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## Oysters Tasmania

### eNews – October 2011

#### Oyster Industry POMS study tour of France – “Blog On” and follow the tour

A delegation of Australian oyster growers is about to leave on a study tour of France in relation to Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS). If you would like to know more about the Study Tour, please visit [www.oystertour.wordpress.com](http://www.oystertour.wordpress.com). This is a “Blog” site, and you will be able to follow the progress of the field trip, leave comments / and or questions of the study group while they are in France.

A team of six is participating in the study tour. They are:

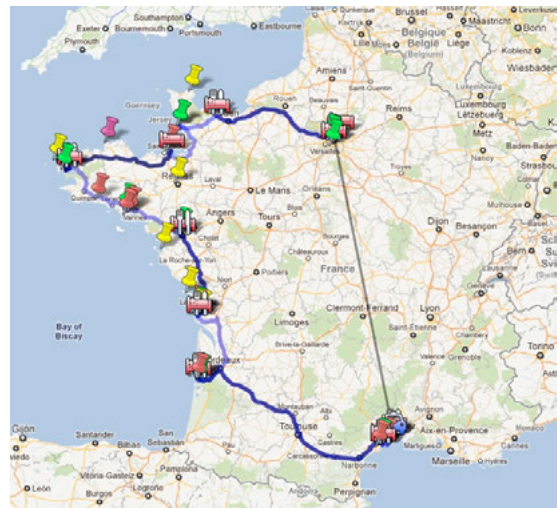
- Bruce Zippel Oyster farmer – South Australia
- Rob Moxham Oyster farmer – New South Wales.
- James Calvert Oyster farmer – Tasmania
- Tom Lewis Project chief investigator – Tasmania
- Angus Cameron Veterinary epidemiologist – France. Logistics, translation & transportation
- Cate Mackenzie Tour facilitator – France. Translation, transportation and logistics support.

This is a Fisheries Research and Development Corporation funded project and will aim to increase our understanding of this virus at a range of levels. It will incorporate visits to oyster farmers throughout France to understand firsthand their experiences of living and dealing with POMS. The group will also visit French hatcheries and research facilities, as well as industry association representatives and regulators. The findings of the visit will be documented in a report that will underpin an industry driven strategy to prevent the spread and management of POMS in Australia.

The Study Tour arrives in France on the 1 November and leaves on the 11 November, and will have covered thousands of kilometres by the time it concludes. It will be very hard work for those involved, but all have fully committed to the challenge and the responsibility that the project carries.

We would encourage you to visit the above blog site and leave comments / and or questions which would be greatly appreciated. If you have any other questions or queries, email Bruce Zippel [bruce.zippel@bigpond.com](mailto:bruce.zippel@bigpond.com)  
President, Shellfish Industry Council of Australia.

French Oyster Study Trip Itinerary



### Tom Kennedy wins Australian Seafood Industry Young Achievers Award

Oysters Tasmania is delighted to congratulate Tom Kennedy, Managing Director of Tasmanian Wilderness Oysters Pty Ltd and Shipwreck Point Oysters Pty Ltd. on receiving the Australian Seafood Young Achievers Award at The 6th Australian Seafood Industry Awards held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre on Tuesday 25 October.

Tom's contribution to the oyster industry was judged to be making a real and positive difference to this industry. Tom's energy and ability to take educated risks has paid off, with his Tasmanian business enterprises thriving. Furthermore, Tom has devoted significant time and energy to many state and national oyster committees and forums. He is part of the new generation of oyster farmers who will continue to take this important industry forward.

The Award ceremony was part of the Seafood Directions 2011 Conference, which discussed and celebrated Australia's seafood industry.

### The 4<sup>th</sup> International Oyster Symposium – a roaring success

Tasmania was very privileged to host the 4th International Oyster Symposium (IOS4) in combination with our local industry conference *shellfish futures 2011*, between 15 to 18 September 2011. "Embracing the Future through Innovation" was the theme of IOS4 which was principally sponsored by Cameron of Tasmania and attended by over 180 delegates from 15 countries.

Platinum sponsor was Shellfish Culture, Gold Sponsors were the FRDC and Tas Prime Oysters, while other sponsors included the Japanese Oyster Research Institute, AusIndustry, TSIC, NAB agribusiness, Colquhoun's, BST Oyster Supplies Ltd, ShellQuip, SEAPA, TTP Plastics, Woodshield, RDS Partners, Seafarms, Hexcyl Systems and Austasia Aquaculture Magazine.

The organisers gratefully acknowledge the contribution of the Seafood CRC, the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and Shellfish Culture for their support for speakers and delegates to attend IOS4.



Cecile Dang, Ika Paul-Pont and Jason Darke at IOS4

Professor Katsuyoshi Mori, President of the World Oyster Society, welcomed delegates to the Symposium expecting it to be a platform of goodwill, friendship and cooperation. Hon Bryan Green, Minister for Primary Industries, Parks and Water officially opened the Symposium and gave a précis of the Tasmanian industry.

