

Aquaculture OHS in Australia and New Zealand

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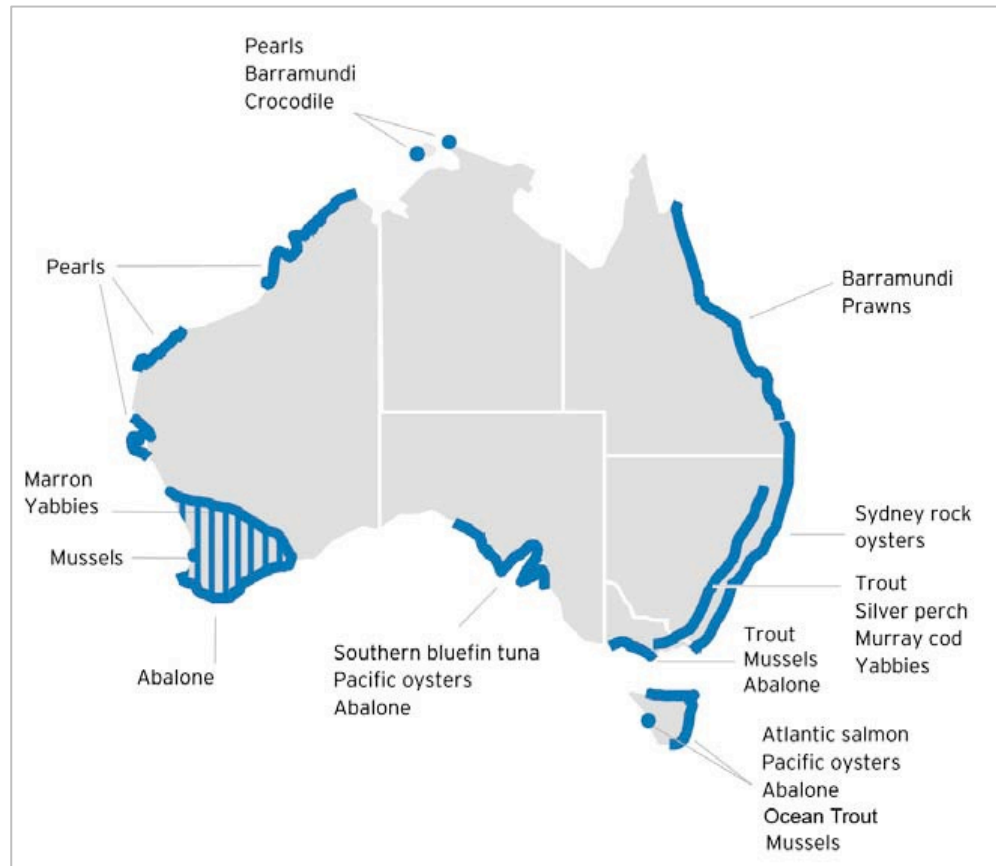
2018



OHS legislation and regulation in Australia

- Australia – 6 States & 2 Territories – all have own OHS legislation (Roben’s model), aquaculture regulation, Codes of Practice, guidelines & biosecurity arrangements
- Each State and Territory has own OHS regulator & inspectorate – tripartite model
- Australian Government – National Aquaculture Strategy in 2017
- Both inland freshwater & marine aquaculture farms
- Estimated 9,800 employees in August 2017
- GVP AUD \$1.2 billion in 2014-15
- n=295 serious injury/disease claims in the aquaculture industry during 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2016

