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Dear Sir/Madam

Re: The IPART Submission 2016

The NSW Shellfish Committee is a statutory advisory body established under Food Regulation 2010. It includes six representatives from the shellfish industry (Industry Representatives), the Manager Aquaculture from NSW DPI, the CEO of the NSW Food Authority, the NSW Shellfish Program Manager and Independent Chair. The Committee provides advice to the Minister on the operation and administration of the NSW Shellfish Program as well as management issues impacting viable and sustainable shellfish aquaculture.

The Industry Representatives of NSW Shellfish Committee support the view regarding an IPART submission provided by the NSW Strategic Plan Implementation Group (a NSW Shellfish Committee sub-committee) namely that;

Council Rates should not be applied to oyster leases because:

- Oyster businesses already contribute to their local councils by paying rates on their land bases
- The water based leases are situated below the high tide mark and are accessed by punts travelling over water. Administratively, oyster leases and boating activities are controlled by NSW Fisheries and the RMS both of whom are paid appropriate fees by farmers. Local Government provides no services to the leases.
- Rates are not paid by other activities, such as RMS moorings, below the high tide, so nor should oyster leases
- Discussions with Local Government Councils in the early 1990's revealed that the cost of processing rates on oyster leases was of little net financial benefit to those Councils and in some cases rating oyster leases represented a financial loss.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Mark Boulter
Chair
12 May 2016