

OYSTER INDUSTRY NEWSLETTER



Vol. 3. November 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.

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)

Oyster Industry Projects

NSW Oyster EMS Projects

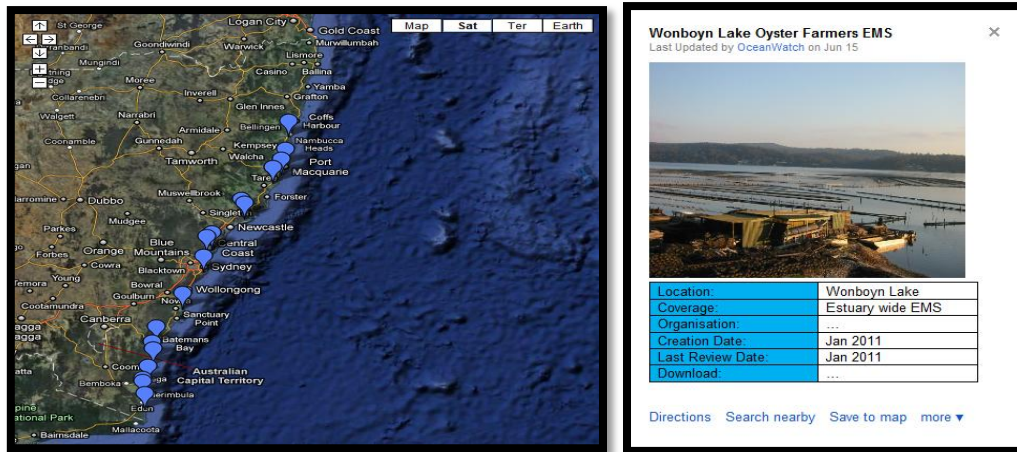
The future of the oyster industry depends not only on a healthy environment, but also on the ability to demonstrate that growers are utilising the environment in a responsible and sustainable manner. One way of doing this is to develop an Environmental Management System (EMS) to show how environmental risks, impacts and opportunities are managed.

The process of EMS development allows oyster farmers to identify risks arising from internal, on-farm activities and also from external, catchment-based activities. This risk assessment process can then be used to prioritise remedial actions, reducing farmers' exposure to risk by building resilience into their business.

Development of EMS: Seven new oyster industry EMS are currently under development covering the Nambucca River, Manning River, Port Stephens (Tilligerry Creek), Brisbane Water, Shoalhaven River, Tuross Lake and Wagonga Inlet (the final three funded by Southern Rivers CMA). Two existing EMS are also being reviewed for Broken Bay Pearls and the oyster farmers of the Clyde River. These EMS are evolving well, although progress has slowed recently due to the processing of applications tied to the Environmental Improvement Grants.

EMS Database: The NSW Oyster Industry EMS Database is now online. This interactive website allows users to explore the coast and identify those estuaries that are committed to an EMS. With the farmers authorisation it is hoped that the database will soon be able to provide direct access to EMS, giving the public and other farmers the ability to view these documents.

<http://www.oceanwatch.org.au/our-work/ems-nsw-oysters/ems-database/>



Information provided through the EMS database

Environmental Improvement Grants: As most of you are aware, the recent oyster industry grants were massively over-subscribed with over \$1m requested. With only \$374k to distribute, this inevitably meant that a lot of worthwhile projects were unfortunately left unfunded.

Contracts for successful projects are currently in the process of being posted, with funding distributed thereafter. For the state-wide funding (stream 1), 8 projects were funded in the Northern Rivers CMA region, 8 projects funded in the Hunter-Central Rivers CMA area and 12 projects funded within Southern Rivers CMA. All of these projects involved infrastructure conversions, removing and disposing of tarred and/or treated timber material. Additional money was provided by Northern Rivers CMA to fund a further 8 projects between Camden Haven and the Tweed River. Stream 3 money provided by Southern Rivers CMA funded 22 infrastructure conversion projects in that region.

