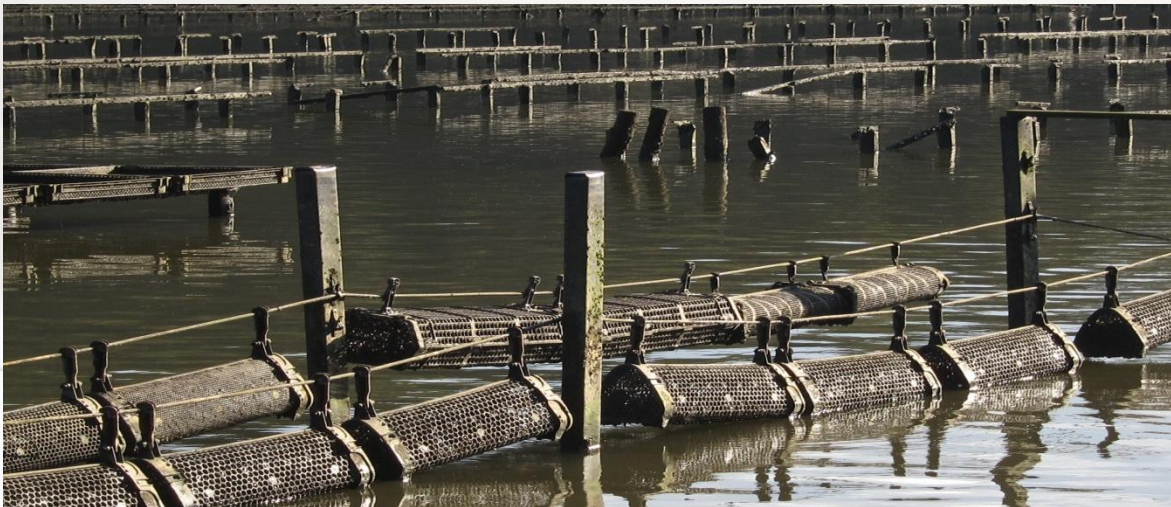
## Oyster Industry Projects

### NSW Oyster EMS Projects

Following the Ministerial launch of the NSW Oyster EMS project on the banks of the Hawkesbury River, the phone has not stopped ringing. Understandably, the main point of interest is the Environmental Improvement Grants (see page 1), which opened in mid-June and closes on the 12<sup>th</sup> August. The grants encourage oyster farmers to apply for funding to improve their environmental performance. Interest in the grants has been overwhelming, and it's great to see that the industry is so keen to take advantage of this opportunity.

Whilst interest in the grants has been high within the industry, the uptake by catchment groups and landholders has been relatively slow. If you know of any issues, or potential projects in your catchment that could benefit from a \$4000 grant to improve water quality please let me know as soon as possible!

To be eligible to apply for grants, oyster farmers must be committed to their local Environmental Management System (EMS). Since the launch of the project, 7 estuaries have committed to developing new Environmental Management Systems, whilst another 2 have requested reviews of their existing document. New EMS are in development for Wagonga Inlet, Tuross Lake, Shoalhaven/Crookhaven Rivers, Brisbane Water, Tilligerry Creek (Port Stephens), Manning River and the Nambucca River. Not including individual business EMS, this will take the total of estuary-wide Environmental Management Systems to 16, which is a fantastic effort by the NSW oyster industry.



**Photo:** The old and the new!

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a process that allows farmers to identify and manage environmental risks and opportunities that may impact their business. For oyster farmers the process looks at both internal issues (i.e. within shed and lease areas), and also external issues arising from the catchment (e.g. faecal contamination; erosion; sedimentation etc). Driven by the local oyster industry, the EMS then outlines an action plan to tackle these issues, and improve environmental conditions in oyster-producing estuaries. Furthermore, an EMS is a valuable tool that allows the local oyster industry to speak with one voice to achieve common goals.

