



2 March, 2015
Lake Conjola Community Consultative Body,

Information provided for the proposed cultivation of triploid (functionally sterile) pacific oysters within Lake Conjola

To Lake Conjola Community Consultative Body (CCB),

Southern Oyster Culture, the new owners of the oysters leases within Lake Conjola and Lake Berringer are applying to NSW Department of Primary Industries to alter their aquaculture permits to enable the cultivation of triploid pacific oysters (TPO). Our decision to apply for a permit to grow TPO was given careful consideration and we believe there will only be a net positive effect on the environmental, economic and social aspects of Lake Conjola and its oyster industry. The introduction of TPO is part of a strategic move to diversify the number of shellfish species grown, with aim of building profitability and resilience back into our Industry. Triploid pacific oysters were first cultivated in the Shoalhaven Shire, in the Crookhaven and Shoalhaven Rivers in 2008. Eight years on and these estuaries are producing some of the finest pacific oysters seen anywhere in the world.

Some important things community members should know:

- Southern Oyster Culture have been extremely proactive stewards of the estuary they farm and its catchment. They are signatories of the Clyde River Environmental Management System (EMS) and are working towards developing an EMS for Lake Conjola. They have won environmental grants and worked on several projects to aid estuarine health within the Clyde River.
- Triploid oysters have disrupted reproductive potential making them functionally sterile. This feature is seen as advantages in population prevention when stocking an introduced animal like pacific oysters.
- TPO are not genetically modified, and the broodstock being used for our oysters has been imported for oyster cultivation in NSW for over 20 years.
- The oyster leases within the lakes have been in operation since the 1970's and were classified by the NSW government as 'priority oyster areas' where the cultivation of oysters is a desirable outcome.

I ask interested and concerned residents to read 'section G' in the review of environmental factors which will provide background information on triploid pacific oysters. If you have questions or concerns, please voice them in writing to martjackson@gmail.com.

I look forward to the prospect meeting some of you soon.

Yours sincerely,

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Southern Oyster Culture
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