

Invitation to a workshop on industry-led research into deep water and offshore oyster farming

Oysters Tasmania (OT) is currently leading a Blue Economy CRC project to enable the profitable and scalable farming of oysters in under-utilised deep and high-energy Tasmanian waters.

Under the Blue Economy CRC Program, OT has achieved / is aiming for:

1. a Scoping Project ([2.21.001](#)) to identify opportunities and constraints in the expansion of oyster farming in offshore and high-energy leases in Tasmania (completed);
2. obtain funding for an industry based R&D project on offshore and high-energy oyster farming in Tasmania (completed);
3. invite growers' input in the design of research (object of this invitation). This workshop is an opportunity for growers to contribute to the co-design of industry-wide projects that reduce risk, build shared capability, and enable future investment;
4. identify and recruit industry partners to carry out industry-based research in offshore and high-energy leases (to be completed);
5. carry out research in collaboration with R&D and industry partners to develop techniques and strategies to optimise the use of deep-water leases in Tasmania (to be completed); and
6. report on research findings (to be completed).

Background

The Blue Economy CRC Scoping Project (2.21.001) identified that while Tasmania has significant potential for offshore and high-energy oyster farming, development is constrained by uncertainty around site productivity, limited commercial benchmarking, unvalidated equipment for high-energy conditions, and capital risk inhibiting private investment.

The Scoping Report recommended a stepwise, evidence-led approach, progressing from scoping to targeted research, development, and field-based validation. This will be part of a collaborative project between OT, research providers and industry participants.

Key Principle

Blue Economy CRC investment is intended to build shared capability and reduce structural risk, enabling private investment to follow.

Purpose of the Workshop

The workshop will focus on how OT and industry collectively invest CRC resources. Specifically, the workshop will:

- confirm desired outcomes of research;
- identify and validate key uncertainties and technical limitations for the development of offshore and high-energy leases;
- explore approaches that will deliver industry-wide benefits;
- clarify the role of industry participation in generating evidence and learning; and
- inform the design of future CRC-aligned projects for OT board consideration.

What is in it for you

An opportunity to:

- influence project direction;
- put forward techniques and practices for research consideration;
- contribute operational insight and experience; and
- exchange with other growers.

Who Should Attend

Industry participation is essential to the success of the Blue Economy CRC program so that it remains relevant through industry-based outcomes.

The workshop is intended for growers who:

- have experience with subtidal, exposed, or innovative farming systems;
- are interested in contributing to industry-wide learning and capability building;
- are open to sharing their insights and views on deep water farming; and/or
- hold or are interested in developing deep-water or high-energy leases.

While growers may be involved in future phases as trial site hosts, data contributors or co-developers of farming systems, attendance to this workshop does not imply commitment nor guarantee participation to any future project.

Next Steps

Interested growers will be invited to register for the workshop.

Following the workshop:

- outcomes will be synthesised by the OT RD&E Committee;
- potential project concepts will be assessed against CRC objectives and the Scoping Report; and
- any future project designs will progress through OT Board and CRC governance processes.