

Opportunities and Challenges for the Oyster Industry in the Blue Economy

Summary

There is broad acceptance that future growth of the Tasmanian oyster industry will rely on the utilisation of deep-water/high-energy production sites. With available intertidal zones nearing capacity, there is an opportunity to take advantage of existing deep water/exposed leases to grow production.

Out of approximately 1500Ha of marine leases licenced for shellfish growing in Tasmania, 1175Ha are in shallow, protected, intertidal zones. There are few intertidal leases remaining unlicensed and an increasing influence of coastal urbanisation means a low likelihood that further intertidal shellfish lease space will be allocated.

Conversely, deep water shellfish growing leases remain underutilised. As of June 2021, 83% of allocated shellfish leases that can be characterised as deep-water/more exposed were not currently used for farming. The availability of these deep-water leases presents a tangible opportunity to grow production.

This project investigates the opportunity for the oyster industry to successfully transition production to deep water and high-energy sites. It will identify constraints and benefits of this transformation, increase understanding of what it will take to move farming into deeper water and identify research and extension opportunities that meet the current and future needs of the industry.



Project ID

2.21.001

Research Program

Seafood & Marine Products

Project Leader

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Duration

6 months

Participants

- » Advanced Composite Structures Australia
- » BMT
- » Cawthron
- » Griffith University
- » Oysters TAS
- » University of Queensland
- » UTAS