

AquaScope

News from PIRSA's
Aquaculture Division

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Fruits of the sea build strong regional industry

The new Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Michael O'Brien this month caught up with West Coast aquaculture businesses, including Clean Seas Tuna, Zippel Enterprises, Kinkawooka Mussels, tuna growers and others.

The Minister's busy three-day Eyre Peninsula tour included meetings in Ceduna, Smoky Bay, Minnipa, Kimba, Cowell, Arno Bay and Port Lincoln.

He joined PIRSA Aquaculture Executive Director Professor Mehdi Doroudi and Acting Executive Director Martin Smallridge in meeting representatives of the tuna, oyster, mussel, prawn, rock lobster and fishing industries.

Minister O'Brien, who also took on the Regional Development portfolio in March, visited the Clean Seas hatchery at Arno Bay, attended an EP Seafood Industry dinner at the Boston Bay Winery in Port Lincoln and toured the Lincoln Marine Science Centre.

Bruce Zippel, the president of the SA Oyster Growers Association, hosted Mr O'Brien's

visit to Aquaculture Park in Smoky Bay, where the minister met a number of local oyster growers.

Mr O'Brien said aquaculture was playing a major role in regional employment and development.

"There's a lot happening on Eyre Peninsula that's positive and exciting," he said. "The Clean Seas tuna hatchery at Arno Bay is a good example.

"I was very impressed with the commercialisation of scientific research to farm Southern Bluefin Tuna on land, which if successful will add to the security of food supplies for the world's growing population.

"The growth of aquaculture on the West Coast and increased value adding to seafood enterprises in Port Lincoln also augur well for the future.

"I had the privilege of meeting visiting seafood buyers from Hong Kong and they were rightly fulsome in their praise of the region's fresh produce."



(Right): Minister O'Brien meets Bruce Zippel, President SA Oyster Growers Association.

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The Inside Scope

**With Professor Mehdi Doroudi
Executive Director, PIRSA Aquaculture**

Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing primary industries but to remain competitive we must remain sustainable and capitalise on new ways of doing business.

The opportunities could well be endless, but they may not be easily achieved without the different sectors of the aquaculture industry working together to strategically develop a strong supply chain that works as one.

The whole-of-value-chain approach is an important issue for any business to consider. The availability of brood stock, hatchery, grow-out and value-adding through post-harvest activities and marketing are all essential for efficient and effective development of aquaculture in SA. One without the other is not good practice and getting all parts to work together is the key.

One area of the supply chain which industry could further capitalise on is the hatchery and supply of fingerlings and spats. Some sectors of our industry rely upon other states for supplies. There are some risks associated with this, as low supplies can have a detrimental flow-on effect within the supply chain. For sustainable development, it would be important to be in charge of the whole of value chain within the South Australian industry.

While there's no arguing that grow out, value-adding and marketing are important to maximise the capacity of production, if there is no seed - there is no product.

Industry must think about the supply-chain as "one business" and influence every aspect. This means working together to produce common goals – like the development of new hatcheries or utilisation of existing hatcheries for multi-purpose species.

There is also an opportunity for industry to capitalise on its production by either diversifying cultured species or using integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA) systems. In Australia, aquaculture is mainly a single-species industry, while in some other countries multi-species are farmed in close proximity. IMTA is where a combination of 2-3 species, which work together, are grown in the same area – resulting in lower environmental impact and better use of resources.

For instance, instead of having a section for finfish, another for mussels and then another for macro-algae, you can grow all three together.

PIRSA will be working more closely with industry to develop these initiatives and to facilitate further development of the aquaculture industry in SA.

I hope you enjoy the latest edition of *AquaScope*.

Contacts

For all your aquaculture enquiries:

Licence payments

Shared Services

Phone: 8462 1304 (press option 3)

Renewals and transfers

PIRSA Aquaculture

Natalie Prior

Phone: 8226 0347

Environmental monitoring

PIRSA Aquaculture

Luke Fraser and Kate Rodda

Phone: 8226 0314

Chemical use and translocation

PIRSA Aquaculture

Sita Balshaw and Hamish Aiken

Phone: 8226 0314

For more information visit

www.pir.sa.gov.au/aquaculture

The information in this publication can be provided on request in an alternative format or another language for those who need it. Please call 8226 2258.



