



UPDATE

February 2018

In Brief

POMS confirmed in Gardeners Bay, Cygnet

ASI Update

Neogen Testing workshop

Additional bacteriological sampling in some harvest areas

Classifieds

Wanted: second hand baskets

Wanted: second hand SED grader and components

Calendar of Events 2018

Add an event here!!

Oysters Tasmania Board meeting March 2

POMS confirmed at Gardeners Bay

Unfortunately yesterday saw a confirmed outbreak of POMS in a previously unaffected area...Gardeners Bay in Cygnet. Biosecurity Tasmania have reported significant mortalities of around 50% in both juvenile and larger oysters at the one lease within the bay. John Preston advised that in the 30 random samples he took throughout the lease covering a range of animal size and health, there were positive results for every single one which is unusual and can signify a very high viral load.

At the time of writing this update, the Chief Veterinarian Officer Rod Andrewartha has determined that only Gardeners Bay will be classified as "infected". Remaining areas in the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Bruny Island will retain their "intermediate" classification at this stage.

There have been no signs of the disease in these surrounding harvest areas and Oysters Tasmania is keeping growers updated. Biosecurity Tasmania will be conducting some sampling in the lower Channel and Bruny Island with the timing of this currently being negotiated. This testing will provide information for growers and will also be useful for communicating the wider message, assuming it confirms that POMS is not present. The industry is pushing for planned testing to be brought forward so that it can be conducted early next week.

Biosecurity Tasmania and Oysters Tasmania urge growers to stay vigilant.

As an immediate action to assist the affected grower, Oysters Tasmania is chasing up clean-up funds remaining from the initial outbreak, as the Government has assured us these would be available for any newly infected areas.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions or would like further information.

ASI Update

Matt Cunningham

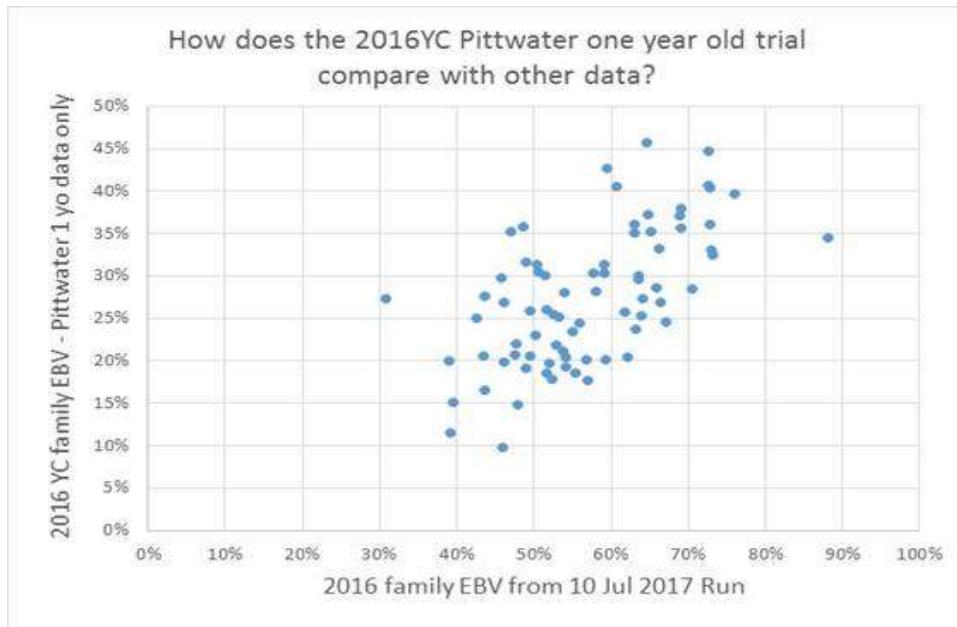
In summary:

- The first hit in Pittwater was more extreme than we have previously experienced with our trials
- Our data suggests there was also other contributing factors to the mortalities

- Results have been more in line with our predictions since the first outbreak and in other growing areas

As has been mentioned in previous updates, stock losses of some commercial ASI batches were observed as having higher mortality than suggested by their EBV's in the early Pittwater POMS outbreak. We have now collected a significant amount of data on both commercial and family line trials which have provided us with more information. This is what we now know.