For more information contact Andy on (02) 96602262 or 0488656366

E: [Andy@oceanwatch.org.au](mailto:Andy@oceanwatch.org.au)

### **RELATED NEWS: Final sign-off of EMS reports in the NSW Far South Coast:**

Last year oyster growers from 4 estuaries in the Far South Coast of NSW developed estuary-wide EMS - Wapengo, Pambula, Merimbula and Wonboyn. This process was part of one of the Southern Rivers CMA oyster partnerships programs. Growers from these regions have been very proactive implementing their action plans, reducing their exposure to environmental risks identified through the process. Feel free to contact growers from these areas to find out more about their experiences.

### **Oyster Information Portal**

The Oyster Information Portal (OIP) project undertaken by the researchers from the Shoalhaven Marine and Freshwater Centre (University of Wollongong) is progressing well. A series of workshops in relation to this project will take place in 4 locations in NSW and in Hobart, in conjunction with the 4<sup>th</sup> Oyster International Symposium. Oyster growers are encouraged to participate in these workshops in order to:

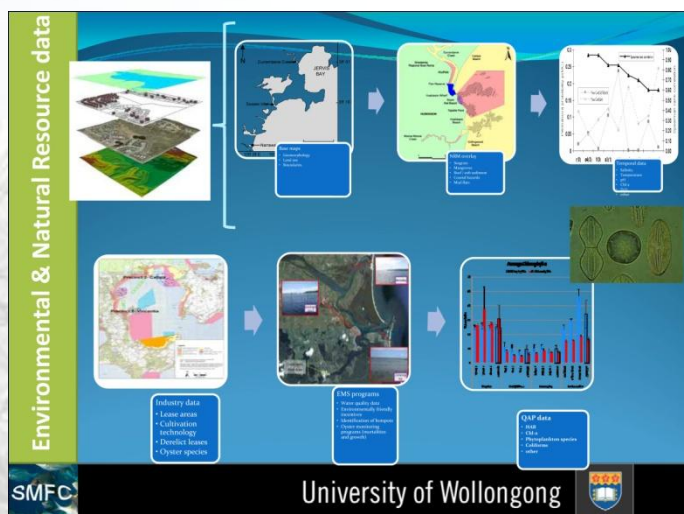
- Understand how the oyster information portal can benefit the management and future planning of your business
- Learn about the environmental data already available – why are they useful and how can you integrate them into farm management
- Help us to identify gaps in current monitoring programs, regulatory frameworks and governance structure of your industry

Workshops in NSW will take place at the following oyster regions:

- 17<sup>th</sup> August, Crookhaven/Shoalhaven
- 19<sup>th</sup> August, Camden Haven
- TBA (in August), Pambula
- Last week of August, Hawkesbury

The workshop in Hobart will take place on the day before the conference, 14<sup>th</sup> September 1pm - 4:30pm, Hobart Function and Conference Centre. Growers from other states will be attending - come along & share your knowledge with other growers!

Please contact Ana Rubio [arubio@uow.edu.au](mailto:arubio@uow.edu.au) or 0427285999 for further details



**Oyster Information Portal:** Help us improve data availability for your industry!

### **RELATED NEWS: Oyster Monitoring Program trial has taken off in NSW**

Four oyster growing areas in NSW are currently trialing an innovative oyster monitoring program through which oyster growth and mortality information is being collected using automated oyster graders. This trial is supervised by researchers from the Shoalhaven Marine and Freshwater Center but driven by industry members. A presentation on the trial will be given at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Oyster Symposium held in Hobart. For more information talk to growers from the Hawkesbury, Shoalhaven, Pambula or Merimbula or contact Ana Rubio - [arubio@uow.edu.au](mailto:arubio@uow.edu.au)

## **Australian News**

### **Win \$1000. NSW Commercial Oyster Innovation Award: Applications now open!**

The NSW Farmers' Association's Oyster Committee, as the peak body for oyster farming in NSW, is running a Commercial Oyster Innovation Award to recognise the novel and talent that exists within our industry to improve the efficiency and profitability of oyster businesses.

