



NSW DPI / Huon Yellowtail Kingfish Research Project - Stakeholder Update

April 2017

Huon Board members met in Port Stephens in early April to get an update on the project and visit facilities. This included a tour of Port Stephens Fisheries Institute (PSFI), a visit to the sea pens, a trip to Kooragang Island to see the construction of new pens and inspection of newly leased industrial space in the Shearwater Estate.

To compliment the Yellowtail Kingfish broodstock at PSFI, 19 semi-mature fish were captured in Providence Bay in April. These fish will be quarantined before introduction to the breeding program facilities.

During the Easter break Huon and the University of Newcastle continued the environmental monitoring program with another round of sediment and water quality sampling. The number of monitoring samples taken and analysed to date is greater than that required in consent conditions.

The Yellowtail Kingfish in the sea pens were treated in April to manage skin and gill flukes. The source of these flukes is the wild Kingfish population in the bay. The treatment involved a bath in a weak hydrogen peroxide solution conducted under Veterinary direction and went well with no loss of stock.

Fingerling feed development trials are continuing at the PSFI with an emphasis on determining specific amino acid requirements.

Within the hatchery, broodstock performance is being followed closely over repetitive spawning events and the contribution of specific parents to each batch is being monitored. Meanwhile larval responses to photoperiod (day-length) and salinity are being evaluated.

The third batch of fish destined for the Marine Aquaculture Research Lease is scheduled for an airlift on 20 May 2017, weather dependant. New purpose built aluminium tanks will be used to transport fingerlings.

Huon has chartered a work barge the MV Omaha to service the lease. MV Omaha is a local vessel, she was built in Newcastle by the Navy for carrying tanks and army equipment and most recently was used as an offshore dive vessel in WA. A purpose built feed boat will also be commissioned later in the year.

There are six full time staff now working on the sea pens with two part time weekend feeders

Huon will replace the current Spar boundary marker buoys with Poseidon type Sealite buoys which are larger in size.

NSW DPI and Huon have supported an application by Destination Port Stephens to promote local seafood at another *Love Seafood Love Port Stephens* type event scheduled in 2017. It

is hoped that this event will coincide with the first Yellowtail Kingfish trial harvests from the Marine Aquaculture Research Lease in August/September 2017.

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

Upcoming events:

- Hawks Nest Tea Gardens Progress Association update
- Deploying three sea pens May 2017
- Stocking fingerlings by helicopter to one sea pen 20 May 2017
- Marine Interaction Fauna Committee members to visit July 2017

More information

www.huonaqua.com.au/wildlife-interactions/

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

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

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



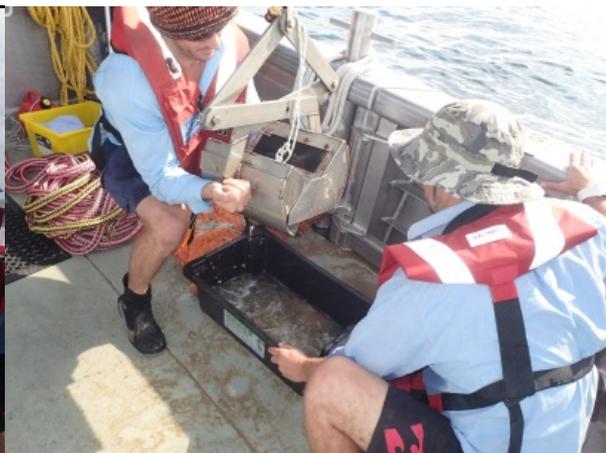
Yellowtail Kingfish growing well



Fish feeding response



Huon and University of Newcastle undertaking water quality and sediment analysis



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