



Newsletter July 2005

Dear Aquaculturalist

Welcome to the first newsletter of the South Australian Aquaculture Council.

About the SA Aquaculture Council (SAAC)

SAAC is the peak industry body representing the aquaculture industry in South Australia.

It has a comprehensive membership which includes the tuna, marine finfish, oyster, mussel, abalone, inland aquaculture, and crustacean (marron and yabby) industry associations.

Each sector can address its own issues, but there are a range of generic industry issues where a common industry strategy can provide benefit to all members.

SAAC is also a member of the National Aquaculture Council and is therefore a key driver of the aquaculture industry in Australia.

The State Aquaculture Action Plan (SAAP)

The State Action Plan was developed jointly by SAAC and the State Government to identify a range of actions which would assist the industry to develop its full potential. This broadly mirrors the format used in the National Aquaculture Agenda. Therefore it is not a strategic plan, but a set of actions to support the development of the industry.

The aim is “to maintain and develop a farmed seafood industry in South Australia which provides for a strong and economically viable State industry which operates in a balanced and sustainable manner”.

The Plan is a dynamic document, but there are six key areas:

Communication and Promotion.	Resource Access, Ecologically Sustainable Development and Regulatory Planning and Management Framework.
Aquatic Animal Health and Disease.	Product Development, Value Adding and In Market Development.
Research and Development.	Infrastructure Development.

We have achieved quite a lot to date. For example:

The establishment of the Government Aquaculture Issues Group (GAIG).

The Action Plan recommended the establishment of an inter agency group which could provide a means of achieving the actions in a coordinated manner across government and industry. This Group has now been established and meets regularly. A range of government agencies attend the meetings, and I represent the aquaculture industry as Communications Officer.

Establishment of an SA Aquatic Animal Health Committee

This Committee includes government and industry representation.

Put simply, the aquaculture industry is growing and a coordinated approach is necessary in order to be prepared to address potential risks.

The Australasian Aquaculture Conference and Trade Show 2006 in Adelaide

Following the successful Sydney Conference in September last year, SAAC, PIRSA and Tourism SA made a successful bid to jointly host the next conference from the 27th to 30th August 2006 in Adelaide.

So the world will be coming to us next year to see what we can offer!

The theme will be "Innovation". We are interested to know what you would like to see and discuss at the Conference. Getting better prices? Cutting production costs? Access to finance? Business Planning? Risk Management?

Access to Sites

SAAC wishes to establish some certainty that the South Australian aquaculture industry can develop in an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable manner. However, future access to sites is uncertain if recognition of aquaculture zones appears uncertain.

The State Government has produced several consultation documents including a draft Natural Resource Management Plan, draft Estuaries Policy, proposed establishment of Encounter Marine Park etc.

SAAC has written to each of the NRM Regional Councils, requesting that they consult with SAAC when considering any aquaculture related issues.

SAAC has also noted that there may be a potential NRM levy proposal and has asked the GAIG to explain how this is being considered, to confirm that marine sites will not be included in any NRM levy, and to advise how inland aquaculture may be affected by any such proposal.

SAAC has also written to Minister Hill requesting, amongst other things, that any new legislation will recognise the Aquaculture Act's authority to establish zoning and tenure property rights for aquaculture operations within Aquaculture Zones, that DEH and the legislation will recognise that impacts from aquaculture will vary depending upon the type of aquaculture undertaken, and that aquaculture operations are site specific.

Restricted Coxswain Certificate

SAAC has also responded to requests from two sectors that a restricted coxswain certificate was required. Having negotiated with Transport SA, we are confident that a new certificate will soon be available based upon the Yachting Australia National Powerboat Scheme.

It is envisaged that less sea time will be required, and after successful completion of the certificate training and oral examination, the applicant will be able to operate vessels under 12 metres in length, with a gross power limit of 250kws or 335 horse power in sheltered waters.

Our Website

Yes, we now have a brand new website, at www.seafoodsa.com.au.

It is still being developed, but has:

A section on why customers should buy SA seafood.	A Seafood Buying section, providing customers with buying information on a wide variety of fresh finfish, molluscs and crustaceans that can be delivered to all markets.
Information on companies providing services to our industry.	Information about SAAC.
An R&D section.	An education and training section.
A news section.	A media section and useful links to other sites

We value your input and feedback regarding the website or this newsletter. If you have any comments, please contact info@seafoodsa.com.au or myself on mhernen@optusnet.com.au

Regards

Martin Hernen,
Communications Officer
South Australian Aquaculture Council Inc
PO Box 2099, Fishing Industry House Dockside, North Parade Port Adelaide, SA 5015
Tel: (0)8 8303 2790. Fax: (0)8 8303 2791
Mobile: 0401 737 255