- 1) YC16 1YO trial – We had a 1 year designed trial set up at Barilla Bay and these were exposed to the initial severe POMS outbreak. This trial had a heritability of 0.1 which is the lowest heritability we have had for a POMS trial of 1 year old animals. The typical range is 0.3-0.4 and this suggests that there were factors other than POMS that contributed to the mortality event. In the equivalent trials last year (YC15) the best families had survival of around 90%. The best for this trial was only 57% survival. In addition to this there was a very low correlation with the spat trial conducted at Pipeclay on the same families when they were very small spat. We are yet to assess our YC16 1 year old trial in Pipeclay but our observations are that mortality is generally low. These trials will be assessed in the coming weeks.



- 2) Although it was not a controlled trial there has been strong evidence of reduced viral activity post the first outbreak. Unselected oysters were showing 0% and ASI EBV 70% commercial families were showing approx. 40% survival during the first outbreak. The same stock that has been introduced to Pittwater after the initial outbreak are producing approx. 30% and 70% survival respectively.
- 3) We have now also collected data from our YC17 designed trial (2 month old spat, 2-3mm) which were deployed after the initial severe outbreak. Peter Kube has done an initial analysis of this data and the results were much more sensible and the best families lined up quite well with Pipeclay data on the same families at the same age. The heritability of the Pittwater trial was good and the heritability of the Pipeclay trial was moderate. The best families had survival over 50% at this age and size. The second lot of families were deployed last week in Pipeclay and have been deployed this week in Pittwater.

- 4) Some of the families that suffered the worst losses in Pittwater were bred from Oysters which were many generations back in the breeding program so were in no way a representation of current resistance levels.
- 5) Some commercially produced ASI families performed as suggested by their EBV or better even during the initial outbreak.
- 6) Commercial stock in Pipeclay, Lower Pittwater and Little Swanport has not nearly been affected as badly as in the first Pittwater outbreak. We still can't be sure that there won't be further mortalities but only low level mortality has been observed in ASI stock. Triploids in Pipeclay and Little Swanport and non selected stock in Pipeclay have suffered significant losses. I have only heard of very low level losses from Dunalley growers.

As always if you have more information or questions feel free to call or drop me an email.

Matt Cunningham

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Additional Bacteriological Sampling by Shell-MAP

The Tasmanian Government is behind in providing last year's annual/ triennial reports to the Australian Government, as required under our shellfish quality assurance program. As this threatened the export accreditation for harvest areas, DPIPWE have prioritised the completion of the reports in the nine currently active export areas. There are five still outstanding, with these reports due to Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources by the end of March.

At the request of the Commonwealth DPIPWE has also agreed to conduct additional weekly monitoring (E.coli meat sampling and water sampling) in the outstanding areas until the reports have been completed. Growers in Pipeclay, Island Inlet, Moulting Bay, Ducks/ Kemp Bay and Great Bay areas have been contacted to organise the logistics of this sampling.

At a broader level this highlights a few issues including the importance of a partnership approach with government for our market access program. While the industry has a lot of harvest areas accredited for export, many of these are not actively exporting and may be subject to more stringent requirements as a result. This means that some harvesting areas may want to assess whether they want to maintain export accreditation, and what they need to do to reinstate it down the track if required.

Oysters Tasmania have emphasised to Government that if industry **decides** to remove accreditation following considered discussion, that's a completely different story to having it **removed due to non-compliance**.

Neogen Testing Workshop 31 January 2018

A project funded by the Commonwealth and coordinated by Alison Turnbull and her team at SARDI recently organised comprehensive training that was held in two half day sessions at Seafood Training Tasmania. Sarah Ugalde did a fantastic job presenting and running most of the hands-on workshop, with help from Navreet Malhi and behind the scenes assistance from James Garde and Ali Turnbull. A special thanks to Natasha Hansson for programming the brand new readers when they were pulled out of their boxes!

This workshop offered a process for formalising training so that the proficiency of samplers can be measured and will also minimise the risk of inaccurate results such as false negatives. There will be

an opportunity for those who missed this training to attend a further session that will probably be offered. Oysters Tasmania have also offered to coordinate the administration of kits.

Details to come..



Classifieds

Wanted to Purchase

Blue Lagoon Oysters are looking for second hand Seapa or BST spat baskets from 3 to 6mm size.

Please phone Phil on 0408 946 120 or email: bluelagoonysters@bigpond.com

Wanted to Purchase

Melshell are in the market for a SED grader and the components they are after is a 4-exit vision grader , singulator and feed hopper/elevator with two bin stand with conveyor . For any of these components please ring Ian Melrose on 0429 166 235
