
Oysters Tasmania

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Busting Boundaries – developing the next generation of oyster industry leaders

Oysters Tasmania will soon be offering up to 15 young oyster industry leaders from around Australia the opportunity to attend a week of development activities, plus free attendance of the “4th International Oyster Symposium (IOS4) and shellfish futures” in Hobart, Tasmania – September 2011.

This program, supported by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry under Australia’s Farming Future, will provide participants with a full, 7-day program, free attendance of IOS4 and shellfish futures 2011, post conference support and mentoring and up to \$1,200 travel and accommodation support.

We will be calling for applications very soon. Keep an eye out for our flier, or contact Oysters Tasmania now to register your interest.

Tom Kennedy wins Seafood Industry Young Achiever Award

Oysters Tasmania is delighted to congratulate our very “own” Tom Kennedy of Tasmanian Wilderness Oysters on receiving the Seafood Industry Young Achiever Award at the recent Tasmanian Seafood Industry Awards. Tom was presented the award by the award sponsor, Tom Lewis of RDS Partners.

Tom Kennedy impressed the selectors with his business success with his oyster ventures and his involvement in a number of oyster related boards and committees, including the boards of the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC) during 2004 and 2005, and of Seafood Training Tasmania (since 2004). Tom is currently the Chair of the Tasmanian Shellfish Executive Council (TSEC), is on the Board of the Tasmanian Oyster Research Council (TORC) and represents TSEC on the Board of the Tasmanian Aquaculture Council (TAC).

In accepting the award, Tom thanked the current Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon. Bryan Green, for his support of marine farming in the Pitt Water estuary. He also thanked TSIC and STT for their ongoing encouragement and noted the Tasmanian Atlantic salmon industry as an inspiration for what family based aquaculture companies could achieve.

The oyster industry provided two of the four finalists for this award, with Ben Cameron from Cameron of Tasmania being commended for his achievements and involvement with not only his own business interests, but the interests of the oyster industry as a whole.

Oysters Tasmania also congratulates Pheroze Jungalwalla, Chair of the Tasmanian Aquaculture Council and the National Aquaculture Council, on receiving the Seafood Industry Icon Award.



Seafood Industry Young Achiever Tom Kennedy (right) is congratulated by Tom Lewis (left) of RDS Partners

Oysters Australia

Tasmanian participation in Oysters Australia, the proposed national peak industry body, was recently approved following a series of meetings of both the Tasmanian Shellfish Executive Council (TSEC) and the Tasmanian Oyster Research Council (TORC) to consider the newly proposed body.

Both Councils considered input for and against the proposal as well as specific questions provided by Tasmanian growers. The TSEC meeting was attended by a number of TORC Directors and other industry observers and took the opportunity to discuss the proposal directly with Shane Comiskey, who is working on this proposal through a project funded by the FRDC.

The TSEC and TORC Boards felt that Tasmanian participation in Oysters Australia, as proposed, presents an opportunity to leverage our R&D funds that will be missed if we do not proceed.

TORC maintains at its discretion the distribution of funds to Oysters Australia, and intends to maintain a three yearly review of its contributions, judged upon outcomes to benefit Tasmanian industry.

The formation of Oysters Australia will coincide with the dissolution of the Seafood CRC Oyster Consortium and the Shellfish Industry Council of Australia (SICOA), while allowing Tasmania to continue to receive our current funding multipliers from the FRDC and the CRC for as long as they are applicable.

Ian Duthie, Chair of TORC, says that TORC recognises this as an opportunity to further strengthen the capacity of the Tasmanian and Australian Oyster Industry to coordinate R&D directions and activities for the future of our industry. Ian emphasises that TORC will continue to maintain a discrete budget, allowing it to continue to support projects, such as the Tasmanian Pacific Oyster Health Surveillance Program and Oysters Tasmania contributions.

Understanding and planning for Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS)

Oysters Tasmania has been selected to lead a national Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC) project to help the Australian industry understand and plan for the potential impacts of Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS).

The project is designed around:

- A desktop study on industry relevant issues associated with the virus that is associated with POMS
- A field visit by a small group to France to discuss firsthand the French industry's experience regarding the effects and management of the virus
- The development and extension of a national strategy to control and/or minimise the spread of the virus in Australia and to develop management strategies to mitigate the effects of the disease in areas in which is, or may become, established

Project details will be discussed at the upcoming POMS workshop in Cairns in July. This workshop will be attended by a strong Tasmanian contingent including Scott Parkinson, Hayden Dyke, Matt Cunningham and Tom Lewis.



Primary Industries Food Safety in Tasmania – Review of Model

The Tasmanian Government has prepared draft legislation reviewing the Legislative and Administrative Model for Primary Industries Food Safety in Tasmania. The draft legislation can be viewed [here](#).

Preparation of the draft legislation by the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) follows receipt of feedback from a range of interested stakeholders on a discussion paper about a consolidation of Tasmania's primary produce (eg. meat, eggs, seafood, dairy products) food safety laws, released by DPIPWE in 2009.

Oyster Tasmania provided written comment to DPIPWE on the discussion paper and expressed several major concerns regarding the proposals in the discussion paper. Currently, industry feels that current consultation process is not effective and that industry concerns expressed in the original Oyster Tasmania submission May 2009 have been ignored.

With respect to the draft legislation, Oysters Tasmania has communicated to DPIPWE that it is difficult for the oyster industry to comment when we have not seen sub-ordinate legislation or policy documents with respect to seafood. It is within this sub-ordinate legislation (the Rules and Regulations) that the real impacts on the seafood industry will occur.

Oysters Tasmania and the Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council (TSIC) are seeking to ensure that the seafood and oyster industries continue to have input into this process.

eNews ideas

Oysters Tasmania welcomes your news items. Send news ideas to info@oysterstasmania.org