

The Prawn Report



Monthly report of the Australian Prawn Farmers Association

Issue 2

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' REPORT

By Helen Jenkins

With the success of the reduced fees with EPA being confirmed I will be investigating Eco Biz and options for farmers for even more reductions.

Together with Queensland Aquaculture Industries Federation (QAIF) President Graham Dalton and APFA President Dr Trevor Anderson we have attended meetings at Parliament with Opposition Ministers Mr David Gibson, Shadow Minister for Sustainable Environment and Climate Change and Mr Ray Hopper, Shadow Minister for Clean Energy Strategy and Shadow Minister for Food Security and Agriculture. This was followed by a meeting with the Hon Andrew McNamara MP, Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation. Both sides have committed to more support of our aquaculture industries and the implementation of an Aquaculture Act.

From NAC – National Aquaculture Council

I have been discussing Award Modernisation and the implications of one award fits all agriculture sectors.

AQIS

Request came from AQIS for testing for melamine in our prawns. SARDI have retained samples and these will be used to test for melamine.

CRC

I continue to engage with the CRC for research funding. To date APFA have been successful in getting 3 project approved. These being for an Project Officer, Jamie O'Brien who is now working one day a week for APFA. Two project proposals from CSIRO have been approved – Fertility and Triploid.

A signatory to the CRC has resigned so APFA are engaging with CRC in how to use a portion of the new available funds. CRC, Jamie and I continue to develop opportunities to extend Passion for Prawns stage 2.

Climate Change

Issues of energy use and savings opportunities are being explored.

SSA workshop

I attended the SSA workshop earlier this month and participated in Trade and Market Access Forum the following day.

Other issues that I attend to vary between AAHC - Animal Aquatic Health Committee, QFIRAC – Queensland Fisheries Research Advisory Committee and work with DPI & F to action strategies for our 2 year industry development plan.

Personal Note

I am recovering from emergency eye surgery for a detached retina and have been ordered not to undertake stressful activities or flying until I have medical clearance.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07 3837 4747 or email info@apfa.com.au. Thank you.



PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

By Jamie O'Brien

Since starting with the APFA late last month, I have been busy sifting through the various bits and pieces to see what there is to learn about the industry – and there is plenty!

The benefit for me is that because I have already met a number of the APFA executive, and work closely with Executive Officer Helen Jenkins, the information is readily available. One of my main tasks at the moment is going through the Benchmarking report and finalising the summary. This is a very interesting assignment and I am more than be learning the ins and outs of the industry. I look forward to being able to visit some of those farms within the coming months to see firsthand just

who the farmers are and what their farms are like. This work combines with one of our upcoming research and development project Passion for Prawns that we will be undertaking in the coming months and while there is a lot of work ahead, I will do my best to put the plans into place together with Executive Officer Helen Jenkins. I am particularly focused on the "Next P" group and am willing to hear from interested young farmers (up to 35) about how they would like to be involved.

One of my other tasks is putting together the Prawn Report and also getting the website in order. This will happen in the coming weeks.

I have also met with representatives from DPI&F and attended the SSA forum to engage on what opportunities pose for the APFA.

All in all I am very much enjoying my new role as it provides much diversity in my skills as a marketing and communications professional and I look forward to each new task and piece of information. If you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to give me a call on 07 3837 4747 or email me at jamie@qff.org.au. Cheers!

GLOBEFISH report

SHRIMP MARKET REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2008 – JAPAN.

During January-July 2008, an average household in Japan consumed 4.047 kg of shrimp, which is 4.20 per cent less than the same period last year. With the exception of cooked frozen shrimp, imports fell for all other types during this period. The current market situation is a reflection of this trend.

During January-June this year, shrimp imports into Japan amount to 115 031 MT with an import value of ¥101.74 billion (US\$ 967.78 million) against 116 880 MT and ¥114.35 billion (US\$ 940 million) last year. Supplies fell for all product forms except cooked frozen shrimp that registered a 15 per cent growth. Thailand was the leading supplier in over all shrimp imports, accounting for a 22 per cent market share which mostly consisted of higher value products.

SHRIMP MARKET REPORT – JULY 2008 – EU

Spain and Italy which have experienced a constant expansion of their shrimp imports in recent years, recorded a sudden decrease at the beginning of this year with only 26 000 tonnes imported by Spain (a 24 per cent drop in volume and a 29 per cent drop in value compared to the same period last year) and only 13 000 tonnes imported by Italy (a 14 per cent drop in volume and a 15 per cent drop in value). This decrease was mainly due to lower shipments from major suppliers and in particular from Argentina.

Shrimp exporting countries - such as Thailand, Indonesia, Ecuador, India, etc. - which presently expand their presence on the European market in order to counterbalance adverse circumstances on the US market will soon encounter further difficulties also on the European market where consumption is slowing down significantly. Given the general economic situation, shrimp prices are unlikely to continue at such a low level.