[http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/policy\\_committees/oyster](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/policy_committees/oyster)

### **Aussie oysters go to Uncle Sam**

They've already developed a taste for Vegemite and Arnotts biscuits - now America wants to snap up our precious Sydney rock oysters.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/sydney-nsw/aussie-oysters-go-to-uncle-sam/story-e6freuzi-1226061489639>

### **Leave our goods alone (Camden Haven)**

Local oyster farmers Mick Roelandts and Wendy Crozier were so irate with their most recent experience with theft that they vented their anger by writing a letter to the Courier.

<http://www.camdencourier.com.au/news/local/news/general/leave-our-goods-alone/2232169.aspx?storypage=1>

### **June flood aftermath: Counting the cost**

The real cost of the disastrous June flood on the Manning River. Journalist Helen Manusu talks with President of the Manning River Oyster Farmers Association, Ian Crisp.

<http://www.manningrivertimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/june-flood-aftermath-counting-the-cost/2224737.aspx>

### **Dramatic increase in production forecast**

Within 12 months, oyster production on the Manning River is expected to increase dramatically

<http://www.manningrivertimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/dramatic-increase-in-production-forecast/2224744.aspx>

### **Lustrous harvest: Manning link to pearling industry breakthrough**

Two Manning oyster farmers are helping to put the NSW Central Coast on the pearl industry map, changing the face of the Australian industry by successfully cultivating pearls in Broken Bay.

<http://www.manningrivertimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/lustrous-harvest-manning-link-to-pearling-industry-breakthrough/2234835.aspx>

### **Central Coast oyster growers move in to producing pearls**

It turned out to be a pearler of an idea. Four Brisbane Water rock oyster farmers who decided to have a go at growing pearls are slowly but surely creating a huge success

<http://express-advocate-wyong.whereilive.com.au/news/story/central-coast-oyster-growers-move-in-to-producing-pearls/>

### **Cold storage of Pacific oysters out of water: biometry, interval water and sensory assessment**

Abstract from a current research paper

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2621.2011.02686.x/abstract>

### **Prime Minister deletes email, ignores lobster industry**

Modern technology has caught out Prime Minister Julia Gillard and left the rock lobster industry with legitimate concerns that the Labor Government does not care about market access issues in China.

<http://www.liberal.org.au/Latest-News/2011/05/24/PM-ignores-lobster-industry.aspx>

### **QX disease found in Kalang oysters**

They have come through seven floods in two years, been hit by septic pollution in the river, now Kalang River oyster growers have to contend with QX disease.

<http://www.bellingencourier.com.au/news/local/news/general/qx-disease-found-in-kalang-oysters/2238428.aspx>

### **Deadly oyster disease a heartbreak**

OYSTER farmer John Lindsay is still in shock as the latest blow to his business sinks in.

<http://www.coffscoastadvocate.com.au/story/2011/07/29/deadly-oyster-disease-a-heartbreak/>

### **Oyster growers fear desal plant**

Oysters growing in the Spencer Gulf could be affected if the proposed BHP Billiton- desalination plan near Port Lowly causes excess salinity to be put back into the ocean.

<http://www.portlincolntimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/oyster-growers-fear-desal-plant/2223598.aspx>

### **Sea snails could contain cancer secrets**

A scientist from the New South Wales north coast has been acknowledged for her groundbreaking cancer research involving marine molluscs.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/05/06/3209221.htm>

### **Health benefits to eating oysters (Richmond)**

New research demonstrating the anti-cancer properties of oysters

<http://www.northernstar.com.au/story/2011/05/06/scientists-another-reason-eat-oysters-richmond/>

### **The good, the bad and the ugly: pest Pacific oysters**

Southern Rivers CMA, the local oyster industry and community members are continuing their important work in controlling Pacific oyster incursions in the Clyde River estuary. Culling pest Pacific oysters from the Clyde helps improve the growth and sustainability of the locally produced Sydney Rock oyster.