All applications were scored on their individual merits against 10 pre-determined criteria, with projects providing significant public environmental benefits and representing good value for money, those most likely to be funded. The scoring criteria were determined by an assessment panel consisting of representatives from: NSW Food Authority (x1), Department of Primary Industries (x1), NSW Farmers (x1), Catchment Management Authorities (x2), OceanWatch Australia (x2) and oyster farmers (x2). A list of funded projects will soon be placed on the OceanWatch website:

www.oceanwatch.org.au

Oyster Information Portal

A suite of parameters related to water quality, catchment, climate, industry and governance information of potential relevance to the oyster industry in NSW has been identified, categorised and prioritised through 4 NSW and one national workshop. Workshops took place at the Camden Haven, Hawkesbury, Shoalhaven, Pambula Lake and Hobart. The latter workshop was organised in conjunction with the 4th International Oyster Symposium. The aim of this workshop was to disseminate the OIP concept and to obtain feedback from industry members of other states. The priority data/information needs are consistent within both industry and across governance agencies. Of particular importance are temporal trends of different parameters of water quality. Currently we

are working on the data that will be hosted by the OIP in order to ensure an effective and useful delivery, in a user-friendly format through an online map-based portal. The next series of workshops will take place early next year. In these we will be demonstrating the portal development. For further info <http://www.uow.edu.au/science/research/safc/oysterinformationportal/index.html>

Project poster presentations on the current NSW Oyster Information Portal can be obtained from: <http://www.uow.edu.au/science/research/safc/oysterinformationportal/News/index.html>

The Oyster Monitoring Program keeps running at the following locations: Pambula; Merimbula; Shoalhaven; and Hawkesbury. A copy of the latest presentation can be accessed via <http://www.uow.edu.au/science/research/safc/oysterinformationportal/News/index.html>

We have been receiving increasing interest on setting up similar programs in other NSW estuaries and in other growing areas in SA and TAS.

For more information contact Ana Rubio on 0427285999 or arubio@uow.edu.au

EMS Implementation on the NSW Far South Coast

To improve the sustainability of the oyster industry, Environmental Management Systems (EMS) have been developed for the four major oyster farming groups in the Bega Valley, namely Wapengo, Merimbula, Pambula and Wonboyn lakes. These EMS have been developed in consultation with each of the oyster farmer groups to ensure the long term viability of the environment and their industry. Farmers developed action plans to address the high risk activities impacting on the sustainability of the oyster industry. Actions identified include environmental (e.g. maintenance of good water quality), social (e.g. improving communication pathways within industry and with community) and economic actions (e.g. marketing/shared branding). While there are actions that are specific to each estuary, many of the actions address common issues and opportunities.

Southern Rivers CMA has recognised this commonality and provided funding to Bega Coast Oysters Inc. for the employment of an EMS Implementation Officer. Sue McIntyre, an oyster farmer in Pambula Lake, is now the Oyster EMS Implementation Officer for the Bega Valley. Sue will work with the four oyster farming groups in the Bega Valley with EMS, as well as the two smaller oyster growing estuaries (Nelsons Lagoon and Bermagui River) to assist completion of high priority EMS actions. A Steering Committee, including members of Bega Coast Oysters Inc. and Southern Rivers CMA, will work with Sue to ensure the success of the EMS process and the sustainability of the oyster industry in the Bega Valley.

For more information contact Sue McIntyre on 0427824690 or broadwateroysters@bigpond.com

Oyster Events

4th International Oyster Symposium

The 4th International Oyster Symposium (IOS4) “*Embracing the future through innovation*” was held in Hobart in September 2011. The Symposium hosted talks on: improving hatchery supply; seed quality; improving oyster production through breeding programs; producing better oysters; new species; managing risk caused by climate change; heavy metals; oyster diseases; improving human health; increasing shelf life; improving retail packaging and many more topics. An overview of the oyster industry in each Australian state was given by industry or fisheries representatives. For further information on the Symposium please read the Oyster Tasmania newsletter (Oct 2011)

<http://www.oysterstasmania.org/news> or visit the World Oyster Society website
http://worldoyster.org/index_e.html

Copies of some of the presentations and posters given at the Symposium can be access through
<http://www.oysterstasmania.org/resources/ios4-presentations-a-proceedings>

NSW Oyster Industry Field Days

In October two Oyster Industry Field Days were organized by NSW Oyster Farmers Association in Port Macquarie and Batemans Bay. Field days are organised entirely for the oyster industry and provided updates on the latest activities from NSW Farmers, on the progress of the OceanWatch EMS program (including a case study of how the EMS approach has helped other primary industries - free range beef in Gippsland). The field days also gave an update on the latest research findings including the work undertaken by the bio-security unit on QX, POMS and Winter Mortality, research on Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB) based on the NSW Food Authority data that industry collects and the latest results from the current CRC benchmarking project.

