



# Oyster Farming to a Deck Experience

# Start of our journey

- Demise of the State Bank
- State Government opened up Oyster leases on the West Coast
- Learned how to farm oysters
- Interest from locals and tourists in the process



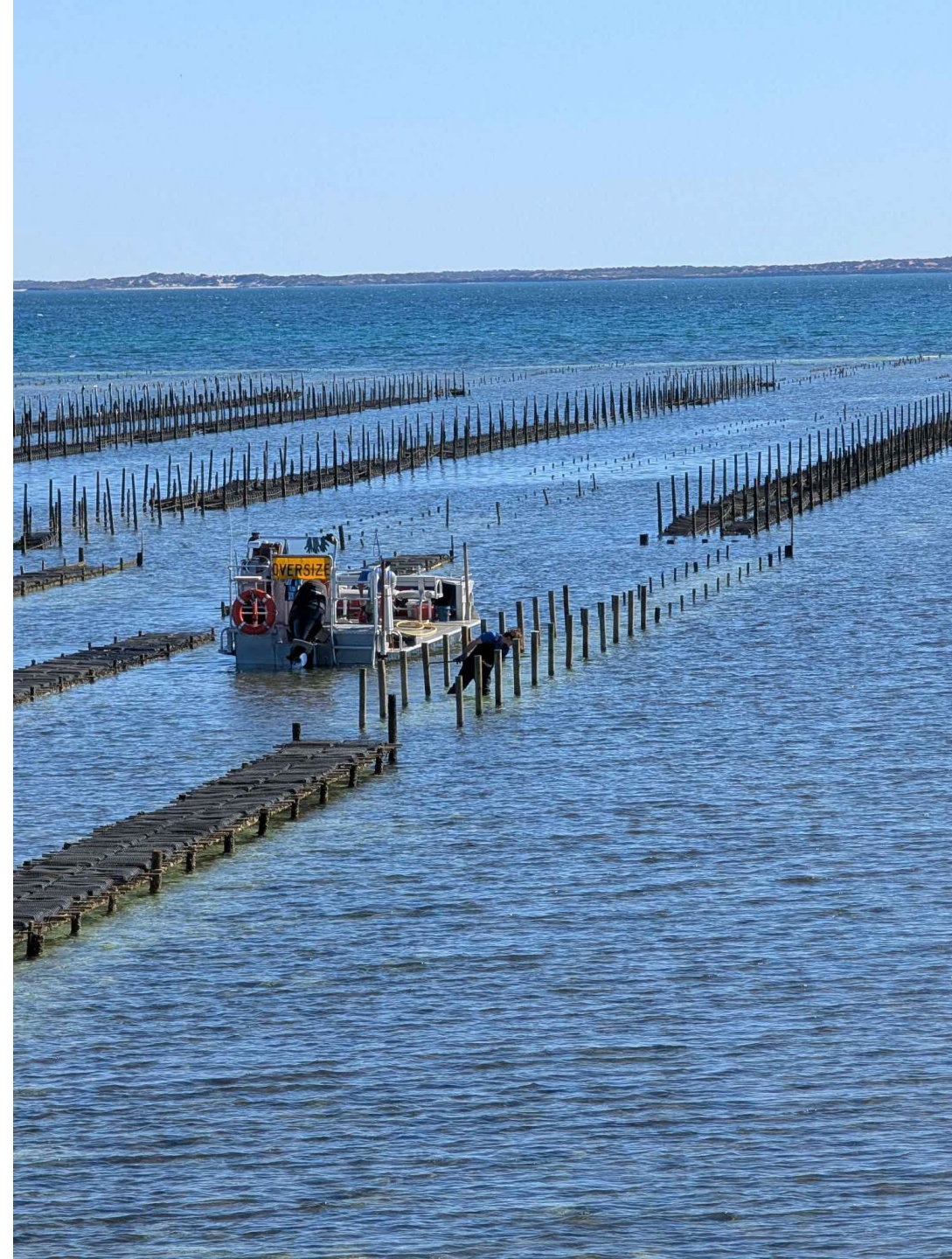
# Challenges of growing oysters

- In 2016 the POMS virus hit Tasmania
- Oyster supply to SA was brought to a standstill
- Only two SA hatcheries who needed to upscale production from 10m to 65m each



