

# TIDE TO TABLE

## RESTORING AQUATIC HABITAT

Hawkesbury Nepean & Hunter Central Rivers



HEALTHY CATCHMENTS  
HEALTHY OCEANS

## Restoring Seafood Habitat & Improving Water Quality

The Tide to Table program focuses on repairing the environment that marine life relies upon for food, shelter, breeding and good health. The program works to combine the needs of the seafood industry with activities happening on land. As such, professional fishers, oyster farmers and land based producers, local and state government, and recreational fishers work together to support projects that involve on-ground rehabilitation works. These works improve fish habitat and water quality that in turn support and build sustainable seafood resources for the future. To reinforce the on-ground works, there is also a strong education component to the program that increases awareness and insights positive behaviour change towards supportive catchment actions.

### Projects: Round's 2 & 3 in motion

The current two targeted rounds of funding resulted in 29 on-ground works projects occurring in the Hawkesbury Nepean and Hunter Central Rivers catchments. The projects funded from round 3 are listed below:



Bank stabilisation and fencing for horse exclusion on Popran Creek



Opening up of existing clogged creek lines that are critical for tidal flow at Hexham Swamp



Incentive \$ for effluent management systems at a dairy farm on the Hunter River

	Location	Works
Hunter Central River	Whittingham – Hunter river	Upgrading dairy effluent management. Travelling irrigator, pump and pipe
	Whittingham – Hunter River	Upgrading dairy effluent management. Pump and pipe
	Mudies Creek – Hunter river	Installing off stream watering for dairy herd
	Woy Woy – Brisbane Waters	Removal of derelict oyster lease waste from Pelican Island
	Woy Woy – Brisbane Waters	Saltmarsh enhancement at Pelican and Riley Island
	Raymond Terrace – Hunter River	Riverbank restoration at Windeyers Creek (south bank) Horse stud
	Raymond Terrace – Hunter River	Riverbank restoration at Windeyers Creek (north bank) Tomato farm
	Yattalunga Foreshore Reserve – Brisbane Waters	Yattalunga foreshore reserve rehabilitation- bank stabilization and riverbank restoration
Hawkesbury Nepean	Lower Hawkesbury	Seafood industry awareness signage for human effluent management around oyster harvest areas
	Marramarra Creek National park	Riverbank rehabilitation & rubbish removal at Big Bay, Marramarra Creek
	Berowra Creek – Hawkesbury	Reducing sediment and weed transport into Berowra Creek
	Milsons Passage – Lower Hawkesbury	Milsons passage bush regeneration and saltmarsh works
	Popran Creek – Hawkesbury	Riverbank stabilization and horse exclusion fencing
	Navigation Creek – Nepean	Riverbank rehabilitation
	Marramarra Creek – Hawkesbury	Marramarra Creek Campground – Composting Toilet
	Wisemans Ferry – Hawkesbury	Wetland bush regeneration and board walk
	Pittwater – Lower Hawkesbury	Seagrass Friendly boat moorings

“Tide to Table means that farmers – whether of water or land – think about and solve environmental issues around them. Through the projects they’re able to help each other to help themselves,” Rachel King, EO, Seafood CRC Oyster Consortium

## Snapshot:

# OYSTERS ON THE HAWKESBURY RIVER

Several oyster species are cultivated in NSW; the native Sydney Rock oyster (*Saccostrea glomerata*), the introduced Pacific oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*), the native flat (angasi) oyster (*Ostrea angasi*) and the Akoya pearl oyster (*Pinctada imbricate*). However, the Sydney rock oyster is the mainstay of the oyster industry in NSW. In 2005-2006 oyster production in NSW was worth approximately \$34 million (ABARE, 2008).



Situated on the beautiful Hawkesbury River is a collective group of 12 producers operating under the banner of Broken Bay Oysters (BBO). The Hawkesbury River was the State's third largest production area for Sydney Rock Oysters prior to a devastating outbreak of a parasite in 2004 called QX. The parasite crippled the Sydney Rock species causing the loss of approximately 50 jobs on the River. Since then the industry has focussed on research and production of QX resistant strains of Sydney Rocks. However the Pacific Oyster now occupies the majority of production. After the devastating effect of QX the farmers needed time to consider the future and find the best direction to head. A huge clean up effort to remove 800 tonnes of derelict oyster infrastructure (tar coated stakes, wooden racks, sheds and asbestos poles) got underway and approximately 400 hectares of lease cultivation material was removed valued at over \$2.7 million dollars.

*"The clean up gave us the opportunity to stay on the river while we considered our options doing something constructive. After all it was very cost effective with our local knowledge and equipment on the job. We continue trialling the triploid pacific oyster and the disease resistant Sydney rock oyster. The new species is growing well after the clean up and being marketed successfully, meaning oyster farmers are now standing on their own two feet again with full time employment at 20 and rising"* Rob Moxham – 4<sup>th</sup> generation oyster farmer.

BBO took an active role in the Tide to Table program by applying to clean up asbestos and tar treated infrastructure from derelict public sites, worked on other community clean ups and a revegetation project at Milson's passage, and is progressing an Environmental Management system.



*Rob Moxham is actively involved in the Tide to Table program and sits on the steering committee representing oyster farmers in the Hawkesbury Nepean catchment.*

For more information about **Tide to Table**,  
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