As in previous events, an award was presented to the best 'Commercial Oyster Innovator' - that went to Siminis Oyster Splitting Systems. In addition the 'Most Beautiful Oyster Competition' was once again organised by NSW DPI. The winners of this competition for unopened oysters were:

Port Macquarie:

- Holiday Coast Oysters – Hastings (Sydney Rock Oysters)
- Reg Richards – Hawkesbury (Pacific Oysters)

Batemans Bay:

- Jack & Peter Cole - Merimbula (Sydney Rock Oysters)
- Leon Riepsamen & John & Anne Collison – Crookhaven (Pacific Oysters)
- John & Greg Dawson – Pambula (Flat Oysters)



Batemans Bay Industry Field Day



Most Beautiful Oyster winners in Batemans Bay

Oysters at the Ivy

Organised by the NSW Farmers Association Oysters Committee, Oysters at the Ivy provided Government representatives and oyster consumers the opportunity to sample oysters from different regions and to meet growers face-to-face. OceanWatch held an educational zone at the event, educating visitors about oysters, and some of the environmental initiatives undertaken by NSW oyster farmers.

Attended by almost a dozen Ministers and MC'd most capably by Simon Marnie and Mark Bulley, the event also featured a 'Taste and Rate Bar' where guests were asked to sample and score 8 oysters from different regions. The scores were tallied to determine the winners of the 'People Choice Awards. Congratulations to:

- Broken Bay Oysters – Hawkesbury (Pacific Oysters)
- Lynne Hall – Hastings (Sydney Rock Oysters)



Oyster Related Research

POMS – Understanding environmental and husbandry factors to reduce economic losses

Researchers: Dr Ika Paul-Pont, Dr Navneet Dhand and Prof Richard Whittington from Uni.of Sydney

A new oyster disease to Australia has emerged in NSW and is now the focus of a concerted research, development and extension program that encompasses animal health (virology), management and people development. The latest activity is a new research project being conducted by researchers at the University of Sydney on Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS).

This project aims to better understand the virus and its lifecycle and pathways for transmission. It involves intensive field monitoring in the Georges River in order to identify major risk factors responsible for disease emergence and spread. This project involves a trial of new husbandry practices, and high frequency monitoring of environmental parameters. The Hawkesbury River, which is free of the virus, is being monitored as a control site. Environmental and husbandry factors will be studied in the hope that techniques will be discovered to grow Pacific oysters despite the POMS virus. The ultimate goal is to devise management strategies to enable Australian oyster farmers to remain in profitable business.

The project is supported not only by funding from FRDC on behalf of the Australian government, but also the University of Sydney and the Sydney Metropolitan Catchment Management Authority Botany Bay Water Quality Improvement Program (BBWQIP) with the strong support of oyster growers from the Georges and the Hawkesbury Rivers, Hornsby Shire Council, Siminis Oyster Splitting Systems and NSW Industry and Investment.

There is now a website and blog to display the results of this research. On this site, farmers can see results, make comments and ask questions. <http://www.oysterhealthsydney.org/>



University of Sydney team working with oyster farmers in the Georges & Hawkesbury Rivers

Australian News

Bega Coast Oysters Inc.

The oyster farmers of the Bega Valley have combined forces to form a new association – Bega Coast Oysters Inc. The 6 oyster producing estuaries within the Bega Valley (Bermagui River, Wapengo Lake, Nelsons Lagoon, Merimbula Lake, Pambula Lake and Wonboyn Lake) all share issues based on maintaining good water quality to produce oysters, and developing and maintaining markets to sell. Over the years oyster farmers from these separate estuaries have worked together on issues affecting the oyster industry. Now Bega Coast Oysters Inc. will help coordinate efforts and provide a united voice to speak to industry regulators, Council and the community. Bega Coast Oysters Inc will also enhance the strong links within the local oyster industry through the development of an association website, where information can be shared and the local oyster industry promoted. Website details to be provided in the next newsletter; however this collaboration is already receiving some good press. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-09-21/oyster-action/2908038>

Industry tour - POMS study tour around France

A delegation of Australian oyster growers have just returned from a study tour around France looking at specifically at POMS. Further information on the trip- please visit Oyster Tasmania newsletter (Oct 2011) <http://www.oysterstasmania.org/news/>. If you would like to know more about the Study Tour- check www.oystertour.wordpress.com and leave comments or raise questions to the group.