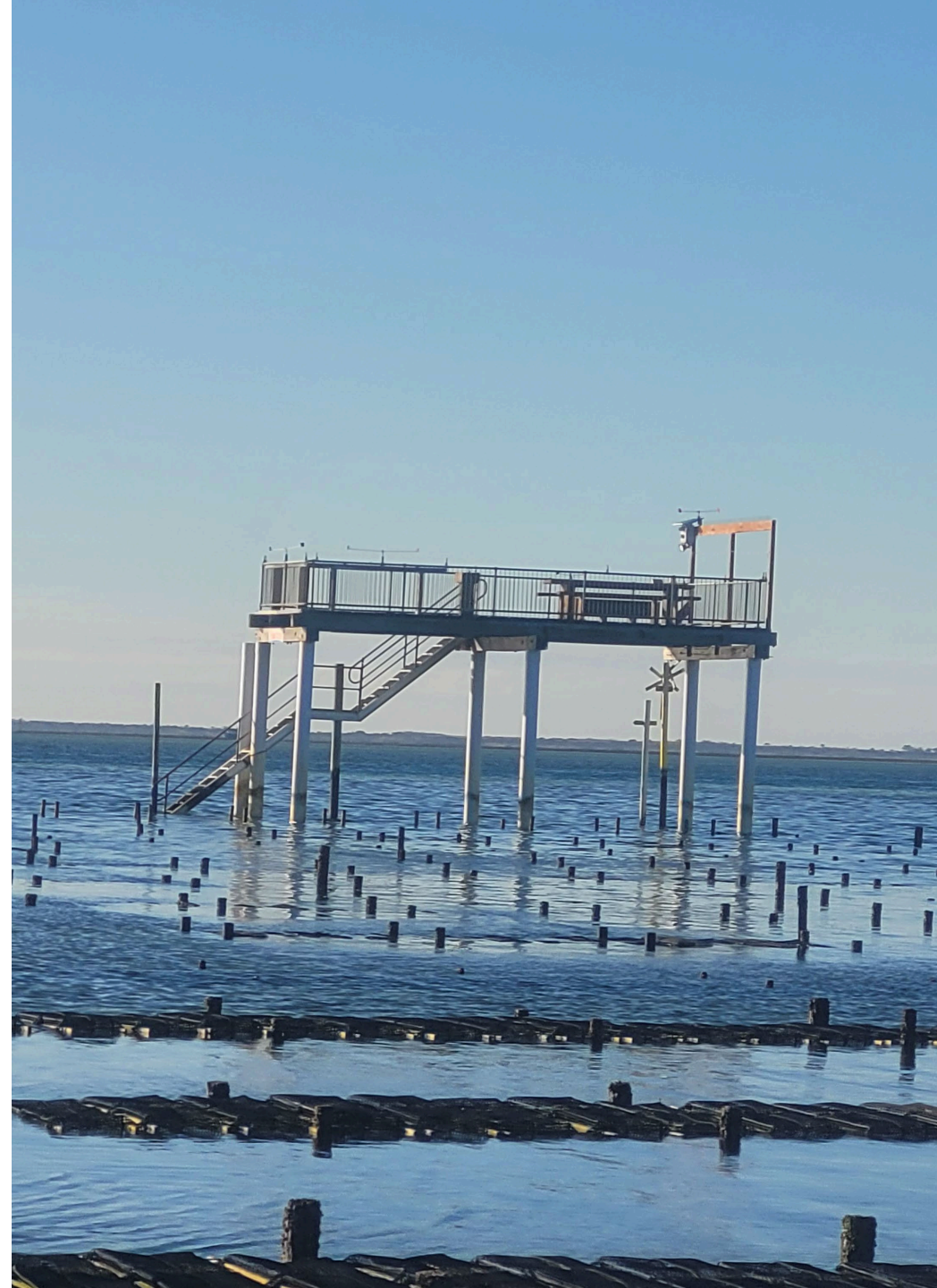
# Tours were born

- Got serious about tours
- Had the barge surveyed to take people out to the lease
- With tours going well the idea for the platform arose



# The platform

- 6 x 3m deck just above water level?
- Son was working for a marine construction company that was dismantling Port Augusta jetty
- The boys had bigger ideas ...rebuild the jetty on the lease



# Challenges

- People loved the idea – didn't know how to approve
- Dan Fisher from DIPTI provided advice
- Covid hit – time stood still
- Application expired



# Progress

- Finally had approvals
- Premier at the time changed the Aquaculture Act (legislation) so we can all do tourism on Aquaculture lease sites
- Matt Hoare asked me to join them in the process to write their protocols on tourism and Aquaculture



# Discovered along the way

- Bought a boat in 2022
- It was perfect for the tours, unfortunately everyone still wanted to go on the barge
- It is a more authentic working tour



# Discovered along the way

- If you have an idea don't give up on the first, second, or even third NO
- Do you're homework.
- Need passion and belief
- Make sure you have support



# Impact

- Tourism – us and for the whole town
- Flow on effects – accommodation, fuel, take away, golf course, etc.
- Keeps the pennies coming into the towns and keeps them alive



# Future opportunities

