



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Business

Cooperative Research
Centres Programme

Yorke Peninsula

Angasi Oyster Farming

宝力高

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August 21, 2019

Introduction

- *History of Angasi Oysters on Yorke Peninsula*
- *Current Angasi Oyster Production*
- *Production Management*
- *Issues in Production*
- *Issues in Marketing*
- *What we are doing*



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Angasi Oyster History

- **1850's – Stansbury was First Commercial Oyster Fishery in SA**

- **Beat Coffin Bay by 6 months!**
- **Dredging of Native (*Ostrea angasi*) Oyster Beds**
- **At its peak 1880's 10 cutters constantly employed**
- **By 1930's fished out**



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Angasi Oyster History

- **1960 - leases established at Stansbury.**
 - *Jim McIntyre was one of the first to apply for a lease*
- **Jim McIntyre - 1960 to 1970 Angasi experience**
 - *Trying to get them to settle on tiles*
 - *Inconsistent results at best*



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Angasi Oyster History

- **1969 – First Japanese oyster spat (*Gigas*) arrives in South Australia.**
 - *Morrie Hurrell in Coffins*
 - *Jim McIntyre in Stansbury*
 - *Take 2 years to mature (against 4 for the native)*
- **No contest – Angasi are largely forgotten.**



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Angasi Oyster History

- ***Largely forgotten until threat of POMS***
 - *PIRSA - industry Diversification strategy,*
 - *Ostrea Angasi added to lease /licences*
- ***Nature Conservancy – Interest in Angasi Reef restoration***
- ***2015 PEO – first commercial crop for many years***



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Industry Metrics – PEO

- **20 Hectares under Lease**
 - **Shore Lease (Nursery) – 5.01 Hect.**
 - **Channel Lease (Fattening and Finishing) – 5.0 Hect.**
 - **Beacon (Grow out) - 10.0 Hect.**
 - **Stock in Water - in excess of 2,500,000 at any point in time**



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PEO Metrics - Angasi

- **200,000 approx**
 - 2015 - Commercial
 - 2017 Nature Conservancy
 - 2018 SARDI
- **8 % to 10% of total production**
 - Dave Maidment - Australian Native Shellfish
 - 20% of production is Angasi



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Production Cycle – Stage 1

- **Nursery (Spat)**
 - 5 mm
 - *In trays*
 - 12 to 16 weeks



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Production Cycle – Stage 2

- **9 weeks in Trays**
 - **Grading to 6mm Basket**
 - **200 per basket**
 - **Uniform size**



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Production Cycle – Stage 2



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- **6mm BST Baskets growing at the same height as 1 grow Gigas.**

- **1 year old.**
 - **Great growth**
 - **Good shape**
 - **No Mortality**
 - **No over catch**

- **Soft and immature**
 - **Not yet spawning**



Production Cycle – Stage 2



- **2 to 3 years – 12 mm SEAPA (medium to high line height)**
- **50 per bag**
 - **No overall size growth**
 - **Shells have thickened significantly,**
 - **Significant death of mature oysters**