Oyster industry learning international lessons to stop virus spread

The Australian oyster industry is mobilising to prevent the spread of a virus which has caused huge losses in France and NZ. <http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201109/s3319669.htm>

Oyster Theft in Hawkesbury

Between 27th Nov & 4th Dec. 97 baskets of Pacific Oysters were stolen from Porto Bay. This is a significant theft with over 800 dozen (over 1.2 tonne) oysters stolen. The theft has been reported to the appropriate Authorities and Operation Trident, a joint initiative involving NSW police, Department of Primary Industries and the NSW Food Authority. Oyster thieves can face a \$275 000 fine or six months imprisonment. Currently there are closures in place in NSW and TAS and SA due to wet weather and oysters are difficult to get. If you become aware of spontaneous oyster availability or sales - it might raise eyebrows. Also, 97 baskets represent a fair "bulk" and may turn up elsewhere as a bargain. Information and oyster thefts should be reported to Crime Stoppers on 1800333000.

Fishermen furious over move to increase effluent in Hawkesbury

Sydney water wants to release up to 10 times more phosphorus, nitrogen and ammonia into the Hawkesbury River from its Brooklyn sewage treatment plant to save costs

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/water-issues/fishermen-furious-over-move-to-increase-effluent-in-hawkesbury-20110926-1ktnv.html>

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/video/nsw/-/watch/27502944/sydney-water-slammed-by-critics/>

Pearler of an opportunity

Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority board members and staff had an insight into the Hastings River oyster industry.

<http://www.portnews.com.au/news/local/news/general/pearler-of-an-opportunity/2248753.aspx>

Oyster demand peaks

Tasmanian oyster producers say they are experiencing the best winter season ever

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-08-09/20110809-oyster-demand-peaks/2830210>

Grants going ahead for flooded NSW farmers

The Federal Government has signed off on \$15,000 cash grants for farmers affected by the June floods on the NSW Mid North Coast.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-08-12/flood-relief-flows-for-oyster-industry/2837006>

Tropical oyster moves into SA gulf

Researchers have confirmed a tropical pearl oyster has moved into upper Spencer Gulf in South Australia.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-10-27/oyster-tropical-razorfish-spencer-gulf/3602996/?site=sydney>

Wapengo oyster trial gets the green light

The decision to approve a five-year trial of Pacific oysters at Wapengo Lake on the New South Wales far south coast has led to mixed reactions from the region's producers

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-10-21/wapengo-oyster-trial-gets-the-green-light/3581412>

Department defends Wapengo oyster trial

The Department of Primary Industries is defending its decision to allow Pacific oysters to be introduced into a lake on the New South Wales far south coast.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-10-24/department-defends-wapengo-oyster-trial/3596714/?site=southeastnsw§ion=news>

\$7.5 million for coastal and estuary management programs

Millions of dollars in funding has been announced to assist local councils carry out coastal and estuarine management projects, helping them plan and adapt to the reality of climate change and sea level rise.

<http://www.bellingencourier.com.au/news/local/news/general/75-million-for-coastal-and-estuary-management-programs/2297874.aspx>

In Port Lincoln, a shellfish farmer grows 1kg king oysters

Lester Marshall's giant 18cm long, 1kg king oysters sell for \$100 each but there's only one place in the world you can buy them – the Port Lincoln Hotel.

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/in-port-lincoln-a-shellfish-farmer-grows-1kg-king-oysters/story-e6frea6u-1226114375045>

Ewan views revival

Clyde River oyster farmer Ewan McAsh has won a prestigious Nuffield Scholarship and will use the award to research a new strategic direction for the industry in NSW.

<http://www.ulladullatimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/ewan-views-revival/2307023.aspx>

Joint forces to clean up Hawkesbury River and help oyster farmers

The Broken Bay Oyster Association and Hornsby Council will formalise their partnership to protect and manage the Hawkesbury River by signing a memorandum of understanding.

<http://hornsby-advocate.whereilive.com.au/news/story/joint-forces-to-clean-up-the-river/>

Oysters face climate change challenges, forum hears

An international oyster symposium in Hobart has heard about the challenges posed by rising sea levels and changing climate patterns.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-09-15/20110915-oyster-climate/2901342>

Oyster farm boost plans

Tasmania could boost its oyster production by 50 per cent if growth and survival rates improve through research and innovation.

http://www.themercury.com.au/article/2011/09/19/262531_food-wine.html

Broken Bay Oysters Association wins Seafood Excellence Award

This award recognises excellence in the seafood industry in regards to actions by an individual or organisation that supports the ecological sustainability of the NSW industry

http://seafoodexcellenceawards.com.au/?page_id=1664

Midnight raiders threaten oyster prices

Thieves sneaking in by boat in the dead of night are making off with tens of thousands of dollars worth of oysters from southeast Queensland leases.

http://www.goldcoast.com.au/article/2011/11/29/369611_gold-coast-lead-story.html

Truck accident threatens Nambucca river oysters

Around 3:30am on Friday a semi-trailer truck was heading south on the Pacific Highway when it lost control at the northern entrance to the Macksville bridge and plunged into the Nambucca River.