The international prices for shrimp appear to differ from the global trend of increasing food prices. This situation is unlikely to prevail much longer. The final change in shrimp prices will still depend on many factors including the rising costs in fishing, farming, processing and transportation etc. In the short run, however, there is very little room for shrimp price increases, given the present bleak demand in the EU market.

SHRIMP MARKET REPORT – APRIL 2008 – US

For the first time in ten years, US shrimp imports fell in terms of volume. During 2007, imports amounted to 556 935.7 tonnes worth US\$ 3 904.3 million, which represents a 5.7 per cent and 5.1 per cent reduction in terms of volume and value respectively, compared to the previous year. This trend was shown in almost all products, excepting peeled frozen shrimp and some sizes of frozen shell-on shrimp, which were the only products that grew in volume and value. As for the unit value of imports, it remained almost unchanged (+0.6 per cent). Several factors have affected the shrimp market throughout 2007, the increase in oil prices that recently passed the US\$ 100/barrel level, the slowdown of the economy, the reduction in consumer confidence, and the health issues with Chinese seafood, among others.

AUSTRALIA IMPORT STATISTICS

June 2008 - September	\$ VALUE	KG \$	Percentage \$ Value	Percentage kg Value
Total imported for this period	\$19, 410, 694	2, 139 322		
Breakdown by State				
NSW	\$10, 841, 809	1,268,427	56%	59%
QLD	\$328, 699	48,975	2%	2%
SA	\$152, 660	20,900	1%	1%
VIC	\$7, 941 553	786, 020	41%	37%
WA	\$145, 972	15, 000	1%	1%
BREAKDOWN BY IMPORTED COUNTRY				
China	\$4,915,779	635,207	25%	30%
India	\$302,000	27,540	2%	1%
Korea	\$6,015	240	<1%	<1%

Malaysia	\$3,036 493	273,881	16%	13%
Singapore	\$53,786	7,250	<1%	<1%
Thailand	\$6,385,356	738,887	33%	35%
Vietnam	\$4,703,100	455,716	24%	21%
Bangladesh	\$8,161	600	<1%	<1%

MORE NEWS FROM THE EPA

Please be advised that the Environmental Protection Regulation 2008 was made by the Governor in Council on November 6 2008 and notified in the Government Gazette on November 7 2008.

For more information go to www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/SLS/RIS_EN/2008/08SL370E.pdf.

This is an excellent result for aquaculture industries and prawn farmers will benefit greatly from reduced fees.

AN INDUSTRY FIRST

APFA together with QAIF will investigate Eco Biz options with EPA so that our farms have the potential to save even more money if the likes of Eco Biz is adopted by farms.

SPAWN REPORT

There has been concern about poor spawning season. APFA would be grateful for contributions from hatcheries so that this can be passed on to farms via the next edition of The Prawn Report.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

- Alistair Dick is now working for Pacific Reef Fisheries
- Wayne Di Bartolo has left Pacific Reef and is now working for Seafarm

MEETINGS

Proposed meeting dates:

R & D Committee –December 1 in Brisbane. Current Members – Matt West, Wayne Di Bartolo Richard Smullen, Brian Murphy, Peter Wrench, Helen Jenkins.

Executive committee –December 2. Current Members – Dr Trevor Anderson, Nick Moore, Warren Lewis, Alistair Dick, Ross Baillie, Francois Naude, Catherine Chen and Helen Jenkins.

Please contact one of the above if you have an issue that you want discussed at the next meeting.

MORE PROTECTION FOR FARMERS DEALING WITH MINING COMPANIES

Deputy Premier Paul Lucas has announced a series of measures to strengthen the position of landholders dealing with mining exploration companies. He said that agriculture is of immense importance to Australia and the Bligh Government is committed to making sure farmers get a fair go when dealing with resources companies. The new measures include:

- A single Code of Conduct that clearly spells out the obligations of mining and exploration groups to be developed by the Land Access Working Group (LAWG) which includes representatives of QFF, Agforce and the Queensland Resource Council.
- Simplified compensation negotiations achieved by the introduction of a standard compensation agreement to be developed with peak bodies.
- The establishment of common user pipeline easements to minimise disruption to agricultural land when feasible.
- A new joint District Office for the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Mines and Energy in Dalby or Roma to help sort out any potential problems. Funding has been provided through the Attorney-General for a Toowoomba-based Legal Aid solicitor to advise landholders on land access issues including compensation.

DME has produced a set of new fact sheets on both mining and petroleum exploration laws and landholders' and explorers' rights and responsibilities.

For more information go to www.dme.qld.gov.au/mines/land_owner_occupier_information.cfm.

Deputy Premier Paul Lucas and Mines and Energy Minister Geoff Wilson chaired community summits in Dysart (Thursday) and Dalby (Friday) to bring all stakeholders together to discuss the best way forward for these communities. Intensive industries were represented at the Dalby summit by former Cotton Australia Chair Geoff Hewitt.