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Production Cycle – Stage 2

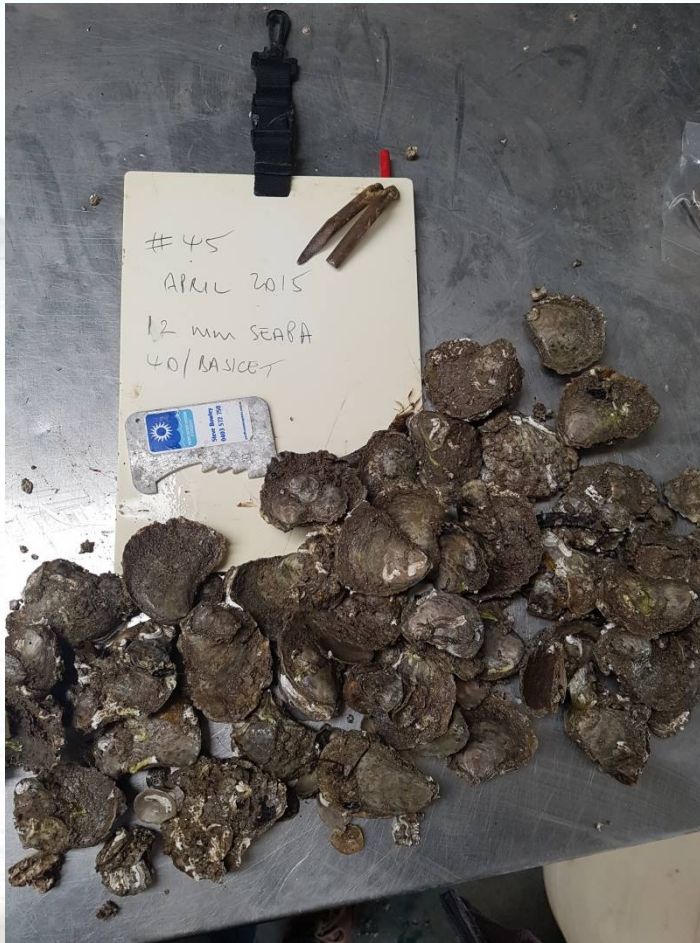


- **2 to 3 years – 12 mm SEABA (medium to high line height)**
 - **Significant overcatch**
 - **Settle of other shell**

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Production Cycle – Stage 2



- **2 to 3 years – 12 mm SEAPA (medium to high line height)**
- **Can't grow too high – they die!**
 - Significant overcatch
 - Sexually mature
 - Settle of other shell

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Issues in Production

- **Cannot grow them like Pacifics**
- **Cannot grow them quickly enough – to get big enough to command a premium.**
 - **Up to 12 months – fine**
 - **Beyond 2 years – wild spat settle on existing shell**



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Issues in Production

- ***Can't put them on the top line to clean up – they die***
- ***Very labour intensive – to clean up and knock the overcatch off***
- ***Current climate (POMS free or not) not economic to grow them***



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Issues in Marketing



- **Not criticism (in fact presents an opportunity to differentiate from Pacifics)**

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Issues in Marketing



- **Much smaller than Pacific**
 - **Invites unfavourable comparison - need to do more work on differentiation**

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Issues in Marketing



■ Stronger “Gamey” Flavour

- *Craft Beer V Session Beer*
- *More sophisticated*
- *Not for faint hearted*

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Issues in Marketing

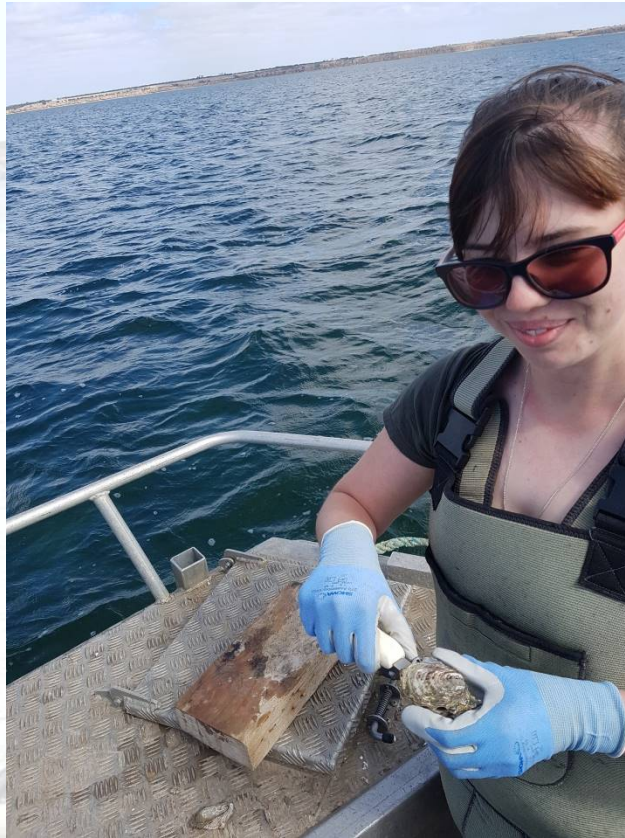


- **Don't travel well**
 - **Different packing required**
 - **Shorter shelf life**

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Issues in Marketing



- **Sell to foraging (hipster) restaurants**
 - **By doz not bag.**

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Issues in Marketing



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- **Without marketing - sell “Au Naturelle”**
 - **With o/catch “budget” oyster**



Issues in Marketing



“Au Naturelle”

- **Suits our production technique – don’t have to put time into clean up**

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Issues in Marketing

■ ***Positive Engagement***

- ***We need to get it out there Engage with the community***



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Conclusion

- ***Harder to grow – higher mortality, finicky – less than 30% to saleable maturity***
- ***Costs are higher, returns are significantly lower***
- ***Not economically viable as a stand alone product***
 - ***Better return on Pacifics Doubles, Uglies, LSB's, runts***
 - ***Poor cousin to the Pacific***

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Questions

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