

SafeFish

A National Food Safety and Market Access Program for Seafood

Alison Turnbull

FRDC Stakeholder Workshop

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SOUTH
AUSTRALIAN
RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE
PIRSA





Provides technical advice to support Australia's seafood trade and market access negotiations and helps to resolve barriers to trade



SafeFish is an unincorporated partnership

Government regulatory agencies

+

Seafood industry bodies

+

Research institutions

Totally dependent on industry funds



Current Services & Value to Date

SafeFish uses the Core funding received from FRDC and industry to carry out 3 types of activities:

1. Food safety incident responses
2. Technical input to inter-government consultations on food regulations and market access
3. Proactive research, risk analyses, capability development and training





Barilla Bay Oyster Gastro Outbreak

Update 4 April 2013



- Easter 2013
- 1st outbreak outside NSW
- >525 illnesses

SafeFish Value

Short term

- Information for growers
- Technical guidance for regulatory emergency response
- Technical information and support for industry incident response, including industry/regulator liaison
- Support to media releases

Medium term

- Research and training in best practice



SafeFish Value

Longer term

- Australian guidelines
- Proactive research; national survey, new tools - rapid diagnostics & bacteriophage
- All stakeholders involved (including polluters)
- Capability development
- Survey will be used in Codex debate against mandatory monitoring

Outcome – better risk management, reduced risk of illness, reduced cost closures (\$400k per 3-week closure, reduction in NSW of 1300 days closure), Codex - avoidance of costly mandatory viral monitoring



EU Closed Market to Australian Abalone

What issue can close your entire market overnight and keep it closed for several years?

- \$7Mpa market, closed due to Codex standard under development for marine biotoxin control
- Monitoring program required to comply would cost \$24Mpa

SafeFish Value



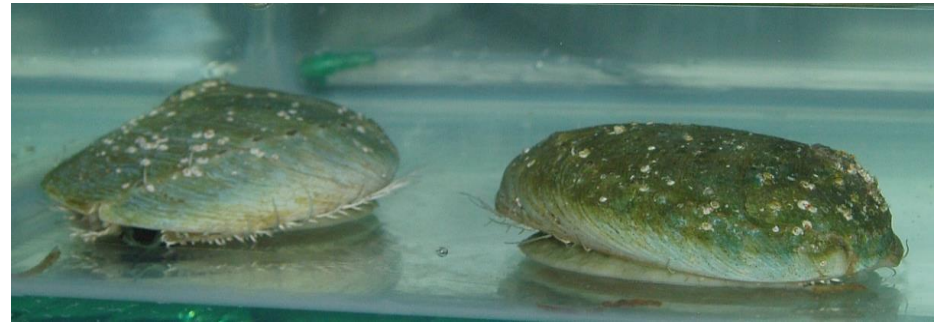
Short term

- Technical information to rebutt EU
- Joined Codex discussions
- Pilot testing of product during algal blooms

Medium term

- Assistance to regulatory authorities and industry on methods of analysis and interpretation of results
- Development of laboratory capability in Australia
- National survey

SafeFish Value



Longer term

- Research on uptake and risk assessments for biotoxins in Australian and NZ abalone
- Strong arguments at Codex based on risk assessments
- Biotoxin management plan for abalone in high risk zone

Outcome: EU market opened 2012, Australian biotoxin testing facility, Codex standard avoided mandatory monitoring saving \$24M pa, appropriate management plan designed for high risk areas

Recent Achievements

Standards and Guidelines:

- Success at CODEX preventing inappropriate standards e.g.
 - Biotoxins in abalone and scallops
 - *Vibrios* and viruses in shellfish
 - Methods of analysis for marine biotoxins
 - Histamines in seafood
 - Mercury in fish
- *Vibrio* guidance following outbreaks to enable appropriate management, reduction in future outbreaks
- Publication of seafood safety and packaging guides
- Updated ASQAP Manual

Recent Achievements

Improved tools for risk management:

- Rapid test kit validation of PST in shellfish
 - 24 recalls in 5 years, 5 illnesses, \$800k pa export market lost
 - Saving up to \$500k pa analysis costs, allowing export market to re-open, reducing recalls
- Biotoxin research for rock lobster for better management
- Bacteriophage for sewage spill management in oyster areas

“this piece of research around the Neogen test kit.... may well be the most important research done in Tasmania for those in industry affected by PST blooms.” Hayden Dyke, Oyster Bay Oysters



Future Work Program

CODEX currently looking at:

- Methyl mercury, histamine, ciguatoxin, food additives, lead, fish oils, PFAs
- Must comment before implementation

Plus 17 domestic and trade issues. For example:

- Food safety incident response planning and support
- Food authenticity and traceability
- Harmonizing retailer QA criteria
- Ciguatera
- Reducing histamine risk
- Monitoring “micro-plastics”
- Emerging heavy metal standards



Budget

- *SafeFish* current core services cost of \$192,000 per annum, plus salary support from SARDI
- Last year leveraged an additional \$133,000 in grants = \$325,000 total. This year additional \$220,000 in grants
- New SafeFish partnership starts in July 18
- Requesting a budget of \$355,000

