



**Niall Blair**

Minister for Primary Industries  
Minister for Regional Water  
Minister for Trade and Industry

## MEDIA RELEASE

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Editor's note: Vision and grabs available [here](#)

### STATE'S LARGEST FISH FARM BEGINS HARVEST

The first Yellowtail Kingfish, from the largest fish farm trial in NSW have been harvested at Providence Bay, Port Stephens.

The 'Yellowtail Kingfish' are now five kilograms in weight and will be landing on consumer's plates via the Sydney Fish Markets and Newcastle Commercial Fishermen's Co-operative in the coming days.

Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair said aquaculture ('fish farming') in NSW is thriving and experiencing unprecedented growth.

"Whether it's prawns, oysters, kingfish or anything in between, one thing is for sure – aquaculture has an exciting future in NSW, with a \$70 million farm gate value last financial year alone," Mr Blair said.

"The NSW Government is committed to making sure this kingfish trial is not only providing high-quality seafood, but is also seeing more jobs, traineeships and investment into the local Hunter economy.

"Currently about 85% of seafood purchased in NSW is imported from other states or overseas, it's time to see that number turned around – we want to see more local seafood on local plates.

"We're making sure that what we learn from this trial informs sustainable aquaculture here in the waters of NSW."

The Yellowtail Kingfish were grown from fingerlings at the Port Stephens Fisheries Institute and then airlifted to sea pens, six kilometres offshore.

The University of Newcastle is currently conducting comprehensive water quality and seafloor monitoring.

Huon Aquaculture has grown to become a globally-recognised company, producing over 20,000 tonnes of fish each year and employing over 550 people with operations around the country.

Huon Aquaculture CEO and Co-Founder Peter Bender said the outcome of the trial is very encouraging.

"This harvest is a big day for Huon Aquaculture because it is our first step towards farming commercial quantities of Yellowtail Kingfish," Mr Bender said.

The NSW Government and Huon Aquaculture are conducting a five-year pilot-scale aquaculture trial to assess the viability and sustainability of Yellowtail Kingfish in sea pens.

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