(Above): Peter Lauer, Manager Environment and Biodiversity Programs, addresses the Australasian Aquaculture Conference.

Aquaculture zoning in the spotlight

Initiatives to cut red tape in South Australia were outlined in PIRSA Aquaculture presentations at the Australasian Aquaculture Conference 2010 in Hobart in May.

Reforms to the Aquaculture Act 2001, the role of aquaculture zones, and the streamlining of lease and licence applications were examples of improved State Government rules and regulations worked out in consultation with industry.

Aquaculture division staff Peter Lauer, Lambertus Deluca-Lopez, Rebecca Hayes and Jade Davison gave the presentations at the conference, held between 23 -26 May.

Industry representatives who also attended included Bruce Zippel from the SA Oyster Growers' Association, Andy Dyer, chairman of the SA Mussel Industry Association, and David Ellis, Research Manager of the Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry Association.

Concerns were raised about the impact of climate change, particularly on breeding and genetics, and on eco-labelling and environmental management.

The PIRSA Aquaculture presentations highlighted SA's approach to planning and management which has been recognised by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

SA's zoning regime was explained, focusing on its ability to reduce referrals to other government departments, including the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Transport, Energy and Infrastructure and Planning and Local Government.

Similar rules apply to native title and development assessment requirements. Zoning has also assisted in negotiations regarding the co-existence of Marine Parks and aquaculture activities.

Two other PIRSA Aquaculture presentations explained the SA licensing framework and research completed under the Innovative Solutions for Aquaculture Planning and Management Program.

World Symposium plans progress

Planning for the World Aquaculture Symposium in Adelaide in 2014 is progressing.

Representatives of the World Aquaculture Society - Executive Director and Conference Manager John Cooksey and Asia-Pacific chapter President Roy Palmer - joined National Aquaculture Council Executive Officer Justin Fromm for a three-day visit to South Australia in May.

They held meetings with members of the conference steering committee, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Michael O'Brien and World Aquaculture Society board member Dr Graham Mair - the Program Manager of South Australia's Seafood CRC - during their visit to Adelaide.

As well as a visit to the SA Research and Development Institute at West Beach, they also took an overnight trip to Port Lincoln

where they visited the Clean Seas Tuna hatchery at Arno Bay for a tour of the Yellowtail Kingfish facility.

The four-day World Aquaculture Symposium, to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 7-11 June 2014, is expected to attract 3,000 delegates, 200 exhibition booths and add about \$11.5 million to SA's economy.

The symposium is being organised by Primary Industries and Resources SA, the SA Tourism Commission and the Adelaide Convention Bureau.

Dr Mair said the international symposium would be an opportunity to highlight SA's "exciting" aquaculture industry and the achievements of the state's research and development institutes.

"It will be a great opportunity to showcase the outcomes from the CRC's wide-ranging aquaculture research portfolio," he said.



(Above): (L-R): Minister Michael O'Brien, Justin Fromm, Roy Palmer, John Cooksey and PIRSA Aquaculture Executive Director Professor Mehdi Doroudi.

Growers join PIRSA to control wild oysters

PIRSA and local oyster producers have joined forces to help keep South Australia's pristine Coffin Bay area free from wild Pacific oysters.

PIRSA Biosecurity staff recently worked with more than 30 oyster growers to destroy more than 100,000 wild Pacific oysters on 25km of affected coastline. The wild oysters are considered a threat to biodiversity, public amenity and cultured oyster stocks.

Project leader Dr Michael Sierp, Manager Marine Biosecurity, says growers are being encouraged to keep up the good work by adopting an ongoing maintenance and control program.

"I revisited the high density areas the next day and found the general area could be considered wild Pacific oyster 'risk free' for some time," Dr Sierp said.

"If each of those wild oysters produced just one or two viable offspring in the coming year then the problem could have escalated exponentially."