Main aquaculture locations in Australia

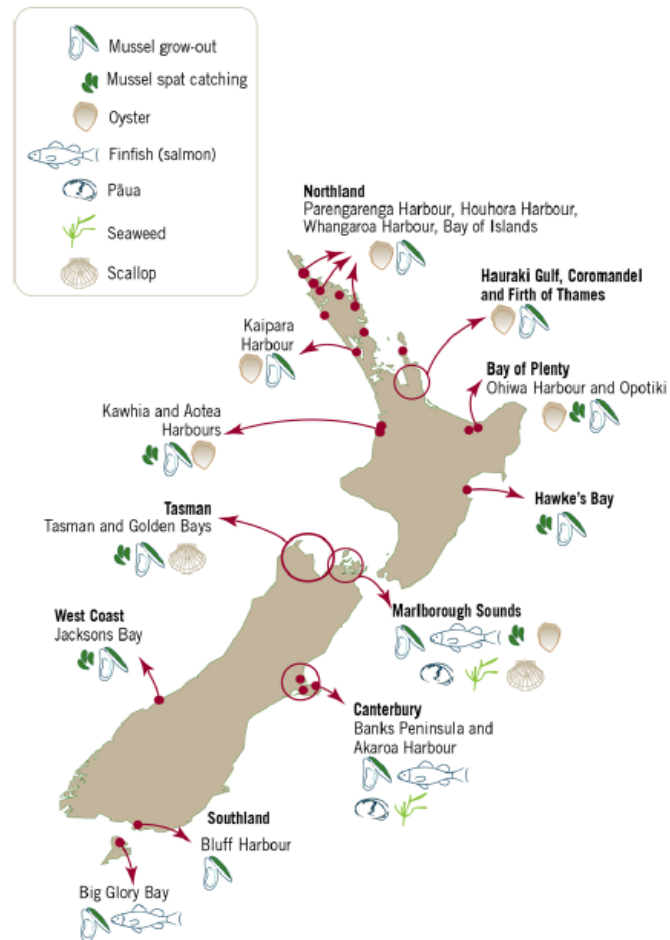


Source: Australian Government Bureau of Rural Sciences. Community Perceptions of Aquaculture. Commonwealth of Australia: Canberra, 2005.

OHS legislation and regulation in New Zealand

- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 & associated regulations
- Worksafe New Zealand – OHS regulatory agency
- Marine aquaculture primarily managed by regional councils through regional coastal plans
- Land-based aquaculture managed through regional councils under regional plans or district councils under district plans
- New Zealand's north & south islands approx. 1,200 marine farms
- Estimated 3,000 workers in aquaculture in 2017
- Aquaculture production – estimated NZ\$500 million annually
- n=175 serious injury or illness notifications in the aquaculture industry between 1 Jan 2010 and 31 March 2017

Main aquaculture locations in New Zealand



Source: Ministry for Primary Industries. Overview of ecological effects of aquaculture. Ministry for Primary Industries: Wellington, 2013.

OHS: how it is managed

- OHS Acts & associated regulations provide minimum standards of protection for workers
- Regulatory agencies tasked with monitoring & enforcing the Act
- OHS inspectors can use enforcement measures e.g. improvement or prohibition notices & financial penalties for non-compliance
- Person conducting a business or undertaking must identify & manage OHS risks with involvement of workers
- Risk management – identify, assess, control and review
- Risk control using hierarchy of risk control
- Safety alerts by OHS regulators – following serious OHS incidents

Further information on occupational injury and disease in Australian aquaculture



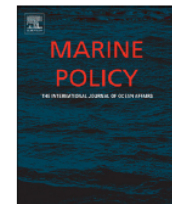
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Occupational injury and disease in the Australian aquaculture industry

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ABSTRACT

This study quantifies the incidence and characteristics of work-related injury and disease in the aquaculture and related service industries in Australia. Information on serious (i.e. one or more weeks off work) injury/disease claims was obtained from the National Data Set of Workers' Compensation-based Statistics during 1 July 2012–30 June 2016. There were 295 serious injury/disease claims in the aquaculture industry and 1780 claims in the agriculture and fishing support service industries. The incidence rate for aquaculture workers was 16.0 per 1000 employees and the frequency rate was 8.5 per million hours worked over the four year period. Musculoskeletal disorders accounted for over one-third of all claims. There has been limited occupational health and safety (OHS) research in the aquaculture industry in Australia and this study represents a first step to quantify and describe the range of occupational hazards present in the industry.

Acknowledgements

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