



Media Release

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HUON AQUACULTURE COMMITS TO CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH EPA TASMANIA TO IMPROVE MACQUARIE HARBOUR ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Huon Aquaculture Company (ASX: HUO) cautiously welcomed the announcement by the Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority (EPA Tasmania) today that the regulator intends to implement a process to manage salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour to ensure its long-term sustainability.

The Company will co-operate closely with the EPA in coming weeks and will continue to take whatever action is necessary to improve environmental conditions in Macquarie Harbour to ensure that Huon's farming can continue in a safe and sustainable way.

"It is important that the management protocols determined by the regulator are undertaken fairly, Harbour-wide and will protect the entire system as quickly as possible," said Huon Aquaculture's Managing Director and CEO Peter Bender.

"Given the environmental conditions at current production levels Huon strongly believes the new biomass cap should be set substantially below the original cap of 15,437 tonnes.

Huon Aquaculture restates its commitment to the management of environmental and agricultural risk in the interests of the long-term viability of the salmon industry.

"Huon has been taking a cautious approach to farming in Macquarie Harbour for a number of years and has taken strong action to mitigate environmental and agricultural risk.

"This is reflected in the performance of the leases that we farm with only a minor non-compliance reported at one lease site in very challenging environmental conditions. It is not expected that management actions to return the lease to compliance will impact current stocking levels," said Mr Bender.

The actions Huon has taken includes; commissioning extensive research into environmental and fish welfare conditions, reduction of stocking levels by 23% over the last two years, installation of oxygenation systems in pens and sophisticated husbandry practices including extended fallowing periods of lease sites and use of specialised feeds.

"An important outcome of the implementation of our Controlled Growth Strategy (CGS), is that Macquarie Harbour now accounts for approximately 10% of Huon's salmon production. This percentage will progressively decline as our growth plans are exclusively focused on our leases located offshore in Storm Bay.

"These higher energy offshore sites are designed to improve the growth rates and quality of salmon and to decrease the environmental and community impact of Huon's salmon farming operations," added Mr Bender.



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The Company does not anticipate any material financial impact on its business performance as a result of the EPA's latest review of Macquarie Harbour.

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