



5th March 2018 - AS1 Company Response to PIRSA Letter

Angel Seafood Holdings (the Company/Angel) wishes to respond to Industry advice received from Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) regarding the confirmation of Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) being detected in the Port River, Adelaide. POMS was found in Wild Pacific Oysters and PIRSA initially put in place a temporary standstill advice on the movement of oysters in the Gulf of St Vincent and whilst this outbreak is isolated to Port River, PIRSA has increased this to cover movement of oysters across the State (refer map attached); this reaction is consistent with the acknowledged reactions to a POMS event and supported by the Company.

After extensive investigation and audit of our operations, the Company wishes to confirm the following:

- The Company's stocks of Oysters remain at over 8-million in the water.
- The Company has experienced no abnormal instances of oyster mortality.
- The Company has audited all its water holdings and can confirm that it can find no evidence of POMS. PIRSA has conducted further tests in oyster growing areas across the state and will release their findings in due course. The Company and PIRSA will continue to monitor the situation.
- To date there has been no impact on the growing areas of the Eyre Peninsula where Angel's water holdings, spread across four bays, are located.

Further Information:

- Angel's growing areas are a significant distance (300km) from the Port River.
- POMS has not been detected in any of Angel's growing areas.
- The environmental conditions including salinity and water temperature, two important factors in the spread of POMS, are very different on the Eyre Peninsula verses the Port River.
- The Company has not experienced any abnormal mortalities or oysters that show early signs of POMS
- Angel's stocks exceed 8-million oysters on hand and are being closely monitored on a daily basis.
- The Company, as does the industry, has strict quality control and procedures in place to monitor stock and prevent the spread of any diseases.
- Some Eyre Peninsula hatcheries recently commented in an ABC Landline focus on the Industry that the current stocks of Spat being supplied are likely to be at least 70% immune to the POMS Virus. (Source: <http://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2017-10-29/fighting-on:-south-australias-oyster-industry/9138080?pfmredir=sm> - 2017 – Quotation at 15min 35 Seconds)

About the Disease:

Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) is a disease which affects Pacific Oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) and is caused by a virus called OsHV-1 micro variant. It causes rapid and high mortalities in farmed oysters.

There are no human health implications associated with POMS, which only affects the Pacific Oyster. South Australia produces some of the finest Pacific oysters on the market and table oysters purchased from retailers, restaurants and fish processors are safe to eat.

Experience in other countries and other states indicates that the major cause of rapid spread of the POMS virus is by movement of oysters between oyster farms. The movement controls instituted by PIRSA in this instance are designed to reduce the risk of this type of spread of the virus.

More information on POMS:

http://pir.sa.gov.au/aquaculture/aquatic_animal_health/pacific_oyster_mortality_syndrome

Summary:

The Company will continue to actively monitor the situation and will release updates as required to ensure the market is informed.

For Further details please contact:

Any questions or requests for further information should be directed via email to:

chairman@angelseafood.com.au

ANGEL SEAFOOD

Map of the Area

