



NSW DPI / Huon Yellowtail Kingfish Research Project-Stakeholder Update

January 2017

The second sea pen on the Marine Aquaculture Research Lease was stocked with Yellowtail Kingfish fingerlings on 17 December 2016. The fingerlings were air lifted by helicopter to the pen from Port Stephens Fisheries Institute.

The first batch of Yellowtail Kingfish (October 2016 stocking) has grown rapidly with excellent survival. Fed daily, initially by hand and now with a mechanical device, the fish are being routinely checked for growth rate and health. Data is now being compiled to validate growth models. Divers are also checking nets several times a week.

No incidents have been reported on the lease. During the pre-Christmas period advice to mariners about the changes in navigational conditions in Providence Bay was provided to: tackle shops; tourist bureaus; marinas; as well as signage placed at boat ramps.

The ongoing results of fauna monitoring are being loaded to the web with 152 dolphins seen in transit to and from, and within the lease 5/12/16 – 1/1/17.
www.huonaqua.com.au/wildlife-interactions/

The results of water quality, benthic monitoring and video surveillance of the sea floor in and around the lease area have been loaded to the web together with a summary document.

www.huonaqua.com.au/about/portstephens/environmental-monitoring/

www.huonaqua.com.au/about/portstephens/benthic-monitoring/

Agency representatives (NSW DPI, Marine Parks, NPWS) and Huon staff will participate in marine fauna incident response training in early February at Port Stephens Fisheries Institute. The accredited training program will better prepare staff to respond in the event of fauna entanglements in NSW waters.

In addition to NSW DPI staff, Huon has now employed five staff with another weekend feeder to be sought from local schools. Two additional hatchery technicians will be employed by NSW DPI and Huon to be located at Port Stephens Fisheries Institute.

The emergency contact number for the Research Lease is **1300 920 987**, to be used for any incident involving the sea pens.

A recent study of NSW coastal aquaculture and community values identified that:

- Aquaculture and the flow-on effect to seafood processing and retail businesses had a likely output of \$226m in 2013/14
- Aquaculture in NSW provided 1,758 full-time jobs in 2013/14
- 94% of people agree it is important we produce our own seafood in NSW and 89% of NSW residents expect to eat local seafood when they visit the coast

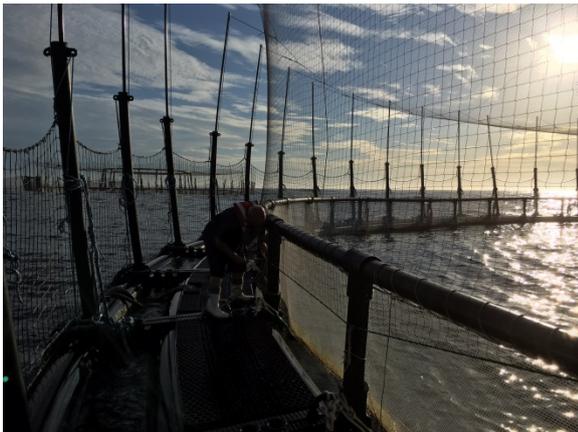
Barclay, K., McIlgorm, A., Mazur, N., Voyer, M., Schnierer, S., Payne, A.M., 2016. Social and Economic Evaluation of NSW Coastal Aquaculture, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC 2015/302) and University of Technology Sydney

Upcoming events:

- Marine fauna incident response training February 2017
- Marine Rescue meeting and update February 2017
- Stocking additional sea pens in March 2017

More information

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/aquaculture/starting-up/finfish-aquaculture-lease-modification-application> or contact aquaculture.administration@dpi.nsw.gov.au



Early morning on the sea pens



Hand feeding Batch Two fingerlings



Feed distributed mechanically via water jet



Batch One Yellowtail Kingfish feeding vigorously

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