Current Annual Budget

• SRL	\$10k
• ACA	\$10k
• OA	\$10k
• SFM	\$10k
• Mussels	\$2k
• FRDC	\$150k
• Non FRDC grants	\$133k
Total cash	\$325k



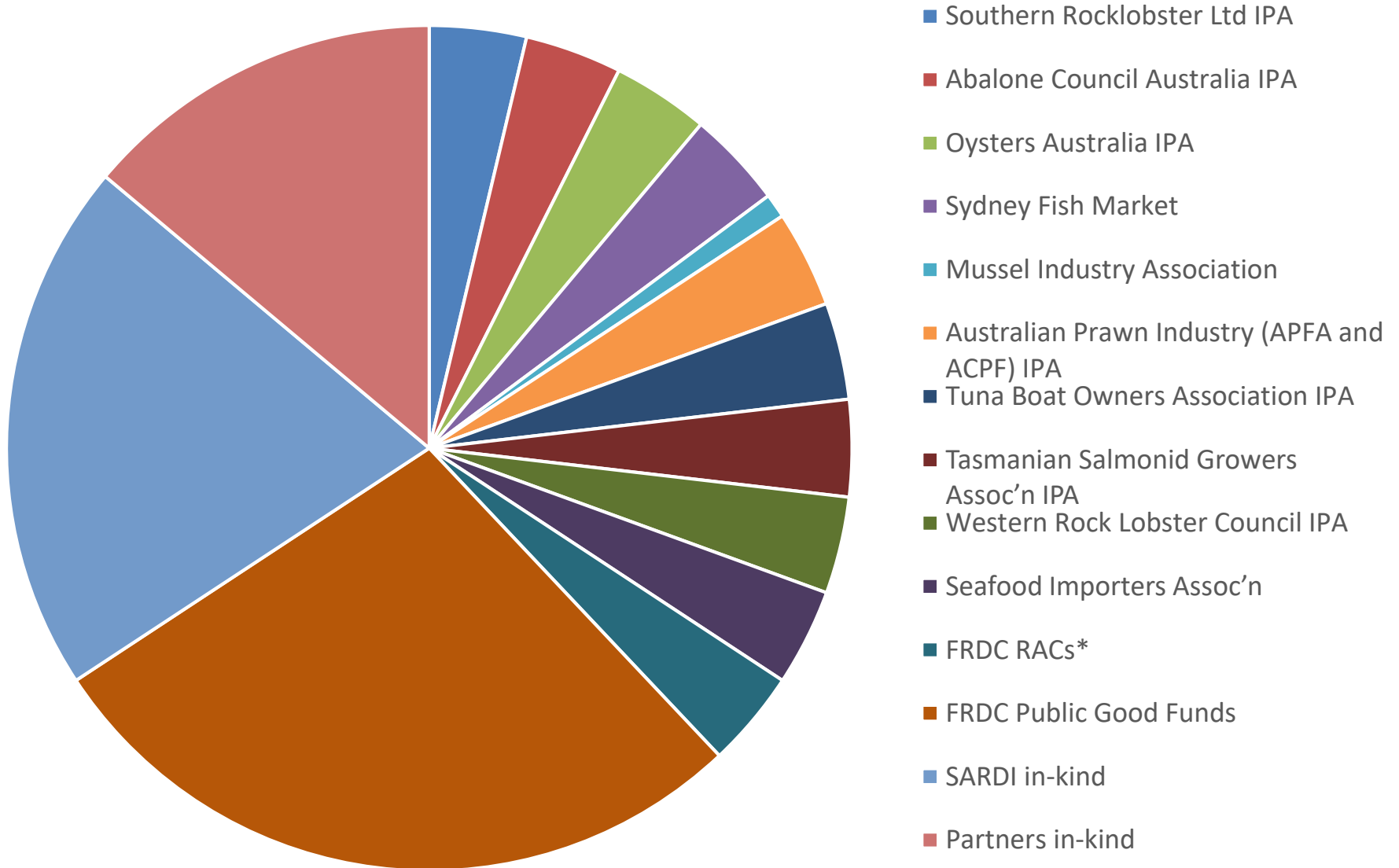
SafeFish Value Proposition

- Increasingly complex and competitive market
- Greater trade and market barriers
- Pressures to reduce regulatory burdens domestically
- Consumer demand for more information
- Protection from fraud, social media information and misinformation

The result is an increasing workload requiring more resources



Proposed SafeFish Funding Source





Australian Government
Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources



FOOD STANDARDS
Australia New Zealand
Te Mana Kounga Kai - Ahitereiria me Aotearoa



FRDC
FISHERIES RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Abalone Council
Australia Ltd

A U S T R A L I A N
MUSSEL
I N D U S T R Y A S S O C I A T I O N



Government
of South Australia



Food safety is not negotiable

Food safety = market access

***Safe Australian seafood = premium
prices***

For more information please visit: www.safefish.com.au

