

# General information for restaurants to prevent spread of Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome

Aquatic Biosecurity and Risk Management Unit

*Handout prepared to assist restaurants to minimise aquatic disease risks*

## What is Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome?

Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS) is a disease caused by a virus. It causes rapid mortalities in Pacific Oysters.

There is no evidence that POMS affects Sydney Rock Oysters.

POMS does not have any impacts on human health.



*Working the trays on a NSW oyster farm*

## Where does POMS occur?

POMS occurs in three NSW oyster farming estuaries and in Tasmania. Some healthy Pacific Oysters are harvested and sold for human consumption from affected farms.

## Help protect the NSW oyster industry

Follow these simple steps to help stop freshly opened oysters spreading POMs:

- **Do not return live oysters to our waterways**, either to discard them or 'give them a drink' to keep them fresh. **It is illegal**, as it can spread disease or lead to the oyster being contaminated and harmful to eat
- Dispose of waste, including uneaten oysters or leftover shells in the bin.

- Dispose of any water used to process live oysters direct to the sewer
- Wash hands and/or gloves thoroughly with warm soapy water after handling oysters

**Please pass on this important information to your customers**



*Unprocessed Pacific Oyster*

## For more information on POMS

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/pests-diseases/animal-health/aquaculture/poms>

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