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2011/11/25/3376223.htm>

Recently featured on CNN – Eco-solutions ‘Oyster Farming’

Check out this video recently featured on CNN where Hugh Williams reports on environmentally responsible oyster farming in Australia

<http://edition.cnn.com/video/?/video/international/2011/08/14/ecosolutions.williams.oyster.farm.cnn>

Fish food store could help seafood industry in future floods and cyclones

A bulk storage facility for feed could be built in north Queensland to assist aquaculture farmers in future natural disasters.

<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201108/s3288942.htm>

Aquaculture zone sparks pollution fears in SA

The South Australian Recreational Fishing Advisory Council says a proposed aquaculture zone may pollute one of the state's most pristine marine areas.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-08-12/aquaculture-zone-sparks-pollution-fears/2836580>

Greens urge caution on aquaculture expansion

The Greens are urging the South Australian Government to halt all new aquaculture development off Eyre Peninsula until pollution from existing leases is contained.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-09-14/greens-aquaculture/2898306>

Finfish farming at Port Stephens

The Department of Primary Industries has unveiled plans for a 20 hectare finfish research lease in Port Stephens.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-10-28/finfish-farming-at-port-stephens/3605108/?site=newcastle>

Sydney river an "open sewer"

One of Sydney's major urban waterways – the Cooks River – is at times an "open sewer" carrying effluent containing pharmaceuticals and other chemicals, sparking calls for urgent action to clean it up. <http://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/science-technology/sydney-river-open-sewer>

No way to keep up with the insatiable demand for Aussie seafood

Principal research scientist at the believes most Australians do not realise the nation is running short of seafood.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/health-science/no-way-to-keep-up-with-the-insatiable-demand-for-aussie-seafood/story-e6frg8y6-1226179967086>

Tree planting at Mooney Mooney

We planted about 100 trees with about 20 people including kids. The grant was obtained from the Federal Government Caring for our Country Initiative. The aim was to reduce the impact of weeds of national significance (mainly lantana) between the Mooney Mooney Workers Club and the Broken Bay Oysters Association land bases to establish a vegetation buffer to assist with the filtration of storm water and erosion.



Tree planting day at Mooney Mooney

The National Seafood Industry Alliance (NSIA) launched its website called "[Seafood for Australia](#)". The NSIA website will be a major tool to inform the community about the proposed Commonwealth Marine Reserves, the impact this may cause to industry and to the supply of seafood to the Australian community. It also communicates the industry's position for a sensible approach to Marine Reserve Networks and outlines a fishing industry proposal for networks that achieve conservation outcomes while still allowing for a viable Australian commercial fishing industry to continue supplying sustainable seafood

World News

The Great Oyster Crash (U.S.)

In the summer of 2007, something strange and troubling happened at the Whiskey Creek Shellfish Hatchery on Netarts bay in Oregon, which raises oyster larvae for shellfish growers from Mexico to Canada. The hatchery's "seed", as the oyster larvae are called, began dying by the millions, for no apparent reason. <http://www.onearth.org/article/oyster-crash-ocean-acidification?page=1>

The Scoop of Poop (U.S.)

Although the May River is one of South Carolina's cleanest, it is plagued with high levels of faecal coliform bacteria. Two of the biggest offenders are pet waste and poorly maintained septic systems. <http://www.blufftontoday.com/bluffton-opinion/2011-08-02/scoop-poop>

How shells could protect oysters from ocean acidification (U.S.)

Whether it's caused by nutrient pollution or carbon dioxide, ocean acidification poses a major threat to shellfish growers in New England. Mark Green, an oceanographer at St. Joseph's College in Maine, thinks old shells could protect nearby shellfish – but certainly not solve either problem. <http://www.onearth.org/article/killer-sediments>

Seafish awards IPF funding to Cefas for oyster purification trials (U.K.)

Seafish, the authority on seafood, has awarded £23,750 (AUD \$36,167) from its Industry Project Fund (IPF) to the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas) for trials on the purification of oysters to identify ways of reducing the norovirus content of live bivalve molluscs. http://www.fishupdate.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/16226/Seafish_awards_IPF_funding_to_Cefas_f_or_mollusc_purification_trials.html

Oyster farming industry on verge of collapse (N.Z.)

