

AUSSIE OYSTER GROWERS GET FRENCH LESSONS

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Continuing to strive for the perfect oyster for the discerning Australian public, our oyster growers are about to learn a handy thing or two from the French about breeding.

The Australian Seafood Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), through its International Visiting Expert Scheme, has engaged Dr Pierre Boudry, one of the world's leading oyster geneticists from the French Research Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER), to visit Australia during August 2008.

Dr Boudry leads IFREMER's Genetics and Pathology Laboratory which is internationally recognised for its work in genetics and pathology of marine bivalves such as oysters, mussels and scallops. He has worked in the field of bivalve shellfish genetics for 11 years and specialises in topics such as selective breeding. His wife, Dr Helen McCombie who will accompany Dr Boudry on his trip to Australia, has also worked on bivalves for five years, in particular focusing on the Cupped Oyster.

Breeding better oysters is the Australian Seafood CRC Oyster Consortium's highest priority on their research and development "hit" list. The Consortium, with the CRC, has recently been on a fact finding trip to the USA attending specific conferences and building collaboration. Now the Consortium will be one step closer to making this a reality by forming additional links with IFREMER.

Scott Parkinson, Breeding Manager of Shellfish Culture Ltd in Tasmania said, "I had the pleasure of meeting Dr Boudry when I travelled to the EU two years ago and spent some time touring the French oyster industry. I am really excited that we will be getting Pierre "Down Under" as his expertise will be invaluable in our breeding strategies for genetic management".

Rachel King, the Executive Officer of the CRC's Oyster Consortium added, "We see so many opportunities to discuss and learn from the French experience. The Australian industry has had an oyster breeding program in place for approximately 10 years producing faster growing oysters with better survival rates. However, breeding oysters is complex and to keep assisting our breeding programs, it helps to compare notes with the French and the Americans. This is an industry inspired vision driven by the CRC Oyster Consortium which will benefit Australia and oyster lovers".

Dr Boudry is equally thrilled about the trip. "It will be great to visit Australia and share my knowledge and experience with the Australian Oyster industry and the CRC. My aim is to create collaborative project concepts and links with our French Oyster Genetic program".

Whilst in Australia, Dr Boudry will be a key speaker at the 2008 Skretting Australasian Aquaculture Conference (Brisbane 3-6 August), will visit New South Wales and Tasmania to see oyster industries and research facilities and will be the guest of a Round Table meeting at CSIRO, Hobart to discuss collaborative project concepts and links.

The Australian Seafood CRC is established and supported under the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centres Programme. Other investors in the CRC are the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, Seafood CRC company members, and supporting participants.

For more information, and to arrange an interview with Dr Boudry and members of the Seafood CRC Oyster Consortium between the 3rd - 15th August 2008, please refer to the following timetable:

Date	Boudry's Location	Media Contact Person
3 rd – 6 th Aug	Brisbane Convention Centre (2008 Skretting Australasia Aquaculture Conference)	Scott Parkinson (Breeding Manager - Shellfish Culture Ltd) – Phone 0407 398 359 Wayne O'Connor (Research Scientist, NSW DPI) – Phone 0429 902 893 Rachel King (Executive Officer – Australian Seafood CRC Oyster Consortium) Phone - 0425 237 566 Emily Downes (Program Manager - Seafood CRC) – Phone 0400 571 201
7 th Aug	Nambucca Heads (View raft culture)	Wayne O'Connor - Phone 0429 902 893
8 th August	Port Macquarie (Meet NSW Farmers President) and Camden Haven (View nursery operations and Flat Oysters)	Wayne O'Connor - Phone 0429 902 893
9 th August	Camden Haven - Wallis Lake (View largest oyster producing Estuary in NSW) - Port Stephens	Wayne O'Connor – Phone 0429 902 893
10 th August	Not available for interview	
11 th August	View hatcheries, nurseries and farms in Port Stephens	Wayne O'Connor – Phone 0429 902 893
12 th August	Visit NSW DPI research facilities	Wayne O'Connor – Phone 0429 902 893
13 th August	Not available for interview	
14 th & 15 th Aug	Meeting in Hobart	Scott Parkinson - Phone 0407 398 359