NSW MARINE ESTATE *NEWSLETTER*

MARINE ESTATE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – SPECIAL EDITION

The Marine Estate Management Strategy 2018-2028, a **statewide** Strategy, outlines how we can achieve our vision for a healthy coast and sea, managed for the greatest wellbeing of the community, now and into the future.

Implementation of the NSW Government's Marine Estate Management Strategy is well underway. The Strategy coordinates and streamlines the management of the State's entire coastline – 1,750 km – including 826 beaches and 185 estuaries. Developed with input from key stakeholders and the community, it outlines how we will care for our marine estate and the range of community benefits it provides over the next ten years. The Strategy will be delivered through 53 actions under nine initiatives.

Over $45.7 million will be spent during the first two years. Since August 2018 staff have been working closely with industries, key stakeholders, and partner government agencies involved in the delivery of actions, to plan their projects. A range of innovative projects are now underway that will help to:

- reduce water pollution and marine litter
- improve marine and coastal habitats
- protect Aboriginal cultural values
- reduce impacts on marine wildlife
- enhance the social, cultural and economic benefits that everyone derives from the marine estate.

This newsletter provides a snapshot of some of the projects underway and their progress.

CLEAN COASTAL CATCHMENTS PROJECT– IMPROVING FARM MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Agriculture is working with blueberry, greenhouse vegetable and macadamia industries on the NSW North Coast to improve water and nutrient management on-farm, to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution running into our waterways.

This project aims to address runoff by:

- identifying farm practices that can lead to more efficient use of fertilisers and water
- researching water and nutrient management at a local level
- establishing demonstration sites to showcase best practice and encourage other farms to adopt these approaches
- working with peak industry groups to educate and support growers to better manage water and nutrient use and runoff
- working with professionals within the fertiliser supply chain to help improve fertiliser management in their region.

For further information on the Clean Coastal Catchments project, email CCC.Info@dpi.nsw.gov.au.

RESTORING OYSTER REEFS IN NSW ESTUARIES

Natural oyster reefs were historically common throughout many NSW estuaries. However, early colonial over-harvesting, poor water quality and disease have caused the loss of this important habitat with less than 10 per cent remaining. DPI Fisheries is leading the Oyster Reef Restoration project, which aims to reinstate natural oyster reefs in our estuaries to increase aquatic habitat and improve water quality via oyster filtration.

In NSW, we are piloting a large-scale oyster reef restoration in Port Stephens and investing in collaborative research. Work began on the Port Stephens site in January 2019 and staff are working closely with the oyster industry and wider community as part of the project.
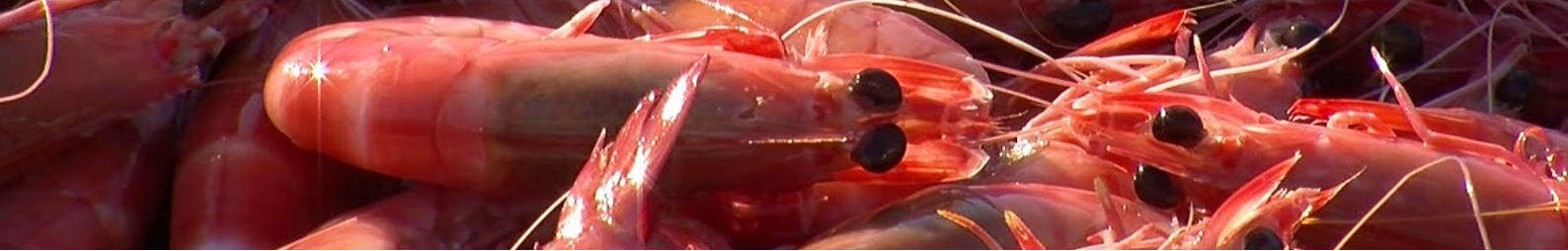
For more information, contact contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au

Remnant Sydney Rock Oyster Reef - Port Stephens. Photo © K Russell

Riparian zone below macadamia plantation. Photo © Jeremy Bright

Coffs Harbour Fresh catch of prawns. Photo © Simon Walsh

SUPPORTING SEAFOOD FUTURES

DPI Fisheries has launched a new program to promote the value and benefits of the NSW seafood industry statewide, through a targeted grants program.

The Supporting Seafood Future grants program is designed to build marketing capability within seafood businesses through small-scale (less than $10,000 including GST) and large-scale ($10,000 to $200,000 including GST) grants.

Objectives of the campaign are to increase:

- consumption of farmed and wild caught NSW seafood
- the variety of NSW seafood available in shops
- awareness and acceptance within the general community of the value of the NSW seafood industry.

For more information on the program, including eligibility and how to apply for funds, please visit **Supporting Seafood Future**.

Fish and chips taken from Tea Gardens overlooking the Myall Lakes. Photo © Leanne Wilson

DEVELOPING A NSW MARINE DEBRIS LITTER CAMPAIGN

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is developing a campaign aimed at reducing marine debris and litter statewide, for launch at the end of 2019.

The opinions of marine stakeholders across NSW were sought through focus groups and desktop research to assist in understanding the problems and behaviours associated with marine litter.

The focus groups were attended by a wide variety of groups such as recreational fishers, boating and marine associations, community groups and not-for-profit organisations.

The focus groups provided an opportunity for stakeholders to inform the EPA of the marine debris issues they're seeing in NSW waterways. Stakeholders were excited to provide the EPA with their influential knowledge to help shape the development of the campaign.

RISK-BASED FRAMEWORK FOR WATERWAY HEALTH OUTCOMES

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) is supporting local governments throughout NSW, to help deliver positive waterway health outcomes using a risk-based approach. The *Risk-based Framework for Considering Waterway Health Outcomes in Strategic Land-use Planning Decisions* provides a structured approach for decision-makers to help manage the impact of land-use activities on the health of our waterways.

OEH is working with local government to assist them to apply the framework and to strengthen requirements for protecting water quality and waterway health under their local planning instruments. This includes Local Strategic Planning Statements and the 'LEP Health Check'. The framework will also be used to identify the barriers to improving stormwater management, such as cost-effective delivery of infrastructure.

OEH is also supporting the wider application of the framework by providing data and preparing tools, guidance and practice notes. OEH will be contacting councils in the coming weeks to ensure that these materials and guidelines are developed to meet local needs and expectations.

A key outcome will be a refresh of the NSW Water Quality and River Flow Objectives, which underpin the NSW Government's policy on water quality.

This is just a snapshot of Marine Estate Management Strategy projects that are underway along the NSW coast. Our next marine estate newsletter will report on other projects to help protect the marine environment that we all share and enjoy. Stay tuned!

If you have any feedback on this newsletter or these projects – compliments or points for improvement – please send us an email to contact.us@marine.nsw.gov.au