<http://www.southern.cma.nsw.gov.au/documents/21%20July%202011%20The%20good,%20the%20bad%20and%20the%20ugly%20-%20pest%20Pacific%20oysters.pdf>

### **Human Waste Fertiliser**

A Sydney Water commissioned study which tested biosolids – the controversial human-waste fertiliser – found “sustained high levels” of the bacteria E.Coli and Salmonella 6 to 12 months after the sludge had been applied to agricultural land.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/human-waste-fertiliser/story-e6freuy9-1226077704963>

### **An overview of Australian Oysters**

In this link you can see a nice comparative table among oyster species and regions in Australia

<http://www.blueharvest.com.au/AustralianOysters/tabid/179/Default.aspx>

## **World News**

### **Breeding a better oyster (U.S.)**

Taylor Shellfish (U.S.) has now started breeding double hybrid oysters, which are still in the early phases of growth but are showing signs of outperforming farmed and wild oysters alike.

<http://www.nwpr.org/07/HomepageArticles/Article.aspx?n=8957>

### **Herpes virus kills half of this year's oysters (France)**

A persistent and deadly virus has managed to kill half of France's oysters this year, the government informed. Oyster production has dropped by 30 per cent due to this very aggressive form of herpes.

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=0&special=&monthyear=&day=&id=44755&ndb=1&df=0>

### **Aquaculture loses in Japan (Japan)**

The Japanese aquaculture industry suffered more than ¥100 billion in damage, or a quarter of its annual output, from the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20110519a2.html>

### **Women in Aquaculture – Part One (Canada)**

Women fill about 40% of the 14,500 direct aquaculture jobs in Canada today. A number of these women work in the Coast of Bays in the relatively new, but important, industry in the area

<http://www.thecoaster.ca/News/2011-07-05/article-2632292/Women-in-Aquaculture-Part-One/1>

### **Endocrine disruptor news (U.K.)**

A water-borne chemical is causing oysters to develop into hermaphrodites, which cannot breed, according to British scientists

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3071549.stm>

### **Hackensack River too dirty to host oysters (U.S.)**

The Hackensack River is still so heavily polluted that oysters placed in the water to help filter out contamination have either died or become deformed.

[http://www.northjersey.com/news/124902339\\_River\\_too\\_dirty\\_to\\_host\\_oysters.html](http://www.northjersey.com/news/124902339_River_too_dirty_to_host_oysters.html)

### **French oyster farmers return favour to Japan (France & Japan)**

A 7-tonne shipment of oyster farm equipment – buoys, ropes and fishermen's clothing – have arrived from Charente- Maritime & Brittany in western France at Tokyo's Narita International airport

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gVUnJutDTD2IYyEoQjMFtWRpGMwQ?docId=CNG.9df3894d3c61df966b0d7c129418e270.441>

### **Oyster Aquaculture affected by Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico (U.S.)**

Check this video describing how the oil spill affected the oyster beds in Louisiana not because of the oil but due to the massive infusion of freshwater diverted from the Mississippi River into wetlands in an effort to keep oil from the coast.

<http://e360.yale.edu/oysters.msp>

### **Disease-resistant oysters call for shift in Bay restoration strategies (U.S.)**

Development of disease resistance among Chesapeake Bay oysters results in substantial reproduction in the high-salinity areas where the parasite causing MSX thrives

<http://www.newswise.com/articles/disease-resistant-oysters-call-for-shift-in-bay-restoration-strategies>

## **Oyster Related Podcasts**

**Latest Fishing and Aquaculture stories on ABC North Queensland:**

<http://abc.gov.au/northqld/topics/rural/fishing-aquaculture/?site=northqld&section=video&date=%28none%29>

**Latest Australian Seafood Industry and Climate Change Symposium:**

<http://www.climatechange-fishing.com.au/australian-seafood-industry-and-climate-change-symposium-3-4-march-2011>

**Six informative podcasts on the oyster industry by the University of California, Davis**

<http://aqua.ucdavis.edu/Podcast/download.htm>

## **Newsletters**

**NSW Department of Primary Industries: Aquaculture newsletter: June 2011**

[http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/397789/June-2011-Aquaculture-News.pdf](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/397789/June-2011-Aquaculture-News.pdf)