The oyster farming industry in the North Island is on the verge of collapse. A herpes virus that has attacked young Pacific oysters over the past two summers is killing up to 95% of spat, leaving farmers with almost nothing to sell. <http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/93034/oyster-farming-industry-on-verge-of-collapse>

Risks seen in Cawthron oyster farming - POMS related issue (N.Z.)

Farming Cawthron Institute-produced pacific oysters in the top of the south is taking a risk that could kill the developing Marlborough industry <http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/5829454/Risks-seen-in-Cawthron-oyster-farming>

McDonnell hopes fertiliser phosphorus ban will aid farmers (U.S.)

Staunton – Less lush lawns should mean less pressure on farmers – or so Virginia's governor hopes. Virginia will ban lawn-care fertilisers containing phosphorus after Dec. 31st 2013, hoping to cut the flow of the potent plant food into the Chesapeake Bay, where it's been linked to cause massive dead zones, while at the same time avoiding imposing another regulatory burden on farmers. <http://www.newsleader.com/article/20110821/NEWS01/108210345/McDonnell-hopes-fertilizer-phosphorus-ban-will-aid-farmers?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

Omega-3 fatigue?

According to a new international food survey, consumers' No. 1 source of information on diet and health is the mainstream media. The survey also found that the main reason consumers eat seafood is because of its health benefits. <http://www.seafoodsource.com/newsarticledetail.aspx?id=11788>

National Oyster Day (U.S.) – how about one in Australia?

<http://eatocracy.cnn.com/2011/08/04/55-an-oyster-primer-for-national-oyster-day/>

Killer Sediments (U.S.)

On the East Coast (Maine), it's run-off from shore that is making clams and oysters sick

<http://www.onearth.org/article/killer-sediments>

Bivalve mollusc harvest and sale banned on account of red tide (Spain)

The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development from Cantabria has decided to prohibit the harvest and marketing of bivalve molluscs – mussels, clams and razor shells – in the Bay of Santander and of Abra del Pas as a consequence of DSP biotoxin presence.

<http://www.fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?l=e&country=0&special=&monthyear=&day=&id=45958&ndb=1&df=0>

Northern Ireland Water fined for reducing river water quality (Ireland)

Northern Ireland Water has been fined for a series of incidents at a sewage pumping station that reduced water quality in the Drumanness river.

http://www.envirotech-online.com/news/water-wastewater/9/breaking_news/northern_ireland_water_fined_for_reducing_river_water_quality/16718/?utm_source=iet&utm_medium=ebulletin&utm_term=water-wastewater&utm_content=september&utm_campaign=breaking_news

Ocean acidification devastates oyster farms in the Pacific NorthWest

<http://www.triplepundit.com/2011/08/ocean-acidification-devastates-oyster-farms-pacific-northwest/>

Sustainable shellfish aquaculture

Unlike all other forms of marine aquaculture, commercially grown bivalve shellfish have been identified as the only sustainable form of aquaculture that has no negative impact on the environment.

<http://www.eco-business.com/opinion/sustainable-shellfish-aquaculture/>

Suffolk oyster beds hit by herpes virus (UK)

The shortage is being blamed on a virus which has devastated oyster beds on the continent

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-14752857>

<http://www.foodmanufacture.co.uk/Business-News/UK-oysters-threat-or-Xmas-opportunity>

Useful links:

Australian Fisheries Statistics 2010 - 1 Sept 2011

The report contains data on the volume and value of production from state and Commonwealth commercial fisheries, and on the volume and value of Australian fisheries trade, by destination, source and product.

<http://hornsby-advocate.whereilive.com.au/news/story/joint-forces-to-clean-up-the-river/>

'Oysters Australia' currently being formed

Keep an eye on the development of **Oysters Australia** through their website

<http://www.oystersaustralia.org.au/>



Coming Events

12th – 14th February 2012 – Fish International 2012: Focus on certification and technology, Germany
<http://www.fishinternational.com/>

1st – 4th May 2012 – Skretting Australasian Aquaculture Conference – Melbourne, VIC

www.australian-aquacultureportal.com

Looking for speakers – let's tell the others what the NSW Oyster Industry is doing these days!

17th – 21st March 2013 – 9th International Conference on Molluscan Shellfish Safety, Sydney, NSW

www.icmss2013.com

For other Aquaculture conferences worldwide:

<http://www.conferencealerts.com/aqua.htm>

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