Surveys have since been conducted in Ceduna and Franklin Harbour to complement previous site visits to Smoky Bay and a clearance exercise on Kangaroo Island.

Assessment of the Ceduna survey will be carried out with the local oyster growing

industry later in 2010 to determine appropriate management actions.

(Below): Wild Pacific oysters are a threat to cultured stocks, biodiversity and public amenity.



New faces for Aquaculture

Two new faces have arrived at PIRSA Aquaculture – Abby Collins and Mark Ayliffe.

Policy Officer, Legislative Programs Abby Collins has taken over from Andrea Noack to continue work on case management of various applications and other important work.

Abby has wide experience in a variety of PIRSA information systems, and spent five of her six years at PIRSA at Fisheries in a number of different positions, including Prosecutions Support Officer, Licensing Officer and Business Services Consultant.

She previously worked at PIRSA Minerals and Energy Resources where she was a Licensing Officer within the Petroleum and Geothermal Group.

Mark Ayliffe has taken the role as the Business Programs Officer on a temporary basis.

He will be undertaking the key business, financial and reporting functions for the division, along with enhancing the business processes. This is a new position replacing

work delivered by Louise Mills in the past. Mark also moved from PIRSA Fisheries, where he worked within the Licensing and Policy areas since 2000. He has a background in licensing, customer service, information systems, project and policy work.

He previously worked with government in licensing, consumer advocacy and regulatory services as well as customer service experience within the wine industry.

Many of you may meet or talk to Abby and Mark in their roles and they are looking forward to understanding more about the aquaculture industry in South Australia.

PIRSA Aquaculture takes this opportunity to thank both Louise Mills and Andrea Noack for their contribution over the last few years.

(Below): Abby Collins and Mark Ayliffe.



REMINDERS

Environmental Monitoring

Intertidal shellfish, subtidal shellfish and land-based licence holders will receive their annual Environmental Monitoring Program proforma in June. This must be completed and submitted to PIRSA Aquaculture by 31 August 2010.

Contact details

Please ensure that any changes of contact details are emailed to: pirsa.aquaculture@sa.gov.au or phoned through to 08 8226 0314.

Seafood Conference

The International Seafood and Health Conference and Exhibition will be held in Melbourne from 6-10 November 2010. The theme for the conference is *Creating a paradigm shift - Seafood: Benefiting Health and Wellbeing*.

For more information, go to <http://seafoodhealthconference.com>

UPDATES

South Australian food businesses have until Friday 23 July to enter the SA Premier's Food Industry Awards.

The awards are open to any business involved in the SA food industry, from producers and suppliers to distributors, retailers and service providers.

Award categories this year are: Visionary Leader – Young and Industry; Valuing Workforce Development; Creating Sustainability; Developing Markets – Domestic and International; Fostering Value Chain; Growing Small Business; Leading Innovation; Servicing Industry and Understanding Consumers.

Winners will be announced on Friday 5 November at the Adelaide Convention Centre gala awards night.

Entry details and online applications are at www.safoodawards.com.au

COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Bank Guarantee

PIRSA Aquaculture is currently undertaking a bank guarantee audit of all leases.

Conditions of all aquaculture leases require that the lease holders have a bank guarantee in the amount of \$10,000 and provide that guarantee to the Minister. It is a breach of the lease to fail to provide such a guarantee.

Compliance letters will be sent out shortly to remind all lease holders to ensure that PIRSA Aquaculture holds a bank guarantee for each of their leases. Where there is none, the lease holder will need to provide one as soon as possible.

Compliance

PIRSA Fisheries Officers have been inspecting aquaculture sites around Port Lincoln, Coffin Bay and Cowell over recent months. Whilst sites were generally well maintained, a number were found to be non-compliant. Key areas of non-compliance included:

- Failure to locate four St Andrew's Crosses outside the perimeter of aquaculture infrastructure but within the authorised lease site;
- Objects located outside the sites marked by the St Andrew's Crosses (these become a marine hazard);
- Lease numbers not being clearly visible on each St Andrew's Cross or missing.

Licence holders are asked to check their sites to ensure they are meeting the requirements for the site.