QFF CEO John Cherry, who attended a meeting of the Land Access Working Group last week, welcomed the Government's initiatives as positive developments to deal with the 'asymmetry of information' that leaves landholders disadvantaged in dealing with exploration companies. But, he said that there was also a need to review the underlying imbalance of legal rights which is implicit in the State Acts dealing with mining and exploration, and also address the planning issue of whether mining should be allowed at all in 'iconic' high value intensive agricultural regions such as the black soil plains of the Darling Downs.

SENIOR SCIENTIST BACKS CALL FOR MORE INVESTMENT IN REEF RESCUE PLAN

One of the State's leading water scientists has learnt that support from farm and regional bodies for the State Government to invest more resources in Reef Rescue Plan and focus on accelerating uptake of industry best management practices as the best way of improving water quality on the Great Barrier Reef. A leading water scientist involved with CSIRO, GBRMPA and James Cook University, Dr Jon Brodie, told ABC radio today that the State Government had not invested

enough in on-farm programs, and that the case for regulating farm practices instead was flawed. Dr Brodie said something needs to be done but blaming farmers for nothing happening in the last five years is rough as Reef Plan has never been funded adequately. He also said that the \$50 million promised by the Government would all be needed for monitoring and enforcement, but has not seen large amounts of money promised from the State for works needed to improve water quality. The EPA has so few resources and capacity at the moment to enforce the things they are required to at the moment.

Greens MP Ronan Lee revealed that the State Government was planning to cut EPA funding for water quality monitoring of estuaries between Noosa and north Queensland ahead of the Reef Summit. Scientific statistics used by Ms Bligh at the Summit were based partly on the water-monitoring program her Government was simultaneously considering to slash. A decision to reinstate the funding was quietly made some time in the preceding days as the Government sought to boost its green credentials through its reef rescue plans.

JOHN CHERRY DEPARTING QFF

QFF President Gary Sansom has announced that QFF Chief Executive John Cherry has resigned effective December 12 after three and a half years in the role. Mr Cherry will take up the position of Executive Director of the Council of Mayors SEQ, having joined QFF in July 2005. Mr Cherry has made a significant contribution to the policy development and profile of QFF in his time as Chief Executive. The Board, Council and Staff have been very appreciative of his efforts and wish him well in his new role and look forward to interacting more significantly the Council of Mayors. *Gary Sansom.*

NEW INDIGENOUS FISHING LAWS TAKE EFFECT

Changes to Queensland's Fisheries Act in relation to traditional Indigenous fishing practices came into effect last month. According to Primary Industries and Fisheries Minister Tim Mulherin, the changes strike a balance between protecting fish stocks and breeding areas for future generations and recognising the significance of fishing to our Indigenous communities. The new regulations will ensure that traditional and customary fishing is for personal, domestic and non-commercial communal purposes and that all fishing, whether traditional or other, is done in a sustainable way, so that future generations of Queenslanders can enjoy and benefit from the State's natural fisheries resources. For more information go to www.dpi.qld.gov.au or contact Jamie O'Brien on 07 3837 4747 or jamie@qff.org.au.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NATIONAL AQUACULTURE COUNCIL WANTED

The National Aquaculture Council is seeking a new Executive Director. If you are passionate about the Aquaculture industry or have extensive experience in working for primary industry organisations, you may be interested in applying for this exciting position. The closing date for applications is Wednesday November 19. For more information, contact National Aquaculture Council Chairman Craig Foster at ausfost@bigpond.net.au.

NEW FISHERIES SCHOLARSHIP ON OFFER

A new fisheries scholarship is available for Central Queensland University honours students. The annual \$5000 Marine Fish Habitat Scholarship will be offered to CQ University Australia honours students for the first time in 2009. The DPI&F scholarship will provide scientific research funding in the area of marine fish habitat and is open to all honours students who commence their study in semester 1, 2009. Applications for the Marine Fish Habitat Scholarship close Monday December 1, 2008. For more information about the scholarship contact DPI&F on 13 25 23 or visit the website www.dpi.qld.gov.au.

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RISK INSURE

Risk Insure would like to extend an invitation to all APFA members and Prawn farmers the availability of their Insurance Services. A small video clip of Risk Insure is available by going to www.riskinsure.com.au/aquaculture/downloads. For more information contact Risk Insure on 08 8232 2311 or email grahamg@riskinsure.com.au or go to www.riskinsure.com.au

SALES ENQUIRIES

Mr Xue Li would like more information on exporting/importing Prawns and Prawn products to China. For more information email him on jdfnia@hotmail.com or contact 0061430454954 (International).

APOLOGY

Apology to Lynn Rossman, Catherine Chen and David Lin for the mix up with their names in last month's Prawn Report. *Jamie O'Brien.*

If you would like to be added to the Australian Prawn Farmers *Prawn Report* distribution list, please contact Jamie O'Brien on 07 3837 4747 or email your name and contact details to jamie@qff.org.au.