Various speakers also expressed their sorrow at the passing of Michael Cameron (Cameron of Tasmania) and acknowledged his significant contribution to the development of the oyster industry Australia wide.

The Symposium examined in detail the theme of Innovation, with speakers looking at the areas of:

- supply – improving hatchery seed supply and seed quality, improving oyster production through breeding programs;
- diversification – producing better oysters, producing new species; managing risks caused by: climate change, heavy metals, endocrine disrupting chemicals, biotoxins, oyster diseases;
- promotion, handling and marketing – improving human health, increasing shelf life, improving retail packaging, building social licence.

An overview of the Australian oyster industry was provided by Bruce Zippel, not only is Bruce an active grower in the Zippel family oyster farms at Smoky Bay and Saint Peters Island in South Australia, but he has been active in representing the Australia and South Australian seafood industries as well as the oyster industry at a range of levels.

Dr Stan Allen (Professor of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science) was the first international keynote speaker and discussed the development of the commercialisation of triploidy. In 1993, Stan co-developed the process for producing tetraploid shellfish, which is now patented in over half a dozen countries.

Other keynote speakers included: Dr Angus Cameron (Director, AusVet Animal Health Services); Phil Lamb (Managing Director of Spring Bay Seafoods); Dr Qi Li (Professor, Associate Dean, College of Fisheries, Ocean University of China, Qingdao, China); Len Stephens (Director, Australian Seafood CRC); and Anthony Woolhams (Wine Tasmania).

Where provided by our speakers or poster presenters, IOS4 Presentations & Proceedings can be accessed on the [Oysters Tasmania website](#)

In addition to the symposium sessions a fantastic Tasmanian-focussed dinner and farm tour was organized by Tas Prime Oysters for Thursday afternoon. The conference dinner and grand auction were held on the Saturday evening and on Sunday post-symposium tours or a free hatchery tour were offered to delegates.

**Source & photo: Mary Brewer – Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council**

### What's new at TSEC & TORC?

The Tasmanian oyster industry is represented by two main industry groups: The Tasmanian Shellfish Executive Council (TSEC); and The Tasmanian Oyster Research Council (TORC). TSEC and TORC and TSEC are currently working on a number of important issues on behalf of the Tasmanian oyster industry.

Issues of importance include:

- Attracting young industry members to the TSEC and TORC Boards
- Improved communication between researchers and TORC, before research proposals are submitted to FRDC and TasFRAB
- Governance and structure of Australian Seafood Industries (ASI)
- Increasing the scope of the Tasmanian Pacific Oyster Health Surveillance Program

- Improved understanding of impacts of Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) on the international industry
- Investigating options for increased lease security as a financial asset
- A Memorandum of Understanding with Seafood Training Tasmania
- Management and delivery of service of the Tasmanian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (TSQAP)
- Review of the Food Safety Management System for Live Tasmanian Farmed Bivalve Molluscs (v3.0)

### **TSEC and TORC annual general meetings**

On the Saturday morning of IOS4, the Annual General Meetings for both the TSEC and TORC were held. The outcomes of the TSEC and TORC elections are as follows:

#### **TSEC Board**

James Calvert (Chair) (Pittwater OGA), Craig Lockwood (St Helens MFA), Jeff Whayman (Bruny Island SGA), Giles Fisher (Julia Fisher alternate) (Freycinet OGA), Hayden Dyke (Little Swanport OGA), Kerry Wells (Pipeclay Lagoon OGA), Tom Gray (South-East SGA), and Tom Kennedy (Circular Head OGA).

We congratulate James Calvert on his election to the position of TSEC Chair and thank Tom Kennedy for his service in this role during the previous 2 years.

#### **TORC Board**

Hatchery representatives: Ian Duthie (Chair), Ben Cameron, Tom Kennedy and Scott Parkinson.

Grower representatives: Giles Fisher, Hayden Dyke, Sebastian Rainer and Scott Brooks.

The Company Secretary role continues to be held by Bob Cox.

We congratulate Ben Cameron, Scott Parkinson and Scott Brooks as newly elected TORC Board Members.

### **Oysters Tasmania**

Oysters Tasmania is the oyster industry umbrella organisation, jointly funded by both TSEC, TORC and the Tasmanian Aquaculture Council (TAC) to provide Executive Officer and associated services to the Tasmanian oyster industry.

At previous meetings of the TSEC and TORC Boards, Tom Lewis and Raymond Murphy were re-appointed to provide executive and secretariat services to Oysters Tasmania until June 2012.

### **eNews ideas**

Oysters Tasmania welcomes your news items. Send news ideas to [info@oysterstasmania.org](mailto:info@oysterstasmania.org)