**OceanWatch Australia: Winter newsletter**

[http://www.oceanwatch.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/2011\\_Winter.pdf](http://www.oceanwatch.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/2011_Winter.pdf)

**Catchment Management Authorities**

Northern Rivers: August 2011

<http://mailproduct.hilltop-mail.com/em/mail/view.php?id=1015031&a=29213&k=8bbc12f>

Hunter-Central Rivers: Autumn 2011

[http://www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/uploads/res/Waterwatch/waterwatcher\\_2011\\_01.pdf](http://www.hcr.cma.nsw.gov.au/uploads/res/Waterwatch/waterwatcher_2011_01.pdf)

Hawkesbury Nepean: Winter 2011

[http://www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au/multiversions/6073/FileName/FINAL%20The%20Source%2015\\_LR.pdf](http://www.hn.cma.nsw.gov.au/multiversions/6073/FileName/FINAL%20The%20Source%2015_LR.pdf)

Sydney Metro: Autumn 2011

[http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/index.php?option=com\\_remository&Itemid=157&func=startdown&id=516](http://www.sydney.cma.nsw.gov.au/index.php?option=com_remository&Itemid=157&func=startdown&id=516)

Southern Rivers: February 2011

<http://www.southern.cma.nsw.gov.au/documents/Escarpment%20to%20Sea%20Newsletter%20-%20Feb%202011.pdf>

## **Oyster Related Research**

Estrogenic compounds have been demonstrated to cause adverse effects on reproduction in aquatic wildlife. Such compounds include natural estrogens and constituents of everyday products such as pharmaceuticals, detergents and plastics which have been demonstrated to mimic estrogens. One of the main sources of estrogenic compounds into the marine environment is via incomplete removal and release from sewage treatment plants. This research has focused on the development of the Sydney rock oyster, *Saccostrea glomerata*, as a biomonitor of estrogenic compounds in marine waters. Laboratory exposures to estrogenic compounds demonstrated that potential effects included elevated male and female vitellogenin (a precursor to the female egg yolk protein), accelerated female development and altered sex ratios towards females. A field based deployment of *S. glomerata* in the receiving waters of an Australian sewage treatment plant was also undertaken. Evidence suggested that estrogenic exposure, via exposure to sewage effluent, was also capable of inducing vitellogenin and accelerating female development. Metals were also assessed in oyster tissue and indicated that sewage effluent was unlikely to be a significant source of metal

contamination. Our findings suggest that *S. glomerata* is useful as a biomonitor of estrogenic compounds and metals and may provide a tool for environmental wildlife protection agencies to protect the valuable oyster industry from potential contamination and associated human health risks. For further information and/or copies of publications, please send an email to the below address.



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## **Coming Events**

15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> September - 4th International Oyster Symposium, World Oyster Society – Hobart  
[http://www.worldoyster.org/sympo/ios4/ios4\\_info\\_e.html](http://www.worldoyster.org/sympo/ios4/ios4_info_e.html)

20<sup>th</sup> September – NSW Oyster Industry Field & Trade Day – Port Macquarie  
[http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/71713/Oyster\\_Field\\_Days\\_Invite.pdf](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/71713/Oyster_Field_Days_Invite.pdf)

22<sup>nd</sup> September – NW Oyster Industry Field & Trade Day – Batemans Bay  
[http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/71713/Oyster\\_Field\\_Days\\_Invite.pdf](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/71713/Oyster_Field_Days_Invite.pdf)

23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> October - Seafood Directions Conference – Gold Coast  
[www.seafooddirections2011.com](http://www.seafooddirections2011.com)

8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> November - NSW Coastal Conference – Tweed Heads  
<http://www.coastalconference.com/>

1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2012 – Skretting Australasian Aquaculture Conference – Melbourne, VIC  
[www.australian-aquacultureportal.com](http://www.australian-aquacultureportal.com)

For other Aquaculture conferences worldwide:  
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