

Oysters Tasmania

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The 4th International Oyster Symposium (Hobart, Tasmania 15 -18 September 2011)

We are pleased to announce that the 4th International Oyster Symposium (IOS4) will be held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia in September 2011. IOS4 is being organised jointly by Oysters Tasmania, the World Oyster Society and NSW Industry and Investment. IOS4 is being run in conjunction with shellfish futures 2011, the annual Tasmanian oyster industry conference.

IOS4 will be held at The Hobart Function and Conference Centre in Hobart. The venue is located right on the historic Hobart waterfront on the Elizabeth Street Pier.

The Theme of the Symposium is 'Embracing the Future through Innovation' and oral and poster presentations are invited within the following key objectives/areas.

- Innovation in supply
 - Improving hatchery seed supply and seed quality
 - Improving oyster production through breeding programs
- Innovation through diversification
 - Producing better oysters
 - Producing new species
- Innovation in a changing environment
 - Managing risks caused by:
 - Climate change
 - Heavy metals
 - Endocrine disrupting chemicals
 - Biotoxins
 - Oyster diseases
- Innovation in promotion, handling and marketing
 - Improving human health
 - Increasing shelf life
 - Improving retail packaging
 - Building social licence

We will invite international scientists to give keynote addresses during the 4th International Oyster Symposium. The keynote speakers will be finalised in the Final Announcement and on the website of the World Oyster Society (www.worldoyster.org/index_e.html) and Oysters Tasmania (www.oysterstasmania.org) in July 2011.

Read more, including the First Announcement, Abstract Submittal Form and important deadlines, at <http://www.oysterstasmania.org/news/the-4th-international-oyster-symposium-ios4>

Contact the Secretariat - 4th International Oyster Symposium

email: IOS4@oysterstasmania.org

phone: +61 3 6231 9033

Big News - EC Approves LC-MS/MS Replacement for Lipophilic Toxins Mouse Bioassay

It's been a long time coming but at last the European Commission (EC) has given the green light for the use of modern chemical methods for the detection and measurement of certain groups of biotoxins accumulated by shellfish.

Until recently the EC required that the testing of shellfish for the diarrhetic shellfish poisoning group of toxins (lipophilic toxins or DST's) be carried out by a mouse bio-assay (i.e. injecting extracts into mice and timing how long it took them to die). This bioassay for DST's was well known to give false positive results and many un-necessary growing area closures occurred in Europe because of this. This requirement by the EC for using a mouse bioassay has had a negative impact on Australian shellfish producers wishing to export to the European Union as there is no laboratory in Australia accredited to carry out the test. Samples had to be sent to New Zealand for testing.

Now that the EC has approved the LC/MS chemical method for DST analysis the Tasmanian shellfish industry is better placed should growers wish to export to Europe. At the moment Analytical Services Tasmania is the only laboratory in Australia with NATA accreditation for the testing of shellfish for the DST group of toxins by LC/MS so the barriers to export have been lowered significantly. Further information can be obtained from the TSQAP team on (03) 62227718.

Source: Ray Brown – TSQAP

Cold shock treatment for oyster over-catch and fouling

With the support of the Oyster Consortium, Marine Culture, through the Tasmanian Oyster Research Council, has made successful application to the Australian Seafood CRC to take forward its development of a cold shock treatment system for the management of oyster over-catch and fouling.

Over-catch is certainly not a new issue, indeed, without it we wouldn't have an oyster industry. However, once you've got the oysters in their growing modules having the oysters or module or both over-caught reduces growing performance, contributes to losses and often reduces the marketability of the product. The preliminary investigations have shown the potential for cold shock to control oyster over-catch of both Pacific Oysters and Sydney Rock Oysters, but this is also likely to be effective in control of a variety of other fouling organisms. An initial study of cold shock treatment was undertaken by Dr Mike Heasman, then with the Port Stephens Fisheries Institute.

Further updates on the development will be made available on the Oysters Tasmania website.

Source: Bob Cox – Marine Culture

International news

Incurable oyster herpes behind big shellfish die-off

An incurable herpes virus has been named as the likely cause of a huge increase in juvenile oyster deaths in the upper North Island.

Read full article http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10692